

Actions	PHH	Bio	L&S	W&I	A&DG	A&SCH	LRV	MA
<p>There are potential for negative effects to occur on biodiversity, land and soil and water during the construction of the new road infrastructure in forests. It is a recommendation of this SEA that the IFSIP incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice construction measures. It is understood that the ancillary drainage infrastructure associated with new forest roads is likely to have a positive effect on water, once operational; an uncertain effect is therefore identified for the purposes of this assessment; to represent these conflicting assessment outcomes. A neutral effect on landscape and visual is expected to occur as a result of the development of new forest roads.</p> <p>An uncertain effect on air, noise and climate is identified in that, while the carbon performance of forest transport will be improved via the provision of an optimal internal road network density throughout the forest estate, it is also recognized that increased facilitation of traffic in forested areas, as well as the construction stage of new roads is likely to result in negative effects on air and climate. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that there is potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that the IFSIP incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance.</p> <p>In the absence of further information on the forest infrastructure and technology discussed in Action 48, an uncertain environmental effect on biodiversity, land and soil, water and on air, noise and climate is identified. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. Neutral effects are identified on heritage and landscape and visual, whereas positive effects are likely to occur on population and on material assets due to increased harvest potential.</p> <p>Action 49 relates to increasing the quality and quantity of forest reproductive material and plants and will have an overall neutral effect on the environment, with the exception of biodiversity, which will be positively affected.</p> <p>In relation to Actions under this Goal that relate to Forest Road Works, it is a recommendation of this SEA that any applications for Forest Road Works must contain details of the GHG emissions that will result from the project and the Forestry Division must take these emissions into account when assessing the project (including cumulative impact).</p>								
<p>Goal – Timber and Wood Product Promotion</p> <p>Encourage and promote the increased use of wood in the construction sector, with buildings constructed from Irish timber becoming the standard. Irish wood products are envisaged as the substitute material of choice to carbon intensive building products in the construction of Irish homes.</p> <p>Action 50: Further develop knowledge of timber as a construction material, the design of timber buildings and whole life cycle assessment of buildings among construction professionals</p> <p>Action 51: Establishment of a forum, that includes inter-departmental collaboration to explore the development of a wood-first policy and its integration into national housing strategies</p> <p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>These Actions again relate to knowledge, development and communication and are likely to result in overall neutral environmental effects in and of themselves</p> <p>Goal – Product and Market Development</p> <p>Develop new and existing markets for supply and demand of a more diverse range of quality wood and wood products including research and development of new products from wood fibre</p> <p>Action 52: Offer forest owners a range of support schemes to sustainably manage the potential of their forests to fulfil current and future relevant demands for wood and wood products</p>								

Actions	PAHH	BI	L&S	Wai	A&RC	A&CH	L&V	MA
<p>Action 53 (See also Action 35 and 36): Support opportunities to build research and technology capacities and potential for the use of Irish-grown wood products in construction and for the bioeconomy</p> <p>See Action 44: DAFM will encourage alignment with Actions to support the actions in the Climate Action Plan on the Built Environment including standards, research and technologies</p> <p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 52 relates to support schemes for the sustainable management of forests to fulfil current and future relevant demands for wood and wood products. Without knowing what these management practices are, it is not possible to ascertain the true environmental effect of this Action. However, a range of forest management schemes have been proposed and assessed as part of IFSIP already, under Interaction 4, and should therefore be referred to. It is a recommendation of this SEA that the IFSIP incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation</p> <p>Action 53 is likely to result in positive effects on population and on material assets as a result of the economic development potential associated with enhanced use of Irish-grown wood products. An otherwise neutral environmental effect is identified for the purposes of this assessment</p> <p>Action: See Action 44 has been assessed as likely to result in overall neutral environmental impacts as it aims to align actions including standards, research and technologies, and the built environment actions in the Climate Action Plan. As this Plan has been implemented since 2021, this Action has been assessed as a baseline condition and thus has been assessed as having an overall neutral impact. A long-term positive impact has been assessed for air, noise and climate as this plan aims to reach net zero emissions no later than 2050</p>								
<p>Goal – Quality Assurance and Forest Certification</p> <p>There is a market requirement for increased uptake and participation among private forest owners in forest certification with the overall goal of the large majority of Irish timber being certified by 2030</p>								
<p>Action 54: Support the uptake of Forest Certification in the private forest sector</p> <p>Action 55: Support the design and development of standardised Forest Management Plans for forest owners who wish to achieve forest certification and implement support schemes to foster their uptake so as to manage forests that have a greater capacity to deliver ecosystem services, climate resilience, roundwood value and forest health vitality</p>								
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 54 is likely to result in positive effects on population and material assets, through the potential economic benefits that can arise from a greater level of forest certification. An otherwise neutral environmental effect is identified in that it is assumed that this Action does not relate to afforestation</p> <p>Action 55 relates to the development of forest management plans, which will ultimately result in overall positive environmental effects. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action makes reference to the recommendations of the Philip Lee Review (Section 2.4 plan-led approach)</p>								
<p>Forests or Nature</p>								

Actions	PSMH	BIO	LAS	WIL	AQCC	AARCH	LELV	MA
Goal – Native Forest Expansion								
A major expansion of native forests and improved diversity of native tree species in new and existing forests								
Action 56: Implement support schemes for the establishment of native forests and the conservation or restoration of existing and emergent forests based on ecological criteria								
Action 57: Implement a support scheme for small-scale native tree planting								
Action 58: Continue to implement the Woodland Environment Fund to facilitate the planting of native forests by providing an access point for businesses to part fund the establishment								
Action 59: Continue to implement the Creation of Woodland on Public Land Scheme to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native forests on suitable land								
Action 60: Implement silvicultural and environmental standards compatible with the protection of the environment in scheme implementation and development								
Action 61: Increase the level of native forests as a percentage of total forest establishment								
SEA Comments:								
<p>The overall goal of this section refers to an expansion of native forests and improved diversity of native tree species in new and existing forests. It is a recommendation of this SEA that DAFM incorporate Actions towards conservation, protection and enhancement inclusive of statutory designations and protections i.e., important ecological features.</p> <p>Each of these Actions, with the exception of Action 60 relate to forest creation and the conservation/restoration of existing forests. Increasing forest cover is likely to result in overall long-term positive effects on the environment. However, inappropriate forest expansion and management could also give rise to negative effects. For example, site disturbing operations such as cultivation, road building and harvesting when combined with heavy rainfall pose a higher risk of silt runoff into waterways. Thus, it is important to have regard to the 'environmental requirements' set out in the IF SIP to understand the true impacts of these measures. Having regard to these environmental requirements, it is likely that these measures will give rise to long-term, positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, air and climate and material assets. An uncertain effect on land and soil and water is identified in that, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity, especially where poor managed and regulated timber removal operations result in damage to forest soils via serious compaction. Soil contamination can result in leaching, and potential eutrophication of waters. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there may be potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance. An uncertain effect is also identified with regards to the landscape and visual environment - in that where forest creation is concerned, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment.</p>								

Actions	PLHH	Bi	LCS	Water	AQ&C	ARCH	L&A	MA
<p>It is a recommendation of this SEA for Action 61, the text include 'subject to environmental assessment, and where suitable the appropriate assessment procedure'</p> <p>Action 60 is representative of the baseline situation and this is assessed as having a potential neutral environmental effect</p>								
<p>Goal – Protecting and Restoring Natural Heritage and Ecosystem Services</p> <p>'Forestry practices will safeguard and enhance the quality of Ireland's air, water, soils, landscapes, habitats and population of protected species. This includes support and funding for the provision of non-timber ecosystem services.'</p>								
Action 62: Implement a support scheme for funding a new native forest type for the purposes of protecting water quality								
Action 63: Provide support for the promotion, protection and conservation of native and broadleaf forests and conversion of existing conifer forests to native forests, and other habitats as appropriate								
Action 64: Support the establishment and natural regeneration of native forest on post-industrial cutaway peatlands, where appropriate								
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 62 relates to support schemes for a new native forest type with the purpose of protecting water quality. Increasing forest cover in general is likely to result in overall long-term positive effects on the environment. However, inappropriate forest expansion and management could also give rise to negative effects. For example, site disturbing operations such as cultivation, road building and harvesting when combined with heavy rainfall pose a higher risk of silt runoff into waterways.</p> <p>Thus, it is important to have regard to the 'environmental requirements' set out in the IFSP to understand the true impacts of these measures. Having regard to these environmental requirements, it is likely that these measures will give rise to long-term, positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, air and climate and material assets. Water is assessed as likely to see uncertain impacts for the purpose of this assessment, as this Action aims to support forest creation with the focus of protecting water quality, which is likely to result in positive impacts to water, however this Action does not specify how it would protect water quality. Risks as a result, are likely to be minimised but cannot be guaranteed where no explanation is given. It is a recommendation of this SEA that a text amendment be made to include reference to 'new native forest types where appropriate, subject to all relevant environmental and or ecological assessment for the purposes of protecting water quality'. An uncertain effect on land and soil is identified in that, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity, especially where poor managed and regulated timber removal operations result in damage to forest soils via serious compaction. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there may be potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance. An uncertain effect is also identified with regards the landscape and visual environment- in that, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment. It is also a recommendation of this SEA that clarification is given surrounding what 'new forest type' is described in this Action.</p>								

