

TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL AUTHORITY BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2030

Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment Screening

Prepared for:
Tipperary County Council



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Report to Inform AA Screening for the Tipperary County Council Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Report to inform AA Screening to Tipperary County Council for their Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) was commissioned by Tipperary County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for their Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan (LABAP) for the years 2025 - 2030. The aim of the LABAP is to promote biodiversity conservation at local authority level.

This report presents an examination of whether the LABAP is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

1.2 Background to Biodiversity Action Plans

LABAPs must be prepared in accordance with The Heritage Council's Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan Guidelines (2024). These guidelines provide best practice guidance to local authorities on preparing and implementing biodiversity conservation actions within their functional area. These guidelines advise that LABAPs *'should aim to record, conserve, restore and promote biodiversity, and to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of it among the people of the area.'*

LABAPs are designed to provide a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at local level. Local authorities are required to develop a compelling vision for their LABAP and a set of clear, measurable and achievable objectives for biodiversity conservation in their functional area. LABAPs are developed by local authority Biodiversity Officers with the support of a dedicated Biodiversity Working Group. Public engagement and consultation must be undertaken at the Pre-draft and Draft Plan stages of the Plan-making process. All submissions from stakeholders and members of the public should be considered during the development of a LABAP.

LABAPs should serve to define targeted and focussed action for promoting biodiversity conservation through the functions of a local authority in alignment with nature legislation and higher order policy such as the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and inter-related policy. LABAPs should be in harmony with and support the land use planning framework, including City and County Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

LABAPs are non-statutory land use plans that should be screened for the need for SEA and AA.



1.3 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.4 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.



- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002). This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).
- Atkinson, S., Magee, M., Moorkens, E.A. & Heavey, M. (2024). Guidance on Assessment and Construction Management in Margaritifera Catchments in Ireland. <https://e-mussels.eu/europe/conservation-guidelines>

1.5 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed plan or project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the proposed plan that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)¹ for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)² for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

The assessment commences with a description of the plan, and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the plan (Source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the plan, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the zone of influence (Zoi) of the plan.

¹ SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

² SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The zone of influence of a plan is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3.3 out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the ZoI based on the sources of impacts arising from the proposed plan. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the proposed plan along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The likelihood of significant effects on the European Sites within the ZoI is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the proposed plan on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the plan will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

2.1 Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan

The overarching aim of the LABAP is to protect and restore the rich biodiversity of County Tipperary, creating resilient ecosystems that support wildlife, enhance climate adaption and provide lasting benefits for nature and people.

The following Objectives are defined in the LABAP:

- To maintain comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date records of Tipperary's biodiversity, to support its protection and conservation within the county.
- To protect and restore habitats and species, helping nature to recover and thrive for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- To ensure that TCC policies and decisions support the protection and improvement of local biodiversity by making it a clear priority in planning, land management and other key activities.
- To increase public awareness on biodiversity in Tipperary.
- To strengthen the resilience of local ecosystems and communities to climate change by protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

A series of Actions have been defined in the LABAP under each Objective and Strategic Theme. The higher-level Objectives are broader in scope, while the Actions underpinning the Objectives are more defined and measurable. These are presented in Table 2-1.



Table 2-1: LABAP Strategic Objectives and Actions

Strategic Theme	Objective	Action Code	Action
Strategic Theme 1: Monitoring and Recording.	To maintain comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date records of Tipperary's biodiversity, to support its protection and conservation within the county.	1.1	Carry out an ecological surveys of TCC owned lands to identify sites suitable for restoration or biodiversity enhancement.
		1.2	Continue with the Tipperary Wetlands Survey to maximise no. of sites assessed within the County.
		1.3	Prioritise the survey/monitoring of red-listed species in council led projects.
		1.4	Ensure that findings of surveys (datasets etc.) commissioned by TCC are shared with the relevant organisations.
		1.5	Collate (carry out an audit) of ecological surveys already carried out by TCC.
		1.6	Carry out long-term monitoring of areas where invasive species have been managed to evaluate the potential for re-establishment.
		1.7	Commission ecological surveys and research which inform/support the Upper River Suir Restoration Project.
		1.8	Develop and promote Citizen Science initiatives to enable public participation in data collection for biodiversity.
		1.9	Repeat the County swift survey (last surveyed in 2017).
		1.10	Undertake and otter surveys in urban areas.
Strategic Theme 2: Conservation and Restoration.	To protect and restore habitats and species, helping nature to recover and thrive for the benefit of wildlife and people.	2.1	Ensure that TCC meets all specified requirements and actively contributes to the goals of the All -Ireland Pollinator Plan.
		2.2	Identify wetlands sites which are suitable for restoration and collaborate with the relevant bodies/stakeholders (Tóchar) to facilitate restoration where possible.
		2.3	Enhance and restore biodiversity in parks and public spaces to support native wildlife and healthy ecosystems.
		2.4	Collaborate with LAWPRO and IFI to advance the restoration of ecological corridors in freshwater systems.



