



APPENDIX 4

***REVIEW OF PLANS AND
PROJECTS***

Combination Effects with other Plans and Projects

A search and review was conducted across various platforms, databases and portals to compile a list of other plans and projects that may have the potential to result in in combination impacts on European Sites was conducted. This included a review of online Planning Registers, development plans and other available information and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted environmental effects. Resources used are provided in Table 1. Particular focus has been placed on those projects that are in closest proximity to the Onshore Site and those that could potentially result in impacts on European Sites in light of the sites' conservation objectives, through the pathways identified in Section 4.1 of the AASR.

Table 1 Data sources used to compile list of plans and projects for in-combination assessment

Planning Registers/plans	Online link
An Bord Pleanála's (ABP) online planning portal	https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/Map-search
Clare County Council's online planning portal	https://www.myplan.ie/national-planning-application-map-viewer/
EIA Portal	https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) (2020-2032)	https://www.southernassembly.ie/regional-planning/rses
Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029	https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/
Ireland 4th National Biodiversity Action plan 2023-2030.	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th_National_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf
Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2023	https://actionforbiodiversity.ie/app/uploads/2023/08/Clare-Biodiversity-Action-Plan-2017-2023.pdf
Water Action Plan 2024	https://lawaters.ie/app/uploads/2024/09/Water-Action-Plan-Exec-Summary-2024_ENG_v2.pdf

Other Projects

Assessment material for this in-combination impact assessment was compiled on the relevant developments within the vicinity of the Onshore Site. The material was gathered through a search of relevant online Planning Registers (Table 1), reviews of relevant documents, planning application details and planning drawings, and served to identify past and future projects, their activities and their environmental impacts. All relevant projects were considered in relation to the potential for in-combination effects. All relevant data was reviewed (e.g. individual AASRs, NISs, layouts, drawings etc.) for all relevant projects where available. This included:

- Plan / project timeframe
- Physical footprint
- Distance to the Onshore Site
- Associated activities
- Intensity of associated activities

The projects considered are those listed below. Particular focus has been placed on those projects that are in closest proximity to the Onshore Site and those that could potentially result in impacts on SCI bird species, surface water, groundwater and QI habitats and species.

All projects within the vicinity of the Onshore Site were considered as part of this assessment and predominantly included developments pertaining to the following:

- Private developments
- Commercial
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Other renewable energy developments/infrastructure

The full list of projects considered in the in-combination assessment are provided below.

- Proposed transition and conversion of the existing 900MW electricity generating station from coal to heavy fuel oil and associated ancillary development at Moneypoint Generating Station, Moneypoint, Co. Clare. ABP Case ID: 319080. Approved with conditions on 25/09/2024.
- Proposed 400kV electricity transmission cables, extension to the existing Kilpaddoge Electrical Substation and associated works, between the existing Moneypoint 400kV Electrical Substation in the townland of Carrowdoita South County Clare and existing Kilpaddoge 220/110kV Electrical Substation in the townland of Kilpaddoge County Kerry. The development includes work in the foreshore. ABP Case ID: 307798. Approved with conditions on 04/06/2021.
- Change of design of a dwelling house and garage previously granted under C/603 granted by Kilrush Urban District council, along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 22255. Granted with conditions on 15/06/2022.
- To RETAIN attic conversion, fenestration and materials changes together with all ancillary site development works and services. Planning Ref: 19890). Granted with conditions on 10/06/2020.
- To demolish existing substandard derelict cottage and sheds and to construct a replacement dwelling house, site entrance, private garage and on-site waste water treatment system along with all associated site works. Planning Ref: 21638. Granted with conditions on 16/02/2022.
- For development which will consist of the completion of the construction of partially constructed domestic dwelling and all ancillary site work. The site is within an area of Special Control, designated as a Rural Area under Strong Urban Pressure in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. Planning Ref: 23265. Granted with conditions on 21/09/2023.
- To RETAIN a private garage and conversion of attic space to habitable accommodation along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 20672. Granted with conditions on 18/12/2020.
- To construct new dwelling including garage, proposed site entrance, proposed treatment unit and percolation area, including all ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 211174. Granted with conditions on 25/05/2022.
- For development comprising (a) demolition of (i) single storey porch to front, (ii) single storey extension to rear, (iii) 2 no. gables to front, (iv) existing roof structure and 2 no. chimneys, (b) lowering of existing window head and cill to front elevation, creation of new sliding door open to side (north-east) elevation and creation of new window open to rear elevation, (c) construction of (i) new first floor extension over entire existing ground floor, (ii) storey and a half extension to front and (iii) storey and a half extension to rear, (d) construction of new pitched roof structure over entire comprising new gables to all (front, side and rear) elevations, raising of existing ridge height, 5 no. velux to front and 3 no. velux to side (north-east), (e) new on-site waste water treatment system with soil polishing filter and (f) all ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 20661. Granted with conditions on 14/12/2020.