Actions	PAHH	Bi	LRS	WAI	AQTC	AACH	L&V	MA
<p>Action 63 is as likely to result in overall positive environmental impacts, as it relates to the promotion, protection and conservation of existing forests. It is a recommendation of this SEA that provisions are made relating to follow up monitoring of replacement planting throughout the lifetime of the project (which could be done in conjunction with other organisations e.g. Coillte Nature/NPWS etc.)</p> <p>Action 64 is likely to result in neutral impact on population and human health as no relevant impacts are likely to occur as a result of this Action. It is a suggestion of this SEA that the Department investigate the potential for restoration of peatland habitat instead of considering afforestation with native tree planting. Planting on organic (peat) soils has been found, since the publication of the 2022 EPA GHG Projection Report and Climate Action Plan 2023, to have far higher emissions from planting trees on this type of soil than previously envisaged in 2021 Reports. Thus, tree planting on organic soils should be avoided where possible and refocused on suitable sites, subject to environmental assessments where appropriate. Potentially uncertain effects have been assessed for land, soil, and water as the natural characteristics of peat soil and surrounding water bodies may be negatively impacted upon if planting on peatland is facilitated. There is potential for negative impacts on air and quality in that, tree planting on organic soils creates greenhouse gas emissions rather than acting as a carbon store. However, an uncertain effect on air and climate has been identified for the purposes of this assessment in that, while planting on peatlands has been proven to give rise to greenhouse gas emissions, as identified in the climate action plan, it also contributes to an increase in forest cover. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there is potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance within peatland areas. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance. An uncertain effect is identified with regards the landscape and visual environment - in that, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment. A positive effect has been identified as likely to occur on material assets through the enhanced facilitation of forest operations and management on peatlands, if considered appropriate.</p> <p>Goal – Forest Biodiversity 'Safeguard and enhance the biodiversity value of our forests in relation to water quality, habitats and species by implementing appropriate measures such as forest redesign, habitat rehabilitation or restoration.'</p> <p>See Action 16. Implement a support scheme that supports redesign and, where appropriate, restoration measures at reforestation stage</p> <p>Action 65. Implement support schemes that improve the water protection and wider biodiversity value of forests, towards reducing forests as a significant risk to water quality</p> <p>Action 66: Implement the restoration and conservation of forests in state-owned properties, particularly National Parks, Nature Reserves and state-owned Natura 2000 sites as appropriate</p> <p>SEA Comment: Action. See Action 16 specifically relates to the implementation of support schemes that support redesign measures at reforestation stage. It is a recommendation of this SEA that definitive wording be given for the redesign measures detailed in this Action. This Action was assessed as likely to result in neutral impacts on population and human health and positive environmental impacts on biodiversity, air, noise and climate and material assets. These positive impacts are likely as this Action details reforestation and subsequently, increased forest cover</p>								

Actions	P&HH	BI	L&S	W&I	A&BC	A&CH	L&V	MA
<p>Increased forest cover is likely to result in improved air quality and enhanced biodiversity, depending on tree suitability and appropriate sites. However, an uncertain effect on land and soil and water is identified in that, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity. Soil contamination can result in leaching, and potential eutrophication of waters. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there is potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the support of re-design measures at reforestation stage will be undertaken with a view to abstract from scenic visuals or landscapes however, an uncertain effect is identified with regards the landscape and visual environment - in that, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment. A positive effect has been identified as likely to occur on material assets through the enhanced facilitation of forest operations and management.</p> <p>Action 65 relates to support schemes to improve the water protection and biodiversity value of forests. A likely overall positive environmental effect is therefore identified. Action 66 has been assessed as likely to result in overall positive environmental impacts, through the restoration and conservation of existing forests. Once these conservation efforts are done on appropriate sites and using suitable tree types, the conservation and restoration of such is likely to result in biodiversity enhancement. It is a recommendation of this SEA that a text amendment be made to Action 70, to include 'Implement the restoration and conservation of woodland in state-owned properties, particularly National Parks and Nature Reserves subject to all appropriate ecological assessments.'</p>								
<p>Goal – Ancient and Long-established Woodland Fully identify, protect and enhance Ancient and Long-established woodland.</p>								
<p>Action 67: Support the appropriate restoration and conservation of Ancient and Long-established Woodland through funding for restoration works</p>								
<p>Action 68: Establish a baseline and complete the national inventory of Ancient and Long-established Woodland</p>								
<p>SEA Comments: Action 67 and 68 is assessed as per Action 66. Both are likely to result on overall positive environmental effects.</p>								
<p>Goal – Invasive Species 'Develop, fund and implement strategies to effectively manage and control invasive species of flora and fauna, including invasive deer species, to support biodiversity and sustainability within Irish forests.'</p>								
<p>Action 69: Support the establishment of a National Deer Management Forum where stakeholders will be convened to develop a holistic strategy to the management of the wild deer population</p>								

Actions	PHH	Bo	LES	Wai	AQRC	AAACH	LSV	MA
<p>Action 70: Provide funding and support to sustainably manage and control invasive species of flora and fauna to protect forests</p> <p>SEA Comments: Action 69 in and of itself is likely to result in an overall neutral environmental effect Action 70 relates to control of invasive species and is likely to result in a positive effect on biodiversity, and an otherwise neutral effect.</p>								
Forests for People								
<p>Goal – Promote Forest Recreation for Health and Well-Being Promote the use of and community involvement with our forests for outdoor leisure, recreation and connection with nature. This will include an increased focus on the physical well-being and mental health benefits of forests for our citizens</p>								
<p>Action 71: Review and expand the Neighbourhood Scheme to support the creation of new public amenity forests and the enhancement of existing forests for public access, education, recreation and health and wellbeing for rural and urban communities</p> <p>Action 72: Continue to implement the Woodlands for Health nature-based intervention programme</p>								
<p>SEA Comments: Action 71 relates to the provision of forest amenities and facilities in existing forests. A positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development, such as car parks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management. Action 72 represents the baseline situation and as such, and overall neutral environmental effect is identified.</p>								
<p>Goal – Access to Forests Continue to improve public access and facilities in our forests with the agreement of forest owners, according to the principles of Leave No Trace.</p>								
<p>Action 73: Maintain an Open Forest Policy for on foot access to public forest estate</p> <p>Action 74: Provide targeted support for the development of public access, education and recreation in forests in or near villages, towns and cities</p>								
<p>SEA Comments: The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Ireland's Forest Strategy Implementation Plan SEA Environmental Report</p>								

Actions	PAHH	Bio	L&S	W&I	A&OC	A&CH	L&V	MA
<p>Action 73 again represents a continuation of the existing environment and is thus likely to result in an overall neutral environmental effect</p> <p>Action 74 relates to the provision of public access and recreation in existing forests. A positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management</p>								
<p>Goal – Building Confidence and Trust</p> <p>Engagement with forest owners, farmers, communities and other stakeholders for more inclusive planning of forests at regional and local levels. This includes recognising and addressing issues that affect communities and working to secure a sense of ownership and pride among Irish people in their forests.</p>								
<p>Action 75: Roll out of pre-application discussions on forest licence applications nationwide</p>								
<p>Action 76: Implement supports to enhance the cultural, social and heritage value of forests through a combination of methods including the creation of new access, recreational facilities and potential for eco-tourism</p>								
<p>Action 77: Facilitate and encourage forest projects developed in partnership between landowners, communities and where appropriate local authorities</p>								
<p>Action 78: DAFM to develop a new forestry customer service charter</p>								
<p>Action 79: Establishment of a number of pilot areas to develop a plan led approach to afforestation in collaboration with stakeholders. These pilot areas will help inform a national approach to plan led afforestation</p>								
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 75 relates to pre-application discussions on forest licence applications and as such, is likely to result in a neutral environmental effect, in and of itself</p> <p>Action 76 again relates to measures including enhanced public access to forests, creation of recreational facilities etc. A positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management</p> <p>With regards Action 77, in the absence of further information surrounding the types of forest projects proposed, a largely uncertain environmental effect is identified. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action includes a definition on what type, scale and nature of forest projects are likely to be developed in partnership between landowners, communities and where appropriate local authorities. It is also a recommendation of this SEA to include text around areas 'where suitable and appropriate'</p>								