Strategic Theme	Objective	Action Code	Action
		2.5	Develop management plans for sites of biodiversity (ecological) importance on TCC owned lands.
		2.6	Support projects that help restore water bodies & protect clean waters under the Water Framework Directive.
		2.7	Promote the use of Nature Based Solutions in TCC projects and ensure that such projects have adequate co-benefits for biodiversity where possible (NBS should be nature led).
		2.8	Produce ecological network maps which identify critical ecological corridors and stepping stone habitats.
		2.9	Identify & map Locally Important Biodiversity Sites (LIBS) within the County, according to Heritage Council Guidance.
		2.10	Collaborate with neighbouring LA's to protect biodiversity across County boundaries.
		2.11	Identify areas on TCC lands which are suitable for pond creation.
		2.12	Ensure no net loss of green cover in urban areas and implement measures to increase green spaces in line with the Nature Restoration Law by 2030. (This can be achieved through the promotion of green roofs/ walls in development, creation of pocket parks, biodiversity gardens and Nature Based Solutions).
		2.13	Enhance and protect urban biodiversity by increasing native planting, supporting species diversity and integrating Nature Based Solutions.
		2.14	Identify suitable locations on TCC owned lands for the creation of pollinator trails.
		2.15	Continue to support the Tipperary Barn Owl Project through the provision of nest boxes.
		2.16	Control & eradicate invasive species on council lands to protect native plants and wildlife.
		2.17	Protect and enhance biodiversity along greenways and blueways to ensure these areas continue to function as ecological corridors and habitats.



Strategic Theme	Objective	Action Code	Action
		2.18	Support IFI and LAWPRO in the implementation of a programme aimed at removing barriers to migratory fish passage.
		2.19	Increase nesting opportunities for swifts by incorporating swift bricks/boxes into new developments and renovation projects.
Strategic Theme 3: Policy and Decision Making.	To ensure that TCC policies and decisions support the protection and improvement of local biodiversity by making it a clear priority in planning, land management and other key activities.	3.1	Develop and implement policy on the reduction of pesticide use and adoption of sustainable alternatives within Tipperary County Council.
		3.2	Planning applications to include consideration of locally important biodiversity sites (LIBS) as part of the decision making process (in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines).
		3.3	Embed a no net loss of biodiversity requirement within all within all planning policies.
		3.4	Establish Best Practice Guidance on biodiversity sensitive lighting for adoption by TCC.
		3.5	Develop ecological network maps to inform planning decisions.
		3.6	Develop best practice guidance and training for LA staff on the management of hedgerows.
		3.7	Commission a comprehensive tree management strategy for the County.
		3.8	Develop and implement an invasive species strategy to guide the prevention, management and control of invasive species across all relevant functions of Tipperary County council.
Strategic Theme 4: Engagement and awareness.	To increase public awareness on biodiversity in Tipperary.	4.1	Facilitate public training and awareness activities centred on biodiversity.
		4.2	Identify the biodiversity training gaps for TTC staff and facilitate training to address such gaps.
		4.3	Facilitate the establishment of a Tipperary Bat Group.
		4.4	Collaborate with other TCC departments to deliver informative biodiversity based workshops for Tidy Towns.
		4.5	Promote biodiversity awareness through the creative arts.



Strategic Theme	Objective	Action Code	Action
		4.6	Raise awareness on the climate related threats to biodiversity.
		4.7	Collaborate with LAWPRO and IFI to raise awareness of pressures on freshwater dependent habitats and species.
		4.8	Promote the Heritage in Schools programme throughout the County to engage local schools in natural heritage education.
		4.9	Support Tidy Towns and community groups with information for creating biodiversity action plans.
		4.10	Use Tipperary libraries as a platform to promote biodiversity.
		4.11	Collaborate with the Tipperary Green Business Network (TGBN) to encourage TGBN business to develop pollinator-friendly sites.
		4.12	Raise awareness on wildlife crime within the County.
		4.13	Promote Farming for Nature initiatives (Farming for Nature EIP, Farming for Water EIP, Breeding Waders EIP) and biodiversity friendly farming practices.
		4.14	Raise awareness on the decline of farmland bird species (e.g. yellowhammer, skylark, curlew, lapwing, snipe).
		4.15	Host a bi-annual TCC biodiversity conference.
		4.16	Promote the Heritage in Schools programme throughout the County to engage local schools in natural heritage education.
		4.17	Promote the use of locally sourced, native trees and hedging in biodiversity projects.
		4.18	Promote responsible dog ownership to protect wildlife.



Strategic Theme	Objective	Action Code	Action
Strategic Theme 5: Increasing Climate Resilience.	To strengthen the resilience of local ecosystems & communities to climate change by protecting and enhancing biodiversity.	5.1	Identify areas on TCC lands which are suitable for planting of Native Woodlands.
		5.2	Support and implement the actions for biodiversity within the LACAP 2024-2029.
		5.3	Support third level institutions involved in research into climate-resilient species and habitats.
		5.4	Support the use of Nature Based solutions in TCC developments/projects.