- The development will consist of construction of an agricultural shed, with underground slatted slurry storage tanks in place of existing open slurry tank and all associated site works. Planning Ref: 20551. Granted with conditions on 19/12/2020.
- Of existing extension and alterations to P07/173. Planning Ref: 22956. Granted with conditions on 24/01/2023.
- For the Construction of a single storey extension to existing dwelling to include front porch, Living area, Dining area, T.V Room, Play room and for internal and elevational changes to existing dwelling. Also PERMISSION is sought for the demolition of existing conservatory to side of dwelling and demolition of detached garage, including ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 20275. Granted with conditions on 08/08/2020.
- To demolish existing derelict former dwelling and to construct a single dwelling house, waste-water treatment system along with ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 211095. Granted with conditions on 15/11/2022.
- To erect dwelling house, septic tank - foul sewer treatment plant, percolation area and new site entrance. Planning Ref: 19523. Granted with conditions on 25/11/2019.
- To develop a 9-hole pitch and putt course, reception hut and car parking facilities along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 19380. Granted with conditions on 12/10/2019.
- To construct a single story extension and to RETAIN conservatory to existing dwelling house with all necessary ancillary works. Planning Ref: 19816. Granted with conditions on 11/01/2020.
- For development on a c. 1.8 ha site located within Moneypoint Generating Station, Carrowdotia North and Carrowdotia South, Kilimer, County Clare (Eircode V15 R963) which is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence (Ref.P0605-04) and Upper Tier COMAH site and therefore falls under the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) Regulations, 2015. The development, which will be located within a fenced compound c. 0.94 ha. will consist of a 300 to 400 MVA (electrical rating) synchronous condenser, including the following elements: a) a Generator and Flywheel building (c. 962 sq.m., c. 15m high) to house equipment including the generator, flywheel, lube oil skid, air compressor and pumps; b) supporting items of plant located within the compound including *cooling equipment (c. 690 sq.m., c. 3m high); *c. 7m high modular containers to house electrical and control equipment (total area of c. 384sq.m); *a generator step-up transformer (c.150 sq.m c. 8m high), auxiliary transformer (c. 48 sq.m., 7m high) and electrical plant including an external circuit breaker (c 66 sq.m., c. 9m high); *fire fighting water tank (c. 7m dia., c. 8m high, pump house (c. 21 sq.m., c. 3m high); and * an above-ground oil separator and collection pit (c. 72sq.m.) connections to existing site services networks including electrical, water and wastewater and an underground surface water attenuation tank connecting to existing surface water drains; c) all other ancillary and miscellaneous site works including site clearance; site access, internal roads and development of areas of hard standing including a maintenance lay-down area; and d) the development will be bounded by a c. 3m high chainlink fence. Site access will be by means of a new c. 2.7 m high palisade gate accessed from existing roads within the station site. Planning Permission is being sought for a duration of 10 years. Planning Ref: 19746. Granted with conditions on 21/12/2019.
- The development will consist of the addition of a porch to the main entrance at the front of existing dwelling and the addition of a stand-alone garage to the side of existing dwelling and associated ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 19817. Granted with conditions on 16/01/2020.
- To construct new club house and facilities, with effluent treatment system, all associated site and ancillary works, and change of use of the existing club house into a club training room and gym. Planning Ref: 23502. Granted with conditions on 20/12/2023.
- Of the development at a c.0.012 ha site in the car park of Tesco, Ennis Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare. The development consists of RETENTION permission for "Click and Collect" signage in the existing Tesco car park. Planning Ref: 211241. Granted with conditions on 01/03/2022.