Actions	PAHH	Bio	L&S	Wtr	A&GC	A&RCH	L&V	MA
<p>Action 78 is likely to result in positive impacts to population through enhanced customer service. An otherwise neutral environmental effect is identified.</p> <p>Action 79 is presumed for the purpose of this assessment, to relate to forest creation by afforestation in a number of pilot areas. Establishing pilot areas to develop a plan led national approach to afforestation and thus, increasing forest cover is likely to result in overall long-term positive effects on the environment. However, inappropriate forest expansion and management could also give rise to negative effects. For example, site disturbing operations such as cultivation, road building and harvesting when combined with heavy rainfall pose a higher risk of silt runoff into waterways. Thus, it is important to have regard to the 'environmental requirements' set out in the IFSIP to understand the true impacts of these measures. Having regard to these environmental requirements, it is likely that these measures will give rise to long-term, positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, air and climate and material assets where pilot areas are sited appropriately and are subject to all relevant environmental assessments. An uncertain effect on land and soil and water is identified in that, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity, especially where poor managed and regulated timber removal operations result in damage to forest soils via serious compaction. Soil contamination can result in leaching, and potential eutrophication of waters. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there may be potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance. An uncertain effect is also identified with regards the landscape and visual environment- in that where forest creation is concerned, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment.</p> <p>It is a recommendation of this SEA for Action 79, the text include 'subject to environmental assessment, and where suitable the appropriate assessment procedure'.</p>								
<p>Goal – Learning and Awareness</p> <p>'Deliver education, learning and development opportunities for adults and children, to increase the awareness of the multiple benefits of trees and forests.'</p>								
<p>Action 80. Develop and implement support initiatives that aim to increase public awareness of the multi benefits of forests and the multi-functional use of the resource, including forest walks, demonstrations, etc.</p> <p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 80 relates to the development and implementation of support initiatives that aim to increase public awareness of the multi benefits of forests and the multi-functional use of the resource including forest classrooms to promote trees, forests and sustainable forest management through school curriculums, training educators, forest walks, demonstrations. A positive effect on population and human health is therefore identified where increased knowledge and skills transfer is likely, an otherwise neutral environmental effect has been identified.</p>								
<p>Forests for Economy and Rural Development</p> <p>Goal – Value</p> <p>'Increase the overall value of Irish forests and forestry to the economy.'</p>								

Actions	PLNH	Bio	L&S	WRI	AORC	AACH	L&V	MA
See Actions 47, 48 & 53: Invest in new technology to support timber mobilisation —(See Actions 40-50-54)								
See Actions 25, 35 & 52: Implement support schemes for forest creation and management (See Actions 36 and 50)								
See Action 52 & 53: Support the uptake of wood and forest based products (See Actions 54 and 55)								
See Action 54 & 55: Support the uptake of Forest Certification in the private sector —(See Actions 57 and 58)								
See Action 33, 34, 35 & 36: Develop forest research and innovation with a strong focus on sustainability and the circular and bioeconomy								
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action: See Actions 47, 48 & 53 has been assessed as predominantly uncertain in that the type of technological investment in timber mobilisation is not known at this time. Refer to the assessment of the Measures under Intervention 3 of the IFSP for information on the various types of investments and their associated assessment outcomes. A positive effect on population and material assets is identified however, as a result of more efficient and effective timber mobilisation. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action includes a definition on what type, scale and nature of new technology is likely to be developed.</p> <p>Action: See Actions 25, 35 & 52 relates to increasing forest cover and management, which is likely to result in overall long-term positive effects on the environment. However, inappropriate forest expansion and management could also give rise to negative effects. For example, site disturbing operations such as cultivation, road building and harvesting when combined with heavy rainfall pose a higher risk of silt runoff into waterways. Thus, it is important to have regard to the 'environmental requirements' set out in the IFSP to understand the true impacts of these measures. It is likely that positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, air and climate and material assets will result from this Action.</p> <p>However, an uncertain effect on land and soil and water is identified in that, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity, especially where poor managed and regulated timber removal operations result in damage to forest soils via serious compaction. Soil contamination can result in leaching and potential eutrophication of waters. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there is potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance. An uncertain effect is also identified with regards to the landscape and visual environment - in that, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment, it is also a recommendation of this SEA that the wording of this Action be updated to give more clarity on what will be included.</p> <p>Action: See Action 52 & 53 is likely to result in an overall neutral environmental effect, in that it relates to more efficient use of an existing resource. A positive effect on population and material assets is also identified.</p>								

Actions	RHH	Bio	L&S	WAI	A.02C	A&C&H	LE&V	MA
<p>Action. See Action 54 & 55 is likely to result in positive effects on population and material assets, through the potential economic benefits that can arise from a greater level of forest certification. An otherwise neutral environmental effect is identified in that it is assumed that this Action does not relate to afforestation.</p> <p>Action. See Action 33, 34, 35 & 36 relates to skills and knowledge development and this is likely to have an overall neutral effect on the environment, with the exception of a positive effect on the population where increased knowledge and skills transfer are likely.</p>								
<p>Goal – Transition to a Low Carbon Economy</p> <p>The forestry sector is providing solution focused supports through sustainable attractive jobs in rural areas in the transition to a low carbon economy. It is also supporting conditions for the development and implementation of a voluntary carbon market, which will recognise the contribution of Irish forests to carbon capture and storage.</p>								
<p>Action 81. Taking account of the proposed EU regulatory framework for the certification of Carbon removals Ireland will examine the viability of establishing a voluntary carbon code for Ireland.</p>								
<p>Action 82. Continue to implement the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling to minimise the impact of deforestation on GHG emissions, while supporting wider government policies.</p>								
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>It is presumed for the purposes of this assessment that Action 81 would detail voluntary carbon codes similar to that of what the UK have implemented. It is a recommendation of this SEA, that an update be made to this Action to include a definition of voluntary carbon codes and what might be included within Action 81 is assessed at present, as likely to have a positive effect on air and climate as the introduction of a voluntary carbon code in Ireland would allow for increased knowledge regarding carbon sequestration. An otherwise neutral environmental assessment has been identified for the purposes of this assessment.</p> <p>Action 82 relates to a continuation of baseline situation and as such an overall neutral environmental effect is identified.</p>								
<p>Goal – Supporting a Thriving Rural Economy</p> <p>Irish forests are providing improved income streams to forest owners, farmers and rural communities through the production and mobilisation of wood products, wood fibre and through expanding markets in the supply of sustainable construction and infrastructure materials, modern methods of construction, biomass, tourism, recreation and non-wood forest products.</p>								
<p>Action 83. Provide a diverse range of grants and premiums to farmers and landowners to create and manage new and existing forests and in the mobilisation of wood products.</p>								
<p>Action 84. Develop and implement targeted and results-based support measures for the provision of non-timber ecosystem services.</p>								
<p>Action 85. Explore opportunities to effectively support and promote non-wood forest-based economic activities.</p>								
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 83 relates to the creation and management of new and existing forests and in the mobilisation of wood products. This Action includes the potential for increased forest cover, which is likely to result in overall long-term positive effects on the environment. However, inappropriate forest expansion and management could also give</p>								

PAHH	Bi	LRS	Wat	AQRC	AACH	L&V	MA
<p>Actions</p> <p>rise to negative effects. For example, site disturbing operations such as cultivation, road building and harvesting when combined with heavy rainfall pose a higher risk of silt runoff into waterways. It is likely that these measures will give rise to long-term, positive effects on population and human health, air and climate and material assets. An uncertain effect on biodiversity, land and soil and water is identified in that, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity, especially where poor managed and regulated timber removal operations result in damage to forest soils via serious compaction. Soil contamination can result in leaching, and potential eutrophication of waters. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice forestry management and operation. An uncertain effect on heritage is identified in that, there is potential for interference with previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to archaeological assessment and the discovery of potential features of archaeological significance. An uncertain effect is also identified with regards the landscape and visual environment - in that, depending on location and scale, new or enlarged forests can result in a negative effect on the scenic environment and landscape characteristics of the area in question. It is a recommendation of this SEA that this Action incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to landscape sensitivity assessment.</p> <p>Action 84 While the details relating to the provision of these non-timber eco-system services is not known at this time, there is still likely to be a positive effect on population and human health, biodiversity, water, land and soil and air and climate emanating from any enhanced level of eco-system services.</p> <p>Action 85 relates to the promotion of non-wood forest-based economic activities. In the absence of further information on the same, it is assumed that this relates to forest recreation and tourism initiatives. As outlined previously, a positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development - such as car parks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the F&SIP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management.</p>							
<p>Goal – Supporting the Bioeconomy</p> <p>Individual and collective, co-operative enterprise opportunities through forestry will be developed, encouraging diversification and innovation at farm, forest and community level in support and development of the new circular and green economy.</p>							
<p>Action 86: Continue to support innovation in Ireland's forestry and timber industries</p>							
<p>Action 87: Design and implement incentives to support innovation including piloting, cooperation and demonstration in the forest and bioeconomy sector outlined in the Bioeconomy Action Plan</p>							
<p>SEA Comments:</p> <p>Action 86 represents a continuation of the existing scenario and as such, an overall neutral environmental effect is identified.</p> <p>Action 87 is assessed as having an overall uncertain environmental effect in that the type of innovation and the potential projects stemming from it is not known at this time. It is likely that positive effects on population and on material assets are likely to occur as a result of any innovation in the forest sector.</p>							

8.4 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are those that arise when the effects of the implementation of a plan or project occur in combination with those of other plans or projects. Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

Within the draft IFSIP, a range of projects and schemes are proposed. Each of these should be subject to cumulative assessment at project level, as necessary, to determine whether the subject project is likely to give rise to cumulative effects with other proposed or existing projects. However, it is thought that the mitigation measures outlined in Section 9 of this report will assist in the reduction or avoidance of cumulative environmental effects.

The two types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered throughout this assessment are:

- Potential Intra-Plan cumulative effects, which arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, or policy where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities. Environmental sensitivities have been identified in Section 5 of this Environmental Report to inform such, in the future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to the deterioration of environmental quality. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on [Table 8.4.1](#) below.
- Potential Inter-Plan cumulative effects arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc. Other policies, plans and programmes, as outlined in Section 3 have therefore been considered for their potential to give rise to potential cumulative effects with the draft IFSIP.