2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The LABAP sits within a hierarchy of plans and has been informed by and is consistent with the aims and objectives of other plans, programmes and strategies developed at national, regional and local levels. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

National Level

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework First Revision (2025).
- Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage (2022).
- Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (2023).
- The 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023 - 2030 (2024) (discussed further in Section 2.1.1 below).
- Climate Action Plan (2025).

Regional and Local Level

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.
- Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 - 2028.
- Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029.
- Tipperary Heritage Plan 2017 - 2021.

Given the transboundary linkages between biodiversity in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the LABAPs in Ireland also generally have the potential to support biodiversity protection and enhancement-related plans for Northern Ireland, including:

- Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland.
- Biodiversity Strategy (Draft Nature Recovery Strategy).
- Climate Change Adaptation Programme and Action Plan for Northern Ireland.

2.2.1 The 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to protect and value nature. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to 'act for nature.' This plan provides the overarching arching framework for delivering biodiversity conservation through LABAPs.

This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. The five overarching objectives to address new and emerging issues include the following:

- Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity.
- Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs.
- Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People.
- Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity.
- Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.



The NBAP contains actions pertaining to the preparation to LABAPs under *Objective One: Adopt a Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society Approach to Biodiversity* and *Objective Three: Secure Nature's Contribution to People*, including the following:

Table 2-2: NBAP Actions pertaining to the preparation of Local Biodiversity Plans

Action Number	Action
1C5	The Heritage Council will publish updated guidelines for the production of Local Biodiversity Action Plans and their integration with City and County Development Plans
1C6	All Local Authorities will have a Biodiversity Action Plan adopted by the end of 2026 which is subject to regular review and revision processes in line with relevant guideline standards
3A3	Local Authorities will work to identify and respond to opportunities for enhancing the biocultural value of GBUE through appropriate design strategies, the use of visual and performing arts, and enhancing equity of access and promoting use of GBUE by community groups, and integrating cultural services in local biodiversity action plans

Local Authorities are expected to align their LABAPs with national commitments defined in the NBAP to ensure a cohesive approach to biodiversity conservation across the country.



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the plan is likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites from the plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase is progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether the plan or project introduces any sources of environmental or ecological impact;
- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.

Whether the plan or project will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential effects.

Plans are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project;
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites;
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from a plan or project.

3.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Plan on the receiving environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, the potential impacts of the LABAP actions on the receiving environment at source are considered based (in Table 3.1) on the following criteria:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species.

These impacts are further examined in defining the Zone of Influence (Zol) of the plan to identify likely significant effects through the Source-Pathway-Receptor assessment (Section 3.3).



Table 3-1: Identification of sources arising from the proposed plan that have potential for interactions with the receiving environment

Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
To maintain comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date records of Tipperary's biodiversity, to support its protection and conservation within the county.	1.1	Carry out an ecological surveys of TCC owned lands to identify sites suitable for restoration or biodiversity enhancement.	This action proposes the carrying out of ecological surveys of Local Authority-owned lands in the Plan area. The itemisation of TCC owned lands will support informed understanding of such sites and their potential for biodiversity enhancement in County Tipperary. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	1.2	Continue with the Tipperary Wetlands Survey to maximise no. of sites assessed within the County.	This action proposes the continued undertaking of wetlands surveys within the Plan area, in support of the Tipperary Wetlands Survey. This action will support the effective implementation of the BAP, furthermore assessment of wetlands will potentially lead to focussed and targeted biodiversity improvements. The action has the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity components, including sensitive habitats and priority species. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	1.3	Prioritise the survey/monitoring of red-listed species in council led projects.	This action will support the conservation of red-listed species present in the Plan area and connected areas. The action has the potential to generate positive effects for vulnerable species and for biodiversity generally. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	1.4	Ensure that findings of surveys (datasets etc.) commissioned by TCC are shared with the relevant organisations.	This action pertains to data gathering and management within TCC, and sharing of said data with relevant organisations. The action has the potential to improve collaboration between TCC and external organisations, and to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity in the Plan area. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	1.5	Collate (carry out an audit) of ecological surveys already carried out by TCC.	This itemisation and collation of ecological surveys undertaken by TCC will improve understanding of biodiversity within the Plan area and will enable informed decision-making at local authority level for potential enhancement or restoration measures. Thus, this action will support the effective implementation of the BAP. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	1.6	Carry out long-term monitoring of areas where invasive species have been managed to evaluate the potential for re-establishment.	This action will prevent and minimise the spread of invasive species in the Plan area. This action has the potential to have positive effects on biodiversity, such as native species and habitats, that are at risk due to invasive species spread, and will support re-establishment of native species. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	1.7	Commission ecological surveys and research which inform/support the Upper River Suir Restoration Project.	This action supports the restoration and enhancement of the River Suir within the Plan area and connected areas. The River Suir is an integral biodiversity feature in the Plan area and acts as an important habitat and ecological corridor. This action has the potential to have positive effects for biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	1.8	Develop and promote Citizen Science initiatives to enable public participation in data collection for biodiversity.	This action has the potential to foster biodiversity protection and enhancement through increased public participation, leading to positive effects for both biodiversity and population and human health. Citizen science initiatives enable data collection by members of the public to contribute to research and add to the national dataset on Ireland's biodiversity and biological data. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	1.9	Repeat the County swift survey (last surveyed in 2017).	This action proposes the undertaking of a County Tipperary Swift Survey. Common Swifts (<i>Apus apus</i>) are vulnerable to human interference, i.e. habitat destruction and pollution. This action has the potential to contribute to informed understanding of <i>A. apus</i> within the Plan area and will lead to positive effects on Biodiversity. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	1.10	Undertake and otter surveys in urban areas.	This action proposes the carrying out of otter surveys in urban areas in the Plan area. The otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) is a protected species in Ireland under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended). <i>L. lutra</i> are subjected to a variety of pressures, including habitat destruction and pollution. This action has the potential to contribute to informed understanding of <i>L. lutra</i> within the Plan area and will lead to positive effects on Biodiversity. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
To protect and restore habitats and species, helping nature to recover and thrive for the benefit of wildlife and people.	2.1	Ensure that TCC meets all specified requirements and actively contributes to the goals of the All - Ireland Pollinator Plan.	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a cross-sectoral framework to create landscapes and environmental conditions where pollinator species can survive and thrive. The action is centred around supporting the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which will then inform and support focused and target pollinator-friendly biodiversity initiatives in County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.2	Identify wetlands sites which are suitable for restoration and collaborate with the relevant bodies/stakeholders (Tóchar) to facilitate restoration where possible.	This action proposes the identification and itemisation of important wetland habitats in the Plan area. This action will support the effective implementation of the BAP, furthermore protection and restoration of wetlands will potentially lead to focussed and targeted biodiversity improvements. The action will also enable informed decision-making at local authority level for potential enhancement or restoration measures. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	2.3	Enhance and restore biodiversity in parks and public spaces to support native wildlife and healthy ecosystems.	The action pertains to the enhancement and restoration of biodiversity potential in the parks and green spaces in County Tipperary. This has the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity components, such as habitats and key species, and additional co-benefits for other environmental receptors. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment. The restoration/development of any park or public spaces will be undertaken under the land use planning framework and be subject to planning consent requirements, including EIA and AA processes.
	2.4	Collaborate with LAWPRO and IFI to advance the restoration of ecological corridors in freshwater systems.	This action is aimed at protecting and enhancing ecological corridors in freshwater systems in Tipperary. It has the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity components, such as habitats and key species, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. This action will enable fish migration, enhance habitat connectivity and will be supportive of water quality and associated biodiversity improvements. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.5	Develop management plans for sites of biodiversity (ecological) importance on TCC owned lands.	This action proposes the development and implementation of Management Plans for sites of ecological importance in Tipperary. It will underpin and support effective implementation of the plan and potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements. Such a lower-order management plan will be subject to its own environmental processes, including Appropriate Assessment, where appropriate. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	2.6	Support projects that help restore water bodies & protect clean waters under the Water Framework Directive.	The Water Framework Directive is a framework for ensuring the good qualitative and quantitative health of all water bodies. This action will support the framework to maintain, and where required, restore water bodies to 'Good Status' (both chemically and ecologically). The action, therefore, has the potential to generate direct positive effects on biodiversity, the water environment, and population and human health, and by way of interaction, indirect positive effects on the soils environment. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.7	Promote the use of Nature Based Solutions in TCC projects and ensure that such projects have adequate co-benefits for biodiversity where possible (NBS should be nature led).	Nature Based Solutions (NBS) involve assimilating nature into addressing societal issues to support human and biodiversity wellbeing. The integration of NBS into local authority projects will underpin and support biodiversity improvements within the Plan area. This action supports NBS and in of itself will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment. The development of any NBS infrastructure will be undertaken under the land use planning framework and will require appropriate planning consent.