- For development at a c.0.015ha site in the car park of Tesco, Ennis Road, Kilrush, Co Clare. The development will consist of; (i) the construction of a sheltered canopy (c. 50 sq.m) in the existing car park for the purpose of providing 2 no. dedicated "Click and Collect" spaces for the existing Tesco store; and (ii) ancillary signage, a pedestrian crossing and all associated site development works. Planning Ref: 21947. Granted with conditions on 30/11/2021.
- To RETAIN the as constructed foundation for a machinery shed and planning PERMISSION to complete the construction of the machinery shed along with all associated site works and services. Planning Ref: 21595. Granted with conditions on 18/01/2022.
- For (a) to construct extensions to the front, side and rear of the existing dwelling house; (b) to make elevational alterations to the existing house; (c) to construct a standalone storage outbuilding ancillary to the dwelling house; (d) to construct a garden room ancillary to the dwelling house; (e) to make alterations to the existing private shed; and (f) all associated site works and services. Planning Ref: 2360574. Granted with conditions on 19/03/2024.
- For development within the Moneypoint Generating Station, Carrowdotia North and Carrowdotia South, Kilimer, County Clare (Eircode V15 R963) which is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence (Ref P0605-04) and Upper tier COMAH site and therefore falls under the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) Regulations, 2015. The development, which will be located at various locations within the station complex, will consist of land based site Investigation (SI) works comprising of boreholes and trial pits across the site. Planning Ref: 2332. Granted with conditions on 18/04/2023.
- To construct new bay window and porch to front elevation. Planning Ref: 22553. Granted with conditions on 20/09/2022.
- For the following proposed development; (a) Three metre long two metre high wall and associated works to divide the existing laneway, (b) New vehicular access and three metre wide paved road to facilitate vehicular access from Sycamore Drive to the eastern section of the existing laneway, (c) Relocation of the existing pedestrian crossing point within Sycamore Drive, (d) Site clearance of all waste material from the existing laneway and (e) ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 168002. Granted with conditions on 09/05/2016.
- Of as-constructed ground floor bay window and PERMISSION for alterations to first floor windows on front elevation. Planning Ref: 22435. Granted with conditions on 05/08/2022.
- To demolish existing shed at rear of house and construct new single storey extension to rear of dwelling. Planning Ref: 23253. Granted with conditions on 26/07/2023.
- For development on a c. 2.7 ha site located within Moneypoint Generating Station, Carrowdotia North and Carrowdotia South, Kilimer, County Clare (Eircode V15 R963) which is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence (Ref. P0605-04) and an Upper Tier COMAH site and therefore falls under the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations(COMAH) Regulations, 2015. The development, which will be located within a fenced compound c. 0.4 ha, will consist of a up to 400 MVA (electrical rating) synchronous condenser which shares the existing 400 KV/17 kV transformer and 400kV underground cable belonging to the existing coal fired unit 2. The following plant will be included within the compound: (a) main building (c. 420sq.m., c. 15m high) to house equipment including the synchronous condenser, flywheel, lube oil skid, air compressor and pumps. (b) supporting items of plant including; cooling equipment (c. 690sq.m., c. 3m high); c. 7m high modular containers to house electrical and control equipment (total area of c. 384sq.m.); auxiliary transformer (c. 48sq.m., 7m high) and electrical plant including an external circuit breaker (c. 66sq.m., c. 9m high); connections to existing site services networks including electrical, water and wastewater and an underground surface water attenuation tank connecting to existing surface water drains. (c) all other ancillary and miscellaneous site works including site clearance, site access, internal roads and development of areas of hard standing including a maintenance laydown area. (d) the development will be

bounded by a c. 3m high chainlink fence. Site access will be by means of a new c. 2.7 m high palisade gate accessed from a new internal road within the station site. PERMISSION is also sought to continue the use of the existing underground cable grid connection, including the 400kV/17kV transformer and 400 kV underground cable belonging to the existing coal fired Unit 2 for use by the synchronous condenser into the future. Planning PERMISSION is being sought for a duration of 10 years. This application represents a relocation within Moneypoint of a similar application permitted by Clare County Council under Reg. Ref. P19/746. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared and accompanies this planning application. Planning Ref: 20318. Granted with conditions on 16/07/2020.