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Within the draft IFSIP, a range of projects and schemes are proposed. Each of these should be subject to cumulative assessment at project level, as necessary, to determine whether the subject project is likely to give rise to cumulative effects with other proposed or existing projects. However, it is thought that the mitigation measures outlined in Section 9 of this report will assist in the reduction or avoidance of cumulative environmental effects.

8.4.1 Intra-Plan Cumulative Effects

Potential negative intra-plan cumulative effects are identified between biodiversity, water and land and soil in that forestry operations, including fertilisation and use of machinery have the potential to result in contamination of surface waters or soils, in the absence of mitigation. Potential positive intra-plan effects are identified between biodiversity and air quality and climate in that the IFSIP incorporates a range of positive measures aimed at enhancing forest cover in Ireland, particularly native species. As outlined in the suite of relevant other plans and policy documents in Ireland, an increase in forest cover is key to Ireland's climate change mitigation agenda. Uncertain intra-plan cumulative effects are also identified between biodiversity and landscape and visual in that, deepening on scale and location, forestry can have either positive or negative effects on the landscape and visual amenity of an area.

Potential negative intra-plan cumulative effects are identified between population and human health, land and soil and water, as any potential contamination of the same could find its way into drinking or bathing waters and become potentially harmful to health. Potential positive intra-plan cumulative effects between population and human health and material assets and landscape and visual are identified in that, as outlined in Section 5.2, the presence of forests has been proven to have positive effects on the health and wellbeing of populations who utilise the same for recreational and amenity purposes.

Potential negative intra-plan cumulative effects between land and soil and water are identified, for reasons outlined previously, pertaining to potential contamination incidences resulting from forest operations. Further negative intra-plan cumulative effects are identified between land and soil and air and climate factors, particularly with regards the measures set out in the IFSIP relating to afforestation on peat lands.

Finally, potential positive intra-plan cumulative effects are identified between air and climate and material assets through the promotion of the use of timber and forest products for building and energy purposes.

The intra-plan cumulative effects identified are set out in Table 8.4.1 below.

Table 8.4.1 Intra-Plan Cumulative Effects

Environmental Aspect	Bio	PL & HH	L & S	Wat	A, Q & C	AA&C H	L & V	MA
Bio								
P & HH	No							
L & S	Yes	Yes						
Wat	Yes	Yes	Yes					
A, Q & C	Yes	No	Yes	No				
AA & CH	No	No	No	No	No			
L & V	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No		
MA	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	

8.4.2 Inter-Plan Cumulative Effects

With regards Inter-Plan effects, the IFSIP has the potential to contribute positively and cumulatively towards a wide range of Irish Government policies, within the context in which it sits. For example, the IFSIP positively contributes towards the objectives of the National Climate Action Plan through the extensive suite of Measures and Actions relating to afforestation and the increased use of wood products as a renewable resource.

The IFSIP will work to achieve contributions towards reductions in greenhouse gas and other emissions to air and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:

- Greater levels of forest cover;
- Increased use of renewable resources through the provision of wood and wood products; and
- Increased use of timber as a construction material.

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The IFSIP also contributes positively and cumulatively to the national biodiversity agenda, by setting out a range of Measures and Actions for the restoration of ecosystems and habitats and provision of ecosystem services. A positive cumulative effect with the Draft 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan for example is identified here, for example. The IFSIP will work to achieve contributions towards biodiversity protection and enhancement as a result of facilitating:

- Increased planting of native forest species; and
- Increased provision of ecosystem services.

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Cumulative effects of the IFSIP have been detailed in Table 8.4.2 with reference to the schematic included in Section 3 (Figure 3.1), that was recommended at SEA Scoping Stage by the EPA, inclusive to key plans and programmes and their interlinkage with the IFSIP.



Table 8.4.2 Cumulative Impacts of the IF SIP with key plans and programmes

Environmental Component	Potential Cumulative effects that could generally occur across environmental components
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is potential for cumulative negative impacts on communities and/or individuals to occur as a result of inappropriate afforestation emanating from the IF SIP, in combination with the increased population, land-use and associated development emanating from County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other Land Use Plans. However, all such plans will be subject to SEA in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), AA as necessary in line with Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC. It is anticipated that any negative impacts related to population and human health resulting from development plans will be minimised insofar as possible, through the relevant mitigation and monitoring outlined in SEA and AA processes. Thus, there is no potential for likely significant cumulative effects to occur on population and human health as a result of the implementation of developments plans and the IF SIP. There is potential for cumulative positive impacts on local communities, farmers and the wider forestry sector where increased and sustainable economic activity is likely to occur as a result of the IF SIP, particularly in combination with the EU Common Agricultural Policy and Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan. The IF SIP, the EU CAP and Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan have undergone SEA in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), AA as necessary in line with Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC, and relevant mitigation and monitoring. Thus, no likely cumulative effects on human health and population are anticipated in combination with the IF SIP, where all relevant mitigation and monitoring are undertaken from SEA and or AA processes.
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is potential for cumulative, positive impacts on the biodiversity to occur as a result of the implementation of the IF SIP, in combination with all Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites (of particular importance to the IF SIP – the Draft Forests and Freshwater Pearl Mussel in Ireland), Threat Response Plans (of particular importance to the IF SIP – the Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan and Curlew Conservation Programme), the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Forest Strategy and the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. All of the aforementioned Plans, Strategies and or Programmes promote the restoration and protection of biodiversity at national and EU level, to promote well-functioning ecosystems in order to boost resilience, protect endangered species and habitats, and prevent the emergence and spread of future diseases. Threat Response Plans and Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites will specifically focus on protected habitats and species across Ireland, some of which are of particular importance to the IF SIP, including Fresh water Pearl Mussel, Hen Harrier, and Curlew, which are largely impacted by forestry practices. These Plans are subject to SEA in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and AA as necessary in line with Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC. The purpose of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the EU Forest Strategy are to adapt and mitigate climate change, whilst prioritising biodiversity enhancement and sustainable forest management. Overall, it is not anticipated that negative cumulative effects are likely to occur as a result of the aforementioned Plans and or Strategies in combination with the IF SIP, where all relevant mitigation and monitoring are undertaken. <p>Forestry creating habitats for birds, attracting them and farm development in proximity impact on birds. There is potential for cumulative negative impacts on birds where forestry plantations are located in close proximity to</p>

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<p>Air and Climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is potential for cumulative positive effects to occur on air quality and climate, as a result of the implementation of the IFSP, particularly in combination with plans such as the Climate Action Plan, the European Green Deal, the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Action Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, and Local Authority Climate Adaptation Plans. Implementation of the IFSP, is likely to give rise to increased levels of afforestation in Ireland- something which will result in increased sequestration of GHGs and a reduction in Ireland's overall GHG emissions. It is not anticipated that negative cumulative effects will result from the aforementioned Plans and the IFSP, as the purpose of each Plan and or Policy is to adapt and mitigate against climate change. Thus, a potential for positive cumulative effect is anticipated for air and climate, in relation to these Plans and the IFSP. There is potential for cumulative negative impacts to occur on archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage where increased afforestation, development or changes in land-use occur as a result of implementing the IFSP, in combination with development and changes in land-use occurring as a result of the implementation of County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Land Use Plans. However, all such plans will be subject to SEA in line with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). AA as necessary in line with Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC, and relevant mitigation and monitoring. Thus, it is anticipated that any negative impacts to archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage will be minimised insofar as possible through the relevant mitigation and monitoring outlined within the SEA and AA of these Plans.
<p>Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential positive impacts to landscape and visual whereby, enhanced landscape appearance may be facilitated through the IFSP and appropriate spatial distribution and species structure of forests, in combination with the EU Forest Strategy. It is not anticipated that negative cumulative effects will occur, where the relevant mitigation and monitoring outlined in this ER are undertaken.
<p>Landscape and Visual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is potential for positive cumulative effects to occur on economic growth in Ireland through maintained or enhanced export of forest products as a result of the IFSP, particularly in combination with the EU Common Agricultural Policy and Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan. The IFSP, the EU CAP and Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan have undergone full SEA and thus, no negative cumulative effects are anticipated in combination with the IFSP, where all relevant mitigation and monitoring are undertaken.
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is also potential for cumulative positive effects to occur on material assets, where forest products can be used as a source of renewable raw material and a replacement of materials and energy produced from fossil fuels, all of which is likely to enable a subsequent contribution to GHG reductions. The IFSP, in combination with the European Green Deal, Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021), the Climate Action Plan and Local Authority Climate and Adaptation Plans are likely to result in positive effects in terms of renewable energy resources and GHG reductions across the forestry sector, amongst other sectors. It is not anticipated that negative cumulative effects will result from the aforementioned Plans, in combination with the IFSP as the purpose of each Plan and or Policy is to adapt and mitigate against climate change. Thus, a potential for positive cumulative effect is anticipated for material assets in relation to renewable energy, GHG reductions and the aforementioned Plans.

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9. Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

9.1 Mitigation

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged and designed to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the IPFS. All mitigation measures have been developed and agreed with DAFM as part of the SEA iterative process. The primary mitigation measure is to ensure the sustainable and appropriate development of the plan area without compromising the integrity of the natural and built environment.

It is recommended that all legislation, policies, environmental requirements and guidelines outlined in this Environmental Report are adhered to. In addition, future legislation, policies, environmental requirements and guidelines should also be fully integrated into the IPFS and Environmental Report.

In addition, many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level. In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to environmental considerations outlined in this Environmental Report and associated AA Screening. In this section the mitigation measures are discussed under each environmental parameter heading. Refer to [Error! Reference source not found. Table 9-1](#) for proposed mitigation measures, and recommendations of the SEA.