	2.8	Produce ecological network maps which identify critical ecological corridors and stepping stone habitats.	The development of ecology network maps for County Tipperary will highlight the extents of ecological corridors and stepping stone habitats within the Plan area. The action will improve local authority decision-making through improved knowledge of the baseline in the Plan area, and can underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan. This can then potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity initiatives and improvements. Being review-based, this action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	2.9	Identify & map Locally Important Biodiversity Sites (LIBS) within the County, according to Heritage Council Guidance.	The development of Locally Important Biodiversity Site maps for County Tipperary will improve local authority decision-making through improved knowledge of the baseline in the Plan area, and will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan. This will then potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity initiatives and improvements. Being review-based, this action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.10	Collaborate with neighbouring LA's to protect biodiversity across County boundaries.	This action will foster collaboration between local authorities and will promote a coordinated approach to biodiversity protection and enhancement across county boundaries. This action will support the delivery of national plans such the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.11	Identify areas on TCC lands which are suitable for pond creation.	This action will contribute to biodiversity enhancement via the development of ponds on local authority-owned land, and will generate positive effects for population and human health, air and climate, and the water and soils environments. Being review-based, this action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	2.12	Ensure no net loss of green cover in urban areas and implement measures to increase green spaces in line with the Nature Restoration Law by 2030. (This can be achieved through the promotion of green roofs/ walls in development, creation of pocket parks, biodiversity gardens and Nature Based Solutions).	This action supports the integration of biodiversity considerations and improvements within urban areas in line with the Nature Restoration Law. It has the potential to contribute to the realisation of positive effects on biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. Pocket parks are compact, multifunctional public green spaces that provide ecological corridors in urban areas. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.13	Enhance and protect urban biodiversity by increasing native planting, supporting species diversity and integrating Nature Based Solutions.	This action pertains to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in urban areas through encouraging native planting. The action will contribute to biodiversity enhancement and protection in the Plan area. This action in of itself will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment. The development of any NBS infrastructure will be undertaken under the land use planning framework and will require appropriate planning consent.
	2.14	Identify suitable locations on TCC owned lands for the creation of pollinator trails.	This action supports the itemisation of local authority-owned lands for the development of pollinator trails within the Plan area. The action will support the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which will then inform and support focused and target pollinator-friendly biodiversity initiatives in County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	2.15	Continue to support the Tipperary Barn Owl Project through the provision of nest boxes.	This action supports the conservation of the Barn Owl and the activities of the Barn Owl Project. The barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>) is protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. <i>T. alba</i> are important predators of rodents and other small mammals and play a key role in ecosystem function. This action will provide nesting opportunities for barn owls. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.16	Control & eradicate invasive species on council lands to protect native plants and wildlife.	This action will prevent and minimise the spread of invasive species in the Plan area. This action has the potential to have positive effects on biodiversity, such as native species and habitats, that are at risk due to invasive species spread, and will support re-establishment of native flora and fauna. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.17	Protect and enhance biodiversity along greenways and blueways to ensure these areas continue to function as ecological corridors and habitats.	Greenways and Blueways are important ecological corridors that deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation. This action will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements generally. It will have positive effects for biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	2.18	Support IFI and LAWPRO in the implementation of a programme aimed at removing barriers to migratory fish passage.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving migratory fish passage in County Tipperary. It will contribute to the effective delivery of the plan and biodiversity improvements generally. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	2.19	Increase nesting opportunities for swifts by incorporating swift bricks/boxes into new developments and renovation projects.	This action supports the integration of swift bricks and swift boxes into new developments and renovation projects in the Plan area. Common Swifts (<i>Apus apus</i>) are vulnerable to human interference, i.e. habitat destruction and pollution. By making provisions for nesting <i>A. apus</i> , this action will provide nesting opportunities for swifts. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
To ensure that TCC policies and decisions support the protection and improvement of local biodiversity by making it a clear priority in planning, land management and other key activities.	3.1	Develop and implement policy on the reduction of pesticide use and adoption of sustainable alternatives within Tipperary County Council.	The action has the potential to result in direct positive effects for biodiversity and population and human health, and indirect positive effects for the water and soils environments, without affecting any environmental receptor in a negative fashion. In isolation, this action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	3.2	Planning applications to include consideration of locally important biodiversity sites (LIBS) as part of the decision making process (in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines).	This action supports the integration of LIBS into planning applications within the Plan area, in accordance with Heritage Council Guidelines. LIBS are areas of local interest or significance which form an integral part of the ecological network and provide a range of ecosystem services. The action will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and will potentially lead to more focused biodiversity improvements. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	3.3	Embed a no net loss of biodiversity requirement within all within all planning policies.	This action supports the integration of biodiversity considerations and improvements within planning policies in line with the Nature Restoration Law. It has the potential to contribute to the realisation of positive effects on biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	3.4	Establish Best Practice Guidance on biodiversity sensitive lighting for adoption by TCC.	Reducing artificial light in ecologically sensitive areas is an effective way of protecting light-sensitive species such as bats and small mammals. This action supports the development and implementation of best practice guidance which will guide the inclusion of environmentally sustainable lighting throughout County Tipperary, as well as the reduction of light pollution and its associated impacts on biodiversity. The action has the potential to protect light-sensitive species and enhance ecological connectivity. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	3.5	Develop ecological network maps to inform planning decisions.	The development of ecological network maps for County Tipperary will highlight the extents of ecological corridors within the Plan area. The action will improve local authority planning decision-making through improved knowledge of the baseline in the Plan area, and can underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan. This can then potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity initiatives and improvements. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	3.6	Develop best practice guidance and training for LA staff on the management of hedgerows.	Hedgerows hold features of archaeological, geological, social and natural heritage, and are important wildlife corridors and habitats, serving as refuges for biodiversity. The development of best practice guidance on the management of hedgerows and the implementation of training among TCC staff will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and will potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	3.7	Commission a comprehensive tree management strategy for the County.	This action supports the completion and implementation of a comprehensive tree management strategy for County Tipperary. The implementation of a tree management strategy will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and will potentially lead to more focussed and targeted biodiversity improvements. Such a lower-order strategy will be subject to its own environmental processes, including Appropriate Assessment, where appropriate. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	3.8	Develop and implement an invasive species strategy to guide the prevention, management and control of invasive species across all relevant functions of Tipperary County council.	This action pertains to the development of an invasive species strategy for County Tipperary. This action will prevent and minimise the spread of invasive species in the Plan area. This action has the potential to have positive effects on biodiversity, such as native species and habitats, that are at risk due to invasive species spread, and will support re-establishment of native species. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