- To construct bay window to the front of existing dwellinghouse plus all ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 21259. Granted with conditions on 24/06/2021.
- To demolish existing front porch and rear extension and garden shed, and planning permission for proposed extension consisting of new front porch and extended sitting room, and also extension to rear consisting of new kitchen area. Planning Ref: 19654. Granted with conditions on 24/11/2019.
- For the following development at Glebe House Building: to (a) provide new disabled access ramp and steps to replace existing ramp and (b) to provide 18 number PV Panels on existing roof as per associated drawings, all within existing site boundaries. Planning Ref: 20261. Granted with conditions on 08/08/2020.
- For the following: 1) To construct a single storey extension to entrance area of existing Cairde Beag Building; 2) Permission to construct a Lift Shaft to rear of existing Glebe House Building; 3) Permission to construct a storage shed adjacent to Cairde Beag Building; 4) Permission for additional parking spaces, all within existing site boundaries at Glebe House. Planning Ref: 19219. Granted with conditions on 20/06/2019.
- For development within the Moneypoint Generating Station, Carrowdotia North and Carrowdotia South, Kilimer, County Clare (Eircode V15 R963) which is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under an Industrial Emissions (IE) Licence (Ref P0605-04) and and Upper tier COMAH site and therefore falls under the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) Regulations, 2015. The development, which will be located at various locations within the station complex, will consist of land based site Investigation (SI) works comprising of boreholes and trial pits across the site. Planning Ref: 2332. Granted with conditions on 18/04/2023.
- To make the following alterations to the existing dwelling house. a) demolish existing front porch and rear kitchen/utility extension; c) construct link extension to connect house to existing outbuildings; d) convert section of existing outbuildings to residential use ancillary to the main dwelling; e) make elevational changes to the existing house and outbuilding; f) upgrade existing sewerage treatment system and g) all associated site works and services. Planning Ref: 211391. Granted with conditions on 04/04/2022.
- To construct a dwelling house, garage with a waste water treatment system and percolation area. Planning Ref: 21825. Granted with conditions on 03/11/2021.
- To erect extension to dwelling house include first floor living area. Planning ref: 20668. Grante with conditions on 18/12/2020.
- To restore, refurbish & extend an existing derelict dwelling and outbuilding, installation of new sewerage treatment system, construct new entrance walls, along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 2360308. Granted with conditions on 03/11/2023.
- To extend the existing dwelling house, including part demolition with all necessary ancillary services. Planning Ref: 23198. Granted with conditions on 23/06/2023.
- To carry out the following development: Relocating and widening of main entrance at Vandeleur Estate, Kilrush. The proposed works may materially affect the character of a protected structure. Planning Ref: 158005.

- for the construction of a Dwellinghouse, new entrance and connection to public services including ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 204. Granted with conditions on 23/07/2020.
- To construct new dwelling and garage, including all ancillary site works, connecting to existing sewers and watermain services, utilising existing service road. Planning Ref: 21719. Granted with conditions on 17/01/2022.
- To construct new garage, including all ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 20548. Granted with conditions on 02/11/2020.
- To construct new dwelling, utilising existing site entrance and using existing sewer connections, including all ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 21445. Granted with conditions on 10/08/2021.
- For the change of design of a dwelling house and garage previously granted under P8-15168 along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 21383. Granted with conditions on 30/07/2021.
- To construct 2 dwelling houses, each with entrance from public road, connection to public services and associated site works. Planning Ref: 23385. Granted with conditions on 03/10/2023.
- To construct new dual sided, sports-wall training area. Planning Ref: 20306. Granted with conditions on 08/08/2020.
- The development will consist of retaining attic conversion, private garage extension, utility extension, conservatory extension, 7 extra windows and ancillary minor changes. Planning Ref: 19734. Granted with conditions on 06/12/2019.
- To remove existing sheds and to construct a new dwelling house, site entrance, access road, wastewater treatment system and all associated site works. Planning Ref: 2460149. Granted with conditions on 28/05/2024.
- To demolish existing sub-standard dwelling and construct new replacement dwelling, using existing sewer connections, including all ancillary site works and utilising existing site entrance area. Planning Ref: 21243. Granted with conditions on 17/06/2021.
- To construct a new dwelling house and private garage with new wastewater treatment system with all necessary ancillary works. Planning Ref: 20440. Granted with conditions on 08/12/2020.
- To construct gable extension to existing dwelling plus all ancillary site works. Planning Ref: 21739. Granted with conditions on 08/10/2021.
- Of the construction of a mechanic workshop & planning PERMISSION to construct a carpark and handling area ancillary to the workshop along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 2360426. Granted on 15/08/2024.
- For the construction of a new dwelling house and attached garage complete with a new entrance, sewage treatment system and ancillary works. Planning Ref: 2360287. Granted with conditions on 23/04/2024.
- To construct a slatted cubicle house, complete with associated underground slurry tanks, and also including cattle crush and ancillary concrete yard, and all associated site works. Planning Ref: 239. Granted with conditions on 19/06/2023.
- To construct a dwelling house, garage, access road linking to an existing private entrance onto the public road, new sewerage treatment system and percolation area along with all other necessary ancillary works. Planning Ref: 22428. Granted with conditions on 30/09/2022.
- To carry out alterations and refurbishment of an existing dwelling house along with all associated works. Planning Ref: 20948. Granted with conditions on 16/03/2021.