It should be noted that a suite of Requirements and guidance documents have been published by the DAFM over the years. Adherence to these guidelines, environmental requirements and standards is the primary mitigation associated with the IPFS. The following documents, and any future variations or amendments thereto, should be reviewed and complied with, as appropriate, prior to the implementation of any of the measures or actions set out in the IPFS:

- Aerial Fertilisation Requirements. Forest Service (2015) Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Environmental Requirements for Afforestation. Forest Service (2016). Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- Forest Protection Guidelines. Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forest Recreation in Ireland A Guide for Forest Owners and Managers (2006) Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food.
- Forestry & Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements: Site Assessment and Mitigation Measures Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forestry & Kerry Slug Guidelines. Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forestry & Otter Guidelines Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forestry and Landscape Guidelines Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines. Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forestry Biodiversity Guidelines. Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;
- Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines. Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources;

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- Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines. Forest Service (20000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources).
- Forestry Standards Manual. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Forest Service (2015);
- Forest Road Manual: Guidelines for the Design, Construction & Management of Forest Roads (Ryan, T., Phillips, H., Ramsay, J. and Dempsey, J. 2004. Forest Road Manual).
- Guidelines for the design, construction and management of forest roads. COFORD, Dublin
- Forests & Water – Achieving Objectives under Ireland’s River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (2018);
- Land Types for Afforestation. Forest Service (2015) Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- Native Woodland Establishment GPC9 & GPC10 Silvicultural Standards Forest Service (2015) Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Standards for Felling and Reforestation, (2019), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and
- Woodland for Water: Creating new native woodlands to protect and enhance Ireland’s waters. Forest Service (2018) Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Table 2 in Appendix C contains a summary of relevant mitigation measures set out in these documents, as relevant to the IPFS. It is noted that there are multitude of ‘uncertain’ environmental effects identified in Table 8.8.2 and Table 8.8.3 which have the potential to give rise to negative environmental effects, in the worst-case scenario. The mitigation measures in Table 2 are relevant to all Interventions, Measures and Actions and should be implemented accordingly.

Further, as outlined in Section 4.1 and 5.3, an NIR has also been prepared in respect of the IFSIP. The Mitigation Measures set out in the NIR are included in Table 3 and Table 4 in Appendix C and should be read in conjunction with those set out in Table 2.

Where potential for significant negative environmental effects have been identified in Table 8.8.2 and Table 8.8.3, relevant mitigation measures from the above listed forestry guidance document have been identified. These are described in detail in the below sections.

Forest Road Projects

Potential for significant negative effects have been identified relating to forest road projects, including Intervention 3, Measure 1 and 2, and Action 47:

- **Intervention 3, Measure 1- Forest Road Scheme (Bio, L&S)**

Measure 1 has the potential to result in negative effects on biodiversity, land and soil and water during the construction of the new road infrastructure in forests. It is a recommendation of this SEA that the IFSIP incorporates the mitigation measures in Section 9 of SEA relating to best practice construction measures.

- **Intervention 3, Measure 2- Ecologically Enhanced Forest Roads (L&S), Measure 3- Special Construction Works and Additional Measures (L&S), Measure 4- Engineering Design Support Measure (L&S)**

Measures 2, 3 and 4 represent additional elements to the Forest Road Scheme assessed above and are therefore assessed cumulatively with Measure 1. Measure 2 relates to ecological enhancement measures for forest roads. With these Measures in place, the Forest Road Scheme assessment classification is upgraded from negative to ‘uncertain’ with regards biodiversity, through the recognition of the ecological enhancement measures that, once operational, will positively effect biodiversity. It is nevertheless recognized that any infrastructural development has the potential to result in negative effects on biodiversity in the construction phase.

- **Action 47- Support Schemes to Improve Road Access to Forests (Bio, L&S)**

Action 47 has the potential to result in negative effects on biodiversity, land and soil and water during the construction of the new road infrastructure in forests.

Relevant Mitigation:

- All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents must be complied with, (Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines still relevant here)
- Prior to the design or development of forest roads, regard should be had to the Forest Road Manual: Guidelines for the Design, Construction & Management of Forest Roads (COFORD, 2005)
- Under Irish legislation, EIA is mandatory for the following forestry projects:
 - private roads which would exceed 2,000 metres in length (S.I.600 of 2001, as amended by S.I.235 of 2008) and Regulation 13(2)(b) of S.I. 191 of 2017). Where EIA is not mandatory, regard should be had to Section 11(d)(i) of the Forestry Act 2014, Regulation 13(2)(d) Forestry Regulations 2017, and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and an EIA Screening carried out, as required.
- The development of new forest roads should be subject to options assessment, where appropriate.
- Access to forest land should select the least environmentally sensitive route and utilise existing access where available and suitable
- Archaeological monitoring of specified sections of a forest route by an independent archaeological consultant is required where it is determined that there is an elevated potential for impacts on known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features in those sections.
- The potential of operations to cause disturbance should be considered and where possible, reflected in the timing operations
- Alternative options such as lower density roading, temporary bridging and the adoption of alternative silvicultural systems, will be considered on case-by-case basis, on sites with acute water sensitivity.
- Ensure that stream and river crossings constructed for forestry purposes are developed in compliance with the Coford Forest Road Manual and the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidelines on the Protection of Fisheries During Construction In or Adjacent to Waters.

Temporary Bridging and Road Reinforcements

Potential for significant negative effects have been identified relating to temporary bridging and road reinforcements, including Intervention 3, Measure 6:

Measure 6- Temporary Bridging and Road Reinforcements (Bio, Water)

Measure 6 has the potential to result in negative effects on biodiversity and water quality as a result of the temporary water crossings, through potential contamination or disturbance of the water or riverbanks at the location of the crossings. An uncertain effect on landscape and visual is also identified in that large structures could result in an impact on the visual amenity.

Relevant Mitigation:

- All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM Requirements documents must be complied with.
- All temporary bridging and road reinforcements will be subject to the appropriate assessment process and EIA process, where required, and located only where appropriate.
- Crossing structures (bridges, fords, etc.) must not impede the waterflow.

- Machinery used in forest operations should be managed so as to minimise the potential for any offsite air, noise or vibration impacts.
- Prior to operations commencing, all machine operators and other site personnel will be appropriately briefed by the appointed Works Manager, Registered Forester or Site Ecologist, on the specific sensitivities of the site and on all relevant conditions, including the location of all exclusion zones and environmental setbacks
- Where instream works are required, and to prevent the spread of freshwater invasive species and disease (e.g. Crayfish Plague, Zebra mussel, fishhook waterflea), any vehicles, tools and PPE directly involved in instream works, e.g. culvert for access purposes, are clean (disinfected and dried) and free of soil/sand/gravel and plant debris before entering and leaving the site.
- Sediment must be prevented from entering aquatic zones. This is achieved by adherence to Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, Standards for Felling and Reforestation and any site-specific measures that may also be required
- Regularly check silt traps and silt fences, and maintain as required, to ensure their continued effectiveness throughout works.
- If vegetation clearance with machine is required, particular care is needed to guard against soil damage, compaction, rutting or removal. Subsequent spraying may also be required, using approved herbicide appropriate to the target vegetation
- Where trees are required to be removed (e.g. to facilitate the erection of a fence), a felling licence may be necessary
- Good site hygiene and biosecurity controls will be employed to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (e.g. rhododendron, Japanese knotweed) by thoroughly checking/washing vehicles prior to entering and leaving the project site
- All forest operations within areas of high-water sensitivity (such as Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments and high-status objective waterbodies) must be planned and managed with a particular regard to the protection of water quality, aquatic ecosystems and species.
- Create and maintain dense mats of brash and branch wood on all machine routes where necessary, to avoid significant soil damage, erosion and sedimentation that will cause significant environmental impact in the absence of mitigation.

Planting on Peatlands

Potential for significant negative effects have been identified relating to planting on Peatlands, including Action 43 and Action 64:

Action 43- Redesign and Habitat Restoration for Forests on Peatlands (Bio, L&S, Water)

Action 43, it is assumed, for the purpose of this assessment that the 'redesign measures' outlined in this Action, refer to an increase in forest cover within a particular area and or layout of peatland. A negative effect on land and soil and water is identified in that, afforestation on peatlands is likely to disrupt the natural characteristics of peat soil and the surrounding water bodies. If considered appropriate, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity. Soil contamination can result in leeching, and potential eutrophication of waters. A negative impact has also been assessed for biodiversity as unless the peatland areas considered have been exhausted of their carbon sink capabilities, replanting on peatland is likely to see disruptions to natural biodiversity.

Action 64- Establishment and Natural Regeneration of Native Forest on Post-Industrial Cutaway Peatlands (Bio, L&S, Water)

A negative effect on land and soil and water is identified in that, afforestation on peatlands is likely to disrupt the natural characteristics of peat soil and the surrounding water bodies. If considered appropriate, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides, compaction, contamination,

losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity. Soil contamination can result in leaching, and potential eutrophication of waters. A negative impact has also been assessed for biodiversity as, unless the peatland areas considered have been exhausted of their carbon sink capabilities, afforestation on peatland is likely to see disruptions to natural biodiversity.