To increase public awareness on biodiversity in Tipperary.	4.1	Facilitate public training and awareness activities centred on biodiversity.	This action will increase biodiversity awareness and ownership at a local level within the Plan area, and will aid integrated biodiversity improvements within County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.2	Identify the biodiversity training gaps for TTC staff and facilitate training to address such gaps.	This action will increase biodiversity awareness and expertise within TCC, and will aid integrated biodiversity improvements across all facets of the local authority. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.3	Facilitate the establishment of a Tipperary Bat Group.	Citizen science enables data collection by members of the public to contribute to research and add to the national dataset on Ireland's biodiversity and biological data. Such research can help identify trends in biodiversity and improve understanding of ecological systems, therefore fostering interest within members of the public. Public engagement will also be boosted and lead to an improvement in general awareness and knowledge of local biodiversity.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
			The action has positive effects on biodiversity and additionally population and human health. The action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.4	Collaborate with other TCC departments to deliver informative biodiversity based workshops for Tidy Towns.	This action will increase inter-departmental collaboration, biodiversity awareness and ownership at a local level within the Plan area, and will aid integrated biodiversity improvements within County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.5	Promote biodiversity awareness through the creative arts.	This action will promote awareness of biodiversity and biodiversity-related initiatives at local-level through the creative arts. It has the potential to foster further interest in biodiversity protection and enhancement throughout the wider community in County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.6	Raise awareness on the climate related threats to biodiversity.	This action will promote awareness of biodiversity and climate-related threats to biodiversity throughout County Tipperary. This action has the potential to foster further interest in biodiversity protection and climate initiatives throughout the wider community in County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	4.7	Collaborate with LAWPRO and IFI to raise awareness of pressures on freshwater dependent habitats and species.	This action will foster collaboration between TCC, LAWPRO and IFI and will be supportive of water quality and associated biodiversity improvements. This action has the potential to lead to positive effects on freshwater dependent habitats and species, water quality and the climate environment. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.8	Promote the Heritage in Schools programme throughout the County to engage local schools in natural heritage education.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the Biodiversity Action Plan in County Tipperary, which in turn contributes to the effective and targeted delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements in general. The action will foster interest in younger members of the community and increase biodiversity awareness. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.9	Support Tidy Towns and community groups with information for creating biodiversity action plans.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving biodiversity in local communities. It will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements generally. It has the potential to foster further interest in biodiversity protection and enhancement throughout the community. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	4.10	Use Tipperary libraries as a platform to promote biodiversity.	This action will foster improved biodiversity awareness and ownership at a local level within the Plan area, and will aid integrated biodiversity improvements within County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.11	Collaborate with the Tipperary Green Business Network (TGBN) to encourage TGBN business to develop pollinator-friendly sites.	The action is centred around supporting the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which will then inform and support focused and target pollinator-friendly biodiversity initiatives in County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.12	Raise awareness on wildlife crime within the County.	Wildlife crime (i.e. illegal trespass and illegal hunting) is a prevalent issue in County Tipperary. This action will contribute to increased awareness and stewardship of wildlife crime throughout County Tipperary and will contribute to biodiversity improvements. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.13	Promote Farming for Nature initiatives (Farming for Nature EIP, Farming for Water EIP, Breeding Waders EIP) and biodiversity friendly farming practices.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving biodiversity in the Tipperary farming sector. Natural areas within the farming landscape (e.g. hedgerows) are an integral biodiversity feature in agricultural lands and act as important habitat and ecological corridors. It will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements generally. It will have positive effects for biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	4.14	Raise awareness on the decline of farmland bird species (e.g. yellowhammer, skylark, curlew, lapwing, snipe).	This action will support the conservation of farmland bird species present in County Tipperary and connected areas through increased public awareness and stewardship. This has the potential to generate positive effects for these key species and for biodiversity generally. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.15	Host a bi-annual TCC biodiversity conference.	This action will contribute to informed biodiversity understanding and ownership within the Plan area, and will aid integrated biodiversity improvements within County Tipperary. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.16	Promote the Heritage in Schools programme throughout the County to engage local schools in natural heritage education.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the Biodiversity Action Plan in County Tipperary, which in turn contributes to the effective and targeted delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements in general. The action will foster interest in younger members of the community and will increase community awareness of biodiversity and natural heritage. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	4.17	Promote the use of locally sourced, native trees and hedging in biodiversity projects.	This action supports the planting of native trees and hedging in biodiversity projects within County Tipperary. The action will contribute to biodiversity enhancement and protection in the Plan area. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	4.18	Promote responsible dog ownership to protect wildlife.	This action will contribute to increased awareness and possible behavioural change among dog owners in the Plan area. By promoting responsible dog ownership within County Tipperary, this action will contribute to biodiversity protection and reduce disturbance to sensitive habitats and species. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
To strengthen the resilience of local ecosystems & communities to climate change by protecting and enhancing biodiversity.	5.1	Identify areas on TCC lands which are suitable for planting of Native Woodlands.	This action supports the identification of local authority-owned lands that are suitable for planting of native woodlands within County Tipperary. The action will contribute to biodiversity enhancement and protection in the Plan area. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	5.2	Support and implement the actions for biodiversity within the LACAP 2024-2029.	This supports the implementation of the Tipperary Local Authority Climate Action Plan, which in turn will contribute to the effective and targeted delivery of the Plan and biodiversity improvements in general. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.
	5.3	Support third level institutions involved in research into climate-resilient species and habitats.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing biodiversity initiatives and improving biodiversity in Tipperary. By supporting research into climate-resilient species and habitats, this action will contribute to the effective delivery of the plan and biodiversity improvements generally. It also has the potential to improve biodiversity related expertise and enhance biodiversity knowledge. This action will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment.