Review of Plans

The following development plans have been reviewed and taken into consideration as part of this assessment as the Onshore Site falls within each of their remits:

- > Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) (2020-2032)
- > Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
- > Ireland 4th National Biodiversity Action plan 2023-2030.
- > Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2023
- > Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

These plans have been considered in this assessment as the Onshore Site falls within each of their geographical areas. The review focused on policies and objectives that relate to designated sites for nature conservation, biodiversity and protected species. Policies and objectives relating to the conservation of Annex I habitats were also reviewed. An overview of the search results with regard to plans is provided in Table 2.

Table 2 Assessment of Plans

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) (2020-2032)	<p>RPO 1 Environmental Assessment b) The RSES seeks to protect, manage, and through enhanced ecological connectivity, improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network in the Southern Region.</p> <p>RPO5 Population Growth and Environmental Criteria Increased population growth should be planned with regard to environmental criteria, including: Proximity of Natura 2000 sites and potential for adverse effects on these sites, and their conservation objectives.</p> <p>RPO 11 Key Towns k) To plan increasing population growth in all Key Towns on a phased basis in collaboration with Irish Water, the local authority and other stakeholders to ensure that the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment is not exceeded and that increased wastewater discharges from population growth does not contribute to degradation of water quality and avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of water dependent habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network; l) To give due consideration to the suitability of new and/or existing drinking water sources (e.g. hydromorphological pressures) to meet the increased demands on the water supply and prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of water dependent habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network. The National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) will outline how we move towards a sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply over the next 25 years, whilst safeguarding our environment.</p> <p>RPO 117 Flood Risk Management and Biodiversity It is an objective to avail of opportunities to enhance biodiversity and amenity and to ensure the protection of environmentally sensitive sites and habitats, including where flood risk management measures are planned. Plans and projects that have the potential to negatively impact on Natura 2000 sites are subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>RPO 124 Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to Natura 2000 sites. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the Project were identified.</p> <p>The Onshore Site will not result in significant effects Natura 2000 sites.</p>

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
	<p>a) It is an objective to promote the concept of connecting corridors for the movement of wildlife and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses and wetlands. The RSES recognises the necessity of protecting such corridors and the necessity to encourage the management of features of the landscape that support the Natura 2000 network;</p> <p>RPO 126 Biodiversity c) Local Authorities are required to carry out required screening of Projects and any draft land-use plan or amendment/ variation to any such plan for any potential ecological impact on areas designated or proposed for inclusion as Natura 2000/ European Sites and shall decide if an Appropriate Assessment is necessary, of the potential impacts of the project or plan on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000/European Site;</p> <p>RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport j) The protection of the Natura 2000 networks and the ecological linkages connected to the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>RPO 208 Irish Water and Water Supply c) Deliver and phase services, subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network;</p> <p>d) Local Authority Core Strategies shall demonstrate compliance with DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities and demonstrate phased infrastructure led growth to meet demands on the water supply, suitability of new and/or existing drinking water sources (for example hydro morphological pressures) and prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of water dependent habitats and species within the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>RPO 212 Strategic Wastewater Treatment Facilities For the management of wastewater, increasing population growth should be planned on a phased basis in collaboration with Irish Water and the local authorities to ensure that the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment is not exceeded and that increased</p>	