Relevant Mitigation:

- Minimum setback, as measured from the surfaced edge of the public road: 10 metre for broadleaves and 20m for conifers, (average, within any one application) (For conifer plots, note the additional requirement regarding edge planting)
- The Registered Forester must assess the potential risk of sedimentation and nutrient runoff entering into 'receiving waters' (aquatic zones (streams, rivers, lakes)), both during afforestation establishment phase. Forest management must continue to assess sedimentation and nutrient runoff throughout the remainder of the rotation and adapt the forest design and planned operations accordingly
- Ensure that an adequate contingency plan is prepared. This plan must clearly inform operators how to react and who to contact, should an unexpected event arise that may create a risk to the environment, e.g. a period of intense rainfall, an accidental spillage of chemicals, the discovery of an unidentified archaeological site, monument or object. The plan should be readily available onsite and all operators should be made familiar with its content.
- The Registered Forester must ensure that all operators are aware of the importance of any environmental setbacks required onsite, their location and extent, and what is and is not permitted within them. An environmental setback must not be used for any forest operation or for any other purpose which could compromise its protective function, or which could damage the environmental feature or sensitivity being protected. Minimum environmental setbacks to be applied are set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation.
- Where afforestation is approved near known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features, to seek to ensure that: (i) appropriate exclusion zones, fencing, access paths and other relevant measures are determined and required by condition to be incorporated into the project design; (ii) provision is made so there is an appropriate response should any previously unrecorded archaeological site, monument, object, structure or feature be discovered during site work; and (iii) any approved design is sympathetic to and provides an appropriate visual setting for such sites, monuments, structures or features. The minimum environmental setbacks set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation should be applied, unless conditions specify otherwise.
- Existing access routes to an archaeological site must be left unplanted and undisturbed, and must be left open for pedestrian access by archaeological officials throughout the rotation. If there is no existing access route, leave an unplanted 4 metre wide route suitable for pedestrian access from the direction of the nearest public road, forest road or track.
- An Archaeological Assessment / Archaeological Impact Statement is required for sites where it is determined that there is a significantly elevated potential for impacts on known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features.
- Monitor to ensure the successful establishment of forest edge planting and environmental setback planting (where undertaken) and maintain trees as appropriate (e.g. vegetation management, replacement of mortalities, adjustment and eventual removal of tree shelters) until the trees are established and free of vegetation competition or browsing pressure.
- Retain hedgerows, existing veteran trees, earth banks and stone walls unless required for access.

- An appropriate ecological assessment is required in sites where the habitat of Annex I bird species or Annex II species occur or are likely to occur to investigate the potential for where they occur.
- Each site being assessed for suitability must, amongst other things, undergo a preliminary soil investigation by a Registered Forester.
- Afforestation will be restricted to native tree species in the Top 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments, namely: Bundorragha, Caragh, Corrib, Cumberagh, Dawros, Kerry Blackwater, Leannan and Ownagappul.
- The DAFM shall take cognisance of the EPA programme of water monitoring, particularly in the 233 waterbodies where forestry is identified as a pressure, and will engage with the Local Authorities Water Monitoring Programme (LAWPRO) Local Catchment Assessments (LCA). In addition, DAFM will undertake a programme of water monitoring using biological indicators in heavily forested waterbodies.
- Consideration should be given to timing of ecological surveys.

Use Of Forests for Recreation, Tourism, Public Access, and Education

Potential for significant negative effects have been identified relating to the use of forests for recreation, tourism, public access, and education, including Intervention 6, Measure 2 and 3, Action 15, Action 74, Action 71, Action 76, Action 85.

Intervention 6, Measure 2- Neighbourhood Scheme (Bio, L&S, Water), Measure 3- Neighbourhood-The Active Forest (Bio, L&S, Water), Measure 4- Neighbourhood - Heartwoods (Bio, L&S, Water)

Measure 2, Measure 3 and Measure 4 of this Intervention relate to the provision of forest amenities and facilities in existing forests. Increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance.

Action 15- Recreation Areas and Visitor Destinations (Bio, L&S, Water)

Action 15 relates to the provision of recreation areas and the development of visitor destinations in existing forests. Increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSIP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management.

Action 74- Public Access, Education and Recreation in Forests in or Near Villages, Towns and Cities. (Bio, L&S, Water)

Action 74 relates to the provision of public access and recreation in existing forests. A positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments.

Action 71- Review and Expand the Neighbourhood Scheme to Support the Creation of New Public Amenity Forests and Enhancement of Existing Forests for Public Access, Education, Recreation and Health and Wellbeing for Rural and Urban Communities. (Bio, L&S, Water)

Action 71 relates to the provision of forest amenities and facilities in existing forests. A positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However,

increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSIP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management.

Action 76- Creation of New Access, Recreational Facilities and Potential for Eco-Tourism. (Bio, L&S, Water)

Action 76 again relates to measures including enhanced public access to forests, creation of recreational facilities etc. A positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSIP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management.

Action 85- Support and Promote Non-Wood Forest-Based Economic Activities. (Bio, L&S, Water)

Action 85 relates to the promotion of non-wood forest-based economic activities. In the absence of further information on the same, it is assumed that this relates to forest recreation and tourism initiatives. As outlined previously, a positive effect is identified with regards population and material assets, through enhanced amenities and facilities. However, increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity, land and soil and water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance. It is a recommendation of this SEA that where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments. It is also recommended that the IFSIP implement the mitigation measures set out in Section 9 of this SEA relating to forest operation and management.

Relevant Mitigation:

- Where forest amenities and facilities in existing forests are to be provided, they should be subject to the appropriate assessment procedure/suitable environmental assessments where required.
- Ensure that proposals for forestry projects or infrastructure incorporate natural features, where feasible.
- Ensure that forest amenity and recreational facilities are managed in a way which ensures that there is no potential for significant adverse environmental effects.
- To require all proposals relating to forestry or forestry projects to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on the proposed site and to require an Invasive Species Management Plan where such species are present;
- To prevent the spread of invasive species (e.g. rhododendron, Japanese knotweed), ensure that all vehicles involved in site works are clean and free of soil and plant debris before entering and leaving the site. See <https://invasives.ie/resources/> for identification guides and further information.
- Machinery used in forest operations should be managed so as to minimise the potential for any offsite air, noise or vibration impacts.
- All existing fences and boundaries must be to a standard that can exclude domestic stock and protect the growing crop.
- The treatment and reporting of the discovery of archaeological finds during harvesting or at reforestation stage should be as per the specifications in Section 3.8 (page 44) of the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (December 2016)

- Store and prepare all chemicals, urea, fuel and machine oils at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose.
- Similarly, undertake all machine refuelling, maintenance and repair at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose. Collect spent oils and remove for correct offsite disposal.

9.2 Monitoring

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring should be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse impacts associated with the implementation of the plan or programme.

A monitoring programme is developed based on the indicators selected to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling positive and negative impacts on the environment to be measured. As previously described, the environmental indicators have been developed to show changes that would be attributable to implementation of the IFSIP.

As outlined in the EPA guidance document '*Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring*' (EPA, 2020), SEA monitoring should reflect the nature and level of detail of the plan/programme (EPA, 2020)⁹⁸. Many national-level plans/programmes lack geographic specificity, contain only high-level strategic objectives and do not lend themselves to cause-effect models in terms of direct measuring of environmental effects. As such, SEA monitoring for these plans should focus on national indicators to examine environmental trends.

Refer to **Table 9.2.1 for the proposed monitoring measures**. The monitoring measures included are based on national indicators and informed by the content of the IFSIP.

The SEA carried out has ensured that any potential significant environmental impacts have been identified and given due consideration.

DAFM is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.



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⁹⁸ EPA (2020) *Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring*. Available at: [Strategic Environmental Assessment | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/publications/SEA/SEA_Statements_and_Monitoring_Guidance.pdf)

Table 9.2.1 Proposed monitoring measures for IF SIP

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Environmental Effects Identified	Draft SEA Indicators	Monitoring Sources	Frequency/Responsibility
Biodiversity	<p>Measure 1 of Intervention 3, and Action 47 have the potential to result in negative effects on biodiversity during the construction of the new road infrastructure in forests</p> <p>Measure 6 of Intervention 3 has the potential to result in negative effects on aquatic biodiversity as a result of the construction of temporary water crossings, through potential contamination or disturbance of the water or riverbanks at the location of the crossings</p> <p>With regards Action 43 and Action 46, it is assumed, for the purpose of this assessment that the 're-design measures' outlined in this Action, refer to an increase in forest cover within a particular area and or layout of peatland. A negative impact has been assessed for biodiversity as unless the peatland areas considered have been exhausted of their carbon sink capabilities, replanting on peatland is likely to set disruptions to natural biodiversity</p> <p>Measure 2, Measure 3 and Measure 4 of Intervention 6, as well as Actions 15, 71, 74, 76 and 85 relate to the provision of forest amenities and facilities in existing forests. Increased</p>	<p>Number and condition of Natura 2000 network, European sites in proximity to forested areas, as per Article 17 Reports, and the maintenance of conservation objectives</p> <p>Status of Annex 1 habitats and species as per Article 17 Reports</p> <p>Level of terrestrial and or aquatic habitat creation, removal, degradation, or fragmentation</p> <p>Level of habitat creation-habitat removal-habitat fragmentation</p> <p>Achievement of favourable conservation status of designated sites</p> <p>Population and range of Protected and Red List Species</p> <p>Choice of site-adapted tree species, planning material and nutrients</p> <p>Area of woodland and forests</p> <p>Area of new woodland and forest creation</p> <p>Scale of afforestation and number of trees permitted in proximity/within European sites/sites of ecological importance</p> <p>Achievement of the Objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Status of water quality in the country's water bodies (WFD)</p> <p>Number of incidences of eutrophication and or water pollution</p> <p>Number of forest fires</p> <p>Number of incident responses – e.g following flooding, fire, invasive species occurrence etc</p> <p>Protected Freshwater Species</p> <p>Protected Bird Species - BOCCI</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 DAFM Midterm Review 2 The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Article 17 Report (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) 3 Monitoring of the effects of forestry related project development required under separate processes (ELA, AA) 4 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive 5 Updates to National Red List Check List 6 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS 7 Monitoring of the effects of forestry related project development required under separate processes (ELA, AA) 8 Fish Habitat and ecology surveys 9 Targeted Local Catchment Assessments 10 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 DAFM, quarterly to yearly basis 2 DHLGH, every 6 years 3 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of ELA/ AA 4 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) Every 6 years 5 NPWS, varies 6 DAFM, varies 7 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of ELA/ AA 8 IFL, varies 9 LAWPRO Catchment Schemis, varies 10 DAFM, varies 11 Local Authorities, continuously 12 Coillte, varies 13 EPA, varies 14 EPA every 4 years 15 EPA, continuously 16 EPA, continuously 17 DAFM continually with an annual report submitted to EU Commission 18 DAFM, varies 19 Inland Fisheries Ireland, varies 20 Birdwatch Ireland, every 6 years

<p>human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as car parks, public toilets etc within forests have the potential to negatively affect biodiversity through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance</p> <p>A range of interventions, Measures and Actions have also been identified, for the purposes of this assessment, as having the potential to result in 'uncertain' effects on biodiversity. This means that in the worst-case scenario there is potential for further negative environmental effects to occur. The SEA monitoring measures outlined have been developed to also take these potential negative effects into account</p>	<p>woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>11 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans</p> <p>12 Coillte mapping resurveys</p> <p>13 Corinne mapping resurveys</p> <p>14 EPA State of the Environment Report 2020</p> <p>15 Ireland's National Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme, 2019-2021</p> <p>16 EPA Water Quality of Ireland 2020 Report</p> <p>17 Records of Forest Fires</p> <p>18 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>19 Inland Fisheries Ireland – Protected Freshwater Species – Atlantic Salmon etc – trends in protected freshwater species, population, distribution, health etc</p> <p>20 Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland – Monitoring by Birdwatch Ireland on status, distribution, population etc</p>	<p>1 CSO Census Reports</p> <p>2 HSA - Farmers' Health and Wellbeing Report and Review of Work-Related Fatalities in Agriculture in Ireland</p> <p>3 Research and Monitoring carried out for the Irish Forestry and Recreation Report and Forest Statistics 2021 Report</p> <p>4 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote,</p>	<p>1 Central Statistics Office, every 6 years</p> <p>2 Health Safety Authority (HSA), continuously</p> <p>3 DAFM, COFORD, NPWS and Coillte, varies</p> <p>4 DAFM, varies</p> <p>5 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/AA</p>
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>While no definitive likely negative effects on population and human health have been identified in the assessment, a number of 'uncertain' effects have been identified. This means that in the worst-case scenario there is potential for negative environmental effects to occur with respect to population and human health</p>	<p>Changes in trends in perceived health status</p> <p>Census population data</p> <p>Number of health and safety incidents among forest workers</p> <p>Number of new and or improved recreational facilities and or routes related to the forest industry</p> <p>Number of people utilising forests for amenity and recreational purposes</p> <p>Number of public rights of way lost through recreational forest areas</p>	<p>1 CSO Census Reports</p> <p>2 HSA - Farmers' Health and Wellbeing Report and Review of Work-Related Fatalities in Agriculture in Ireland</p> <p>3 Research and Monitoring carried out for the Irish Forestry and Recreation Report and Forest Statistics 2021 Report</p> <p>4 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote,</p>

Land and Soil	<p>The SEA monitoring measures outlined have been developed to take these potential negative effects into account</p>	Number of forests planted for drinking water source protection	<p>6 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans Quarterly review basis EPA annual reports</p> <p>7</p>
<p>Measure 1.2.3.4 of Intervention 3 and Action 47 has the potential to result in negative effects on land and soil during the construction of the new road infrastructure in forests</p> <p>For Action 43 and Action 64, it is assumed, for the purpose of this assessment that the "re-design measures" outlined in this Action, refer to an increase in forest cover within a particular area and or layout of peatland. A negative effect on land and soil is identified in that, afforestation on peatlands is likely to disrupt the natural characteristics of peat soil and the surrounding water bodies. If considered appropriate, sub-standard forestry operations have the potential to result in erosion, landslides.</p>	<p>5 Monitoring of the effects of project developments required under separate processes (EIA, AA)</p> <p>6 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's, particularly LAP Quarterly Reviews</p> <p>7 Irish Water and National Federation of Group Water Schemes water quality monitoring and Source Protection Plans, EPA drinking water quality monitoring.</p>	<p>1 Research and Monitoring carried out for the Irish Forestry and the Economy Report and Forest Statistics 2021 Report</p> <p>2 CSO Census Reports</p> <p>3 EPA State of the Environment Report 2020</p> <p>4 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p>	<p>1 DAFM, COFORD, NPWS and Coillte, varies</p> <p>2 Central Statistics Office, every 6 years</p> <p>3 EPA every 4 years</p> <p>4 DAFM, varies</p> <p>5 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>6 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA</p> <p>7 GSI, varies</p> <p>8 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>9 DAFM, quarterly to yearly basis</p> <p>10 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA</p>
<p>Economic growth statistics for individuals working in the forestry industry</p> <p>Rates of unemployment per County</p> <p>Number of individuals working in the forestry sector</p> <p>Incidences of pollution events related to forestry</p> <p>Erosion and sedimentation rates of soils in forests and surrounding areas</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition rates</p> <p>Acidification rates of soils in forest areas</p> <p>Number of hectares forested annually</p> <p>Number of tree-felling licences granted</p> <p>Area of land subject to illegal deforestation</p> <p>The number of non-compliances with licence conditions following post licence felling inspections</p> <p>Number and condition of designated geological features</p> <p>Rates of forestry creation and forestry related developments e.g. forest roads and construction, where permitted and appropriate</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1 Forestry and the Economy Report and Forest Statistics 2021 Report</p> <p>2 CSO Census Reports</p> <p>3 EPA State of the Environment Report 2020</p> <p>4 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>5 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the</p>	<p>1 DAFM, COFORD, NPWS and Coillte, varies</p> <p>2 Central Statistics Office, every 6 years</p> <p>3 EPA every 4 years</p> <p>4 DAFM, varies</p> <p>5 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>6 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA</p> <p>7 GSI, varies</p> <p>8 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>9 DAFM, quarterly to yearly basis</p> <p>10 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA</p>

<p>compaction, contamination, losses of soil organic matter, erosion, soil sealing, leaching, and changes in soil biodiversity</p> <p>Measure 2, Measure 3 and Measure 4 of Intervention 6, as well as Actions 1.5, 7.1, 7.4, 7.6 and 8.5 of this Intervention relate to the provision of forest amenities and facilities in existing forests. Increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as car-parks, public toilets etc within forests have the potential to negatively affect land and soil through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance</p>		<p>Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>6 Monitoring of the effects of project developments required under separate processes (EIA, AA)</p> <p>7 Monitoring for Geological Survey Ireland's (GSI) Database</p> <p>8 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>9 DAFM Mid-term review</p> <p>10 Monitoring of the effects of project developments required under separate processes (EIA, AA)</p>	
<p>Water</p> <p>Measure 1,2,3 and 4 of Intervention 3 as well as Action 4.7 have the potential to result in negative effects on water during the construction of the new road infrastructure in forests</p> <p>Measure 6 of Intervention 3 has the potential to result in negative effects on water as a result of the construction of temporary water crossings,</p>	<p>Proportion of water bodies in forestry catchments meeting their WFD Ecological Status objectives, as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programmes for the WFD and waterbodies where forestry is identified as a significant pressure</p> <p>The number of waterbodies that have deteriorated in ecological status or chemical status</p> <p>Status of aquatic habitats and species</p> <p>Number of significant pollution events recorded</p> <p>Compliance of surface waters with national and international standards</p> <p>Number of forestry related pollution incidences</p> <p>Area planted for water protection</p>	<p>1 Ireland's National Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme, 2019-2021 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 -2021 (2022 -2027)</p> <p>2 The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland Report (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)</p> <p>3 EPA Water Quality of Ireland 2020 Report</p> <p>4 EPA State of the Environment Report 2020</p> <p>5 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-</p>	<p>1 EPA, continuously</p> <p>2 EPA, continuously</p> <p>3 DHLGH, every 6 years</p> <p>4 EPA, continuously</p> <p>5 EPA, every 4 years</p> <p>6 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>7 OPW, every 3 years</p> <p>8 DAFM, continuous</p> <p>9 EPA Catchment Unit, DHLGH and relevant local authorities, varies</p> <p>10 DAFM, twice annually, spring and autumn</p>