Objective	Action Code	Action	Potential Sources of Impact
	5.4	Support the use of Nature Based solutions in TCC developments/projects.	Nature Based Solutions (NBS) involve assimilating nature into addressing societal issues to support human and biodiversity wellbeing. The integration of NBS into local authority developments and/or projects will underpin and support biodiversity improvements within the Plan area. The action is support based and in of itself will not generate a source of negative impact that can result in likely significant effects on the receiving environment. The development of any NBS infrastructure will be undertaken under the land use planning framework and will be subject to planning consent requirements, including EIA and AA processes.



3.2.1 Summary of the interactions of the Proposed Plan on the receiving environment

The LABAP provides a general framework for biodiversity protection and enhancement on land in the plan area. It defines the biodiversity actions that support and promote:

- Best practice biodiversity management and improvement,
- Local authority biodiversity protection and enhancement initiatives,
- The improvement of biodiversity on local authority-controlled lands,
- Biodiversity training and awareness events,
- Biodiversity education and training,
- Planting of native species (i.e. trees, shrubs, plants etc.),
- Ecological surveying and mapping to identify areas of risk from threats and pressure and areas for targeted biodiversity protection/enhancement action,
- Collaborating with key stakeholders and the public to achieve biodiversity aims.

The range of actions defined in the LABAP have the potential to have a range of positive environmental effects on biodiversity, including habitats, key species, designated sites and locally important non-designated sites.

All actions in the LABAP are aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. They have been carefully reviewed, and it has been concluded that these actions do not have the potential to have unintended negative effects on the receiving environment.

The actions in the LABAP do not support intensive land use or development projects sitting outside the land use planning framework that can cause significant negative environmental effects. The LABAP will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent. There is no real likelihood of significant negative environmental effects occurring as result of the implementation of the LABAP.

The implementation of the LABAP will not introduce any sources of negative environmental impact, such as

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements; and
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

The LABAP will not introduce any source of negative environmental impact which could result in or contribute to the following types of negative effect on a European site:

- Reduction of habitat area, habitat degradation or fragmentation;
- Disturbance to species, reduction in species populations and density; and
- Changes in ecological functions and/or features that are essential for the ecological requirements of habitats and species (e.g. water quality and quantity);
- Interference with the key relationships that define the structure and function of the site.



The implementation of the LABAP will not result in any source of negative environmental impacts that may combine with effects occurring due to other plans or projects to create an 'in-combination' significant effect on a European site.

It is clear the LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impact that may result in a negative effect on any European site.

3.3 European Sites within the Zone of Influence (Zoi)

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. The S-P-R model has been used to identify the Zoi to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The S-P-R model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on buffer zones (e.g. 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

“For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”

As detailed in section 1.5, for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the effect to occur. The potential impacts of the plan are set out in Section 3.2 of this report. The impact is essentially the ‘source’ in the S-P-R model.

These impacts may be very localised and confined to defined area with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists they may give rise to a potential effect to a Qualifying Interest of a European site.

The dominant ecological pathways to consider are:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- Air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions etc.);
- Hydrological interactions; and
- Dispersal patterns of mobile species

Based on the precautionary principal, the Zone of Influence of the proposed plan has been defined as:

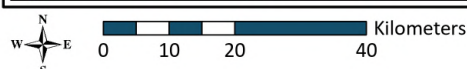
- All European sites locally either solely or partially in County Tipperary
- All hydrologically connected European Sites to waterbodies within County Tipperary ; and
- All European sites within a 15km buffer of County Tipperary

All European sites within the Zone of Influence of the Plan area or which are connected to the Plan area ecologically, hydrologically or through hydrogeology have been identified - having appropriate regard to the interaction criteria defined in Section 1.5.



A map showing these European sites in or connected to the plan area is presented in Figure 3-1. Background information on these European sites is presented in Appendix 1, including:

- Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in the assessment.
- Background data for European sites considered in the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services.
- Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Area of Conservation as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services.
- Known threats and pressures related to the qualifying interests from each Special Protection Area as per article 17 reporting from the National Parks and Wildlife Services.