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
	<p>wastewater discharges from population growth does not contribute to degradation of water quality and to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>Limerick-Shannon MASP Policy Objective 1 Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area e) The MASP seeks to protect, manage and through enhanced ecological connectivity, to improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network in the Region.</p>	
Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029	<p>CDP 3.3 - It is an objective of the Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To require compliance with the objectives and requirements of the Habitats Directive, specifically Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4), Birds, Water Framework, and all other relevant EU Directives and all relevant transposing national legislation; b) To require project planning to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project development and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including assessments of disturbance to species, where required together with the preparation of both statutory and non-Statutory Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIA); c) To protect, manage and enhance ecological connectivity and improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network; d) To require all proposals to ensure there is 'no net loss' of biodiversity within developments. e) To ensure that European sites and Natural Heritage Areas (designated proposed NHAs) are appropriately protected; f) To require the preparation and assessment of all Plans and Projects to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report contained in Volume 10 of this Development Plan; and g) To require compliance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and support the implementation of the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan (and any other iteration during the lifetime of the CDP). <p>CDP 11.26 - It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p>	<p>The Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to Natura 2000 sites. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the Project were identified.</p> <p>The Onshore Site will not result in significant effects Natura 2000 sites.</p>

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
	<p>a) To facilitate the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 and any subsequent plan for ground, surface, estuarine, coastal and transitional waters in the Plan area as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive;</p> <p>b) To protect groundwater and surface water resources in accordance with the statutory requirements and specific measures as set out in the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and any subsequent management plans;</p> <p>c) To achieve and maintain at least good water quality status for all water bodies except where more stringent obligations are required such as Blue Dot/High Status Objective Water Bodies;</p> <p>d) To consider development proposals where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will meet the requirements of the River Basin Management Plan; and,</p> <p>e) To work with and support LAWPRO and support improvements/recommendations within Priority Areas for Action, Blue Dot/High Status Objective catchments and any additional areas identified within subsequent River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>CDP 13.1- It is an objective of the Clare County Council:</p> <p>c) To require proposals for development which may impact on a European site to undertake and submit a Natura Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report should it be deemed necessary as part of any planning application in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats and EIA Directives.</p> <p>CDP 15.1 - It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>d) To ensure that features of importance to local biodiversity are retained as part of developments and projects being undertaken in the County.</p> <p>CDP 15.12 - It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To protect and promote the sustainable management of the natural heritage, flora and fauna of the County both within protected areas and in the general landscape through the promotion of biodiversity, the conservation of natural</p>	

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
	<p>habitats, the enhancement of new and existing habitats, and through the integration of Green Infrastructure (GI), Blue Infrastructure and ecosystem services including landscape, heritage, biodiversity and management of invasive and alien species into the Development Plan;</p> <p>b) To promote the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of sites of biodiversity importance and wildlife corridors, both within and between the designated sites and the wider Plan area;</p> <p>d) To ensure there is no net loss of potential Lesser Horseshoe Bat feeding habitats, treelines and hedgerows within 2.5km of known roosts;</p> <p>e) To implement and monitor the actions as set out in the Clare County Biodiversity Plan; and</p> <p>f) To promote biodiversity net gain in any new plans/projects/policies to promote development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.</p> <p>CDP 15.13 - It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To encourage and, where appropriate, enhance the provision of biodiversity features in urban areas through the preparation of local areas plans/settlement plans, green infrastructure strategies, ecosystem services, and through the development management process.</p> <p>CDP 15.14 - It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To ensure that development proposals support and enhance the connectivity and integrity of habitats in the Plan area by incorporating natural features into the design of development proposals.</p> <p>CDP 15.15 - It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To support the implementation of positive conservation management on lands which are owned or managed by Clare County Council.</p> <p>b) To protect and where possible enhance the biodiversity value of land owned and managed by Clare County Council;</p>	