<p>through potential contamination or disturbance of the water or riverbanks at the location of the crossings</p> <p>For Action 43 and 46, it is assumed, for the purpose of this assessment that the 're-design measures' outlined in this Action, refer to an increase in forest cover within a particular area and or layout of peatland</p> <p>A negative effect on water is identified in that, afforestation on peatlands is likely to disrupt the natural characteristics of peat soil and the surrounding water bodies. Soil contamination can result in leeching, and potential eutrophication of waters</p> <p>Measure 2, Measure 3 and Measure 4 of Intervention 6, as well as Actions 15, 71, 74, 76 and 85 of this Intervention relate to the provision of forest amenities and facilities in existing forests. Increased human interaction in forested areas, and any development- such as carparks, public toilets etc. within forests have the potential to negatively affect water through potential contamination, clearance and/or disturbance</p>	<p>Annual costs of forest damage related to flood events</p> <p>Past flood risk events in or around forest areas</p> <p>Areas planted as a natural water retention measure/nature based solution</p>	<p>statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>6 Ireland's National Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme, DAFM monitoring</p> <p>7 Monitoring in the Review of Flood Risk Management Plans 2021</p> <p>8 DAFM Flood risk and natural damages monitoring in forests</p> <p>9 Monitoring for the EPA Catchments Unit and Local Authority Waters Programme</p> <p>10 DAFM water monitoring of eight heavily forested waterbodies</p>	<p>1 EPA, continuously</p> <p>2 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>3 EPA, continuous</p> <p>4 EPA, every 4 years</p> <p>5 DAFM, continuous</p> <p>6 SEAI, varies</p> <p>7 EPA reports sectorally on an annual basis</p>
<p>Air, Noise and Climate</p> <p>While no definitive likely negative effects on air, noise and climate have been identified in the assessment, a number of 'uncertain' effects have been identified. This means that in the worst-case scenario there is potential for</p>	<p>Air Quality Monitoring Result in Ireland</p> <p>Forestry related traffic, transport and vehicular survey data</p> <p>Compliance with national Air Quality Standards (AQOS)</p> <p>Area of forest cover</p> <p>Annual afforestation targets for Ireland</p>	<p>1 Monitoring in the Air Quality for Ireland 2020 Report</p> <p>2 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to</p>	<p>1 EPA, continuously</p> <p>2 DAFM, continuously</p> <p>3 EPA, continuous</p> <p>4 EPA, every 4 years</p> <p>5 DAFM, continuous</p> <p>6 SEAI, varies</p> <p>7 EPA reports sectorally on an annual basis</p>

<p>negative environmental effects to occur with respect to air, noise and climate. The SEA monitoring measures outlined have been developed to take these potential negative effects into account</p>	<p>Types of climate change-resilient tree species incorporated into the Plan area Rates of energy and or renewable energy consumption Promotion of renewable sources related to forestry e.g. use of forest-based renewable energy sources for heat and construction works GHG emission reductions over the Plan period Greenhouse gas emissions from permitted Forestry operations and developments Traffic surveys for forestry operations Noise monitoring data from licensed forestry operations Onsite dust monitoring of forestry operations</p>	<p>pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>3 Air Quality Monitoring Stations around Ireland 4 EPA State of the Environment Report 2020 5 Monitoring related to the IPFS such as: Main species (flora and fauna) that applicants of afforestation schemes seek to promote, monitoring of land use of statutory and non-statutory designated sites during the course of the Plan, land use change due to the IPFS relative to pre-plan and likely baseline evolution, water quality of catchments where IPFS work takes place against WFD targets, monitoring performance against total hectares of broadleaf woodlands thinned, the prevalence of tree disease, pests, and invasive species and the performance against any targets set out in the IPFS</p> <p>6 Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) - Monitoring for Sustainable Biomass Fuels in Ireland 7 EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 8 EPA Climate Change Projections 9 Monitoring of the IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS. Including measures relating to the creation of forest roads amongst traffic and transport data related to forestry operations 10 EPA State of the Environment Report 11 Monitoring of the effects of project development required under separate processes (EIA, AA) 12 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's 13 Monitoring of the effects of forestry projects and or development required under separate processes (EIA, AA)</p>	<p>8 EPA, varies 9 DAFM, continuous 10 EPA, every 4 years 11 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA 12 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans 13 In accordance with the monitoring provisions if stipulated as a result of an EIA/ AA</p>
<p>Archaeological, Architectural</p>	<p>Number of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the immediate setting of these entries</p>	<p>1 Registers of nationally protected sites and structures</p>	<p>1 NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Services)</p>

<p>archaeological architectural and cultural heritage have been identified in the assessment, a number of "uncertain" effects have been identified. This means that in the worst-case scenario there is potential for negative environmental effects to occur with respect to archaeological architectural and cultural heritage. The SEA monitoring measures outlined have been developed to take these potential negative effects into account</p>	<p>Including their relationships with forestry projects, forest areas and the surrounding landscape Archaeological Impact Assessments related to forest creation and or development, and or the number and types of archaeological investigations undertaken Educational facilities and or opportunities to promote awareness of woodland-related natural and cultural heritage Range and extent of areas of heritage potential related to forest areas and or forestry development Number of uninhabited and derelict structures in forest areas, identified through the processing of licence and scheme applications-</p>	<p>2 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage 3 Monitoring of the effects of forestry projects and or development required under separate processes (EIA, SEA AA) 4 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES 's 5 An Bord Pleanála Planning Records for Ireland 6 DAFM Mid-term Review 7 Monitoring of IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS, particularly relating to cultural heritage in forest areas including the built environment and settings; archaeological recorded and unrecorded monuments, architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features 8 Registers of nationally protected sites and structures 9 The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage 10 Monitoring of the effects of forestry projects and or development required under separate processes (EIA, AA) 11 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES 's 12 Monitoring of IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS, particularly relating to cultural heritages in forest areas including the built environment and settings; archaeological recorded and unrecorded monuments, architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features</p>	<p>NMS (National Monuments Service), UNESCO, continually The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are responsible for monitoring the conditions of, recording the presence of, and conserving Ireland's protected sites on a routine basis 3 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ SEA/AA 4 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans 5 Planning records from An Bord Pleanála or relevant County Council Authority should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan mid-term review stage (3 years) Assessment and recording of trends are conducted on an annual basis where possible 6 DAFM, quarterly to yearly basis 7 DAFM, continuous 8 NPWS (National Parks and Wildlife Services), NMS (National Monuments Service), UNESCO, continually The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are responsible for monitoring the conditions of, recording the presence of, and</p>
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Landscape and Visual	While no definitive likely negative effects on landscape and visual have been identified in the assessment, a number of 'uncertain' effects have been identified. This means that in the worst-case scenario there is potential for negative environmental effects to occur with respect to landscape and visual. The SEA monitoring measures outlined have been developed to take these potential negative effects into account.	Compliance with planning and or licensing conditions relating to landscape and forestry creation and or development The number of Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC) cases raised where landscape or visual issues are mentioned in relation to instances of afforestation, felling, forest road works and or aerial fertilisation Rates of forestry development within designated landscapes Rates of forest developments and planting Percentage change related to forestry creation and or development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Monitoring of IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS 2 An Bord Pleanála Planning Records 3 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's 4 Monitoring of the effects of forestry projects and or development required under separate processes (EIA, AA) 5 Monitoring of Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC) cases submitted 6 Monitoring of IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS 7 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's e.g., Landscape Character Assessments as part of County Development Plans 8 Monitoring of IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS, particularly relating to forest creation and or development 9 Coillte mapping resurveys 10 Corrine mapping resurveys 	<p>conserving Ireland's protected sites on a routine basis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA 11 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans 12 DAFM, continuous <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 DAFM, continuous 2 Planning records from An Bord Pleanála or relevant County Council Authority should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years) Assessment and recording of trends are conducted on an annual basis where possible 3 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans 4 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA 5 DAFM, continually 6 DAFM, continuous 7 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans ... 8 Relevant Local Authorities, continuously 9 DAFM, continuous 10 Coillte, varies 10 DAFM, Coillte and the EPA, varies
Material Assets	While no definitive likely negative effects on material assets have been identified in the assessment, a number of 'uncertain' effects have been identified.	Statistics on the quantity of forest products exported Achievement of Ireland's renewable energy targets and increased use of biomass as a renewable energy source Employment Statistics for the forestry Sector Number of modern apprenticeships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Research and Monitoring carried out for the Irish Forestry and the Economy Report and Forest Statistics 2021 Report 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 DAFM, COFORD, NPWS and Coillte, varies 2 SEAI, varies

<p>identified. This means that in the worst-case scenario there is potential for negative environmental effects to occur with respect to material assets. The SEA monitoring measures outlined have been developed to take these potential negative effects into account.</p>	<p>Amount of forest products available and the value of and or revenue of products Amount of biomass used for renewable energy generation in Ireland annually Location and/or level of forestry related infrastructure including forest roads forestry related innovation and technological advancements, and the success rates of such Rate of waste disposal related to forestry going to landfill statistics</p>	<p>2 Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) - Monitoring for Sustainable Biomass Fuels in Ireland 3 Teagasc - Apprenticeship programmes in collaboration with Consortium Groups 4 Monitoring of the IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS, particularly relating to forest-based products, renewable energy sources and forestry related GHG emissions 5 Research and Monitoring carried out for the Irish Forests and Renewable Energy Report and Forest Statistics