3.4 Consideration of in-combination Effects with other plans or projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives”.

It is therefore required that the likely significant effects of the plan are considered in-combination with other plans or projects within the zone of influence.

The consideration of in-combination effects with other plans or projects, focused on the sources of impacts identified for the plan in Section 3.2. The principal plans that are related to the LABAP are defined in Section 2-2.

The LABAP is in harmony and consistent with all inter-related plans, including land use plans relevant to the plan area, higher order heritage related plans, the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, the national Climate Action Plan and the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. The range of positive effects that may be realised by the implementation of the LABAP have the potential to interact and combine with positive effects associated with biodiversity measures defined in these inter-related plans to create larger, more significant positive effects.

All actions in the LABAP are aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The implementation of the LABAP will not give rise to likely significant negative effects on the environment that have the potential to interact and combine with negative effects associated with measures defined in these inter-related plans or projects to create larger, more significant negative effects.

The Plan does not therefore have any potential to contribute to in-combination likely significant effects on European sites that may occur due to the wider implementation of inter-related plans or projects.



3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Table 3-2 examines whether there is potential for effects on identified European sites considering information provided above and the background information on the relevant European sites provided in Appendix 1.

Table 3-2: Identification of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Draft Plan

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	0	Limestone pavements [8240], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) [6410]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000641	Ballyduff/Clofninane Bog SAC	0	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000646	Galtee Mountains SAC	0	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], European dry heaths [4030]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000647	Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000930	Clare Glen SAC	0	Killarney fern (Trichomanes speciosum) [1421], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	0	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], European dry heaths [4030]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
000939	Silvermine Mountains SAC	0	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001197	Keeper Hill SAC	0	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001683	Liskeenan Fen SAC	0	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001847	Philipston Marsh SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002124	Bolingbrook Hill SAC	0	European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002125	Anglesey Road SAC	0	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
002137	Lower River Suir SAC	0	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Twait shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	0	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Nore Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], European dry heaths [4030], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Reefs [1170], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Atlantic salt	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]				
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	0	Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1029], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Estuaries [1130], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Reefs [1170], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330], Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) [1349], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Coastal lagoons [1150], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1099], Perennial vegetation of stony	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
			banks [1220], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]				
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	0	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Estuaries [1130], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) [1103], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
002206	Schoaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002207	Arragh More (Derrybreen) Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0], Limestone pavements [8240], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Alkaline fens [7230], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002257	Moanour Mountain SAC	0	European dry heaths [4030], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002258	Silvermines Mountains West SAC	0	European dry heaths [4030], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002353	Redwood Bog SAC	0	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



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004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	0	Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	0	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	0	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004137	Dovegrove Callows SPA	0	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



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004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	0	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000566	All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	0.39	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Bog woodland [91D0], Active raised bogs [7110]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004103	All Saints Bog SPA	0.39	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	0.84	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000919	Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC	0.94	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001432	Glenstal Wood SAC	1.13	Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



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002312	Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC	1.21	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000407	The Loughans SAC	2.32	Turloughs [3180]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000248	Cloonmoyla n Bog SAC	2.8	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Bog woodland [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	2.85	Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098], Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000231	Barroughter Bog SAC	3.04	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	3.23	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	3.43	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



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004233	River Nore SPA	4.28	Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) [A229]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	4.49	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001313	Rosturra Wood SAC	5.09	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	5.15	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	5.5	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001013	Glenomra Wood SAC	6.15	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002356	Ardgraique Bog SAC	6.23	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



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000261	Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve SAC	6.29	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000319	Pollnacknockaun Wood Nature Reserve SAC	6.66	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	6.8	Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002236	Island Fen SAC	6.99	Alkaline fens [7230], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001430	Glen Bog SAC	7.17	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	7.17	Alkaline fens [7230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000308	Loughatorick South Bog SAC	7.27	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



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001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	7.48	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Slender green feather-moss (Hamatocaulis vernicosus) [6216]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	8.21	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	9.6	Alkaline fens [7230]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	9.94	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
004097	River Suck Callows SPA	11.25	Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	12.02	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects
002126	Pollagoona Bog SAC	13.84	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	14.1	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
000030	Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC	14.33	Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Caves do not open to the public [8310]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect
002324	Glendine Wood SAC	14.48	Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]	The LABAP will not generate any source of negative environmental impacts that may result in a significant negative effect on this European Site.	No	No	No Likely Significant Effect



4. SCREENING CONCLUSION

This report presents an examination of whether the LABAP is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

It can be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information, that the plan, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on European sites. The principal reasons for this are as follows:

- The LABAP does not introduce any source of impacts that have potential for interactions with the receiving environment.
- All actions in the LABAP are aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity. There is no requirement to integrate further environmental considerations into the LABAP given its intrinsic nature, its stated aims and objectives, and the potential positive effects associated with its actions.
- The LABAP is in alignment with nature legislation and higher order policy such as the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and inter-related plans and programmes.
- The actions in the LABAP do not support intensive land use or development projects sitting outside the land use planning framework that can cause likely significant negative environmental effects.
- The LABAP is not a statutory land use plan. The LABAP will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent.



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