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) To support national policy to create new woodlands on public land and participate in the Creation of Woodlands on Public Lands Scheme and any subsequent schemes subject to the appropriate ecological assessments; d) To create new native woodlands on public lands which will be carried out in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development in order to ensure important habitats such as Wetlands (which are key carbon sequestration locations) are not lost due to their development; and e) To support the use of natural approaches to flood management and control on lands owned or managed by or on behalf of Clare County Council subject to the appropriate ecological assessments. <p>CDP 15.19 – It is an objective of the Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) To protect individual or groups of trees within the Plan area which are important for environmental, recreational, historical, biodiversity and/or aesthetic reasons or by reason of contribution to sense of place, including groups of trees which correspond with protected habitats, or which support protected species, under the Habitats Directive; e) To protect woodlands and hedgerows from damage and/or degradation and to prevent disruption of the connectivity of woodlands and hedgerows of the County; 	
Ireland 4 th National Biodiversity Action plan 2023-2030.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objective 1: Adopt a Whole-of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity. Proposed actions include capacity and resource reviews across Government; determining responsibilities for the expanding biodiversity agenda providing support for communities, citizen scientists and business; and mechanisms for the governance and review of this National Biodiversity Action Plan. 2. Objective 2: Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs. 3. Supporting actions will build on existing conservation measures. Efforts to tackle Invasive Alien Species will be elevated. The protected area network will be expanded to include the Marine Protected Areas. The ambition of 	The Onshore Site will not result in significant effects on habitats and features of ecological importance. The Onshore Site will not impact on connectivity within the wider area and there is no potential for significant effects on water quality. There will be no significant adverse effects on biodiversity as a result of the Onshore Site.

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
	<p>the EU Biodiversity Strategy will be considered as part of an evolving work programme across Government.</p> <p>4. Objective 3: Secure Nature's Contribution to People.</p> <p>5. Actions highlight the relationship between nature and people in Ireland. These include recognising the tangible and intangible values of biodiversity, promoting nature's importance to our culture and heritage and recognising how biodiversity supports our society and our economy.</p> <p>6. Objective 4: Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity.</p> <p>7. This objective focuses on biodiversity research needs, as well as the development and strengthening of long-term monitoring programmes that will underpin and strengthen future decision-making. Action will also focus on collaboration to advance ecosystem accounting that will contribute towards natural capital accounts.</p> <p>Objective 5: Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives. Collaboration with other countries and across the island of Ireland will play a key role in the realisation of this Objective. Ireland will strengthen its contribution to international biodiversity initiatives and international governance processes, such as the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>	
Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 - 2023	<p>8. To implement the actions of Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 as they relate to County Clare;</p> <p>9. To inform all biodiversity projects undertaken as part of the County Clare Heritage Plan 2017-2023 and support its full implementation;</p> <p>10. To ensure the Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2023 fully informs all planning policy within the County, including the biodiversity objectives in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023;</p> <p>11. To produce best practice guidelines on biodiversity conservation and management for all sections of Clare County Council;</p> <p>To ensure that all projects carried out under the Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2017- 2023 comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, and all other legislation as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Onshore Site will not result in significant effects on habitats and features of ecological importance. The Onshore Site will not impact on connectivity within the wider area and there is no potential for significant effects on water quality. There will be no significant adverse effects on biodiversity as a result of the Onshore Site. A landscape plan has been provided as part of the application which provides for the bolstering and planting of native hedgerows and woodland, the management of field margins and the establishment of species diverse grassland through appropriate management regimes.</p>

Plans	Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related To European Sites, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development In The Zone of Influence	Assessment of cumulative impacts of the development in compliance with policy
		(Note, the updated Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2030 was not available at the time of drafting this report).
Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	<p>12. Peat 3: Continuation and expansion of NPWS national programme of peatland restoration on SAC and NHA raised bogs, blanket bogs and fens.</p> <p>13. Peat 8: Continuation of NPWS-led EU LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature programme, including the development of complementary projects such as enhancing restoration capacity through building projects such as Natura Communities, retrofitting programmes to reduce turf cutting in the Natura 2000 network of sites and development of a nature restoration programme compatible with Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The Onshore Site will not result in significant effects on watercourses.</p> <p>The Onshore Site will not impact on connectivity within the wider area and there is no potential for significant effects on water quality. Where potential for significant impacts on aquatic receptors have been identified, mitigations have been provided in Chapter 23: Water to ensure all pathways for effect have been blocked.</p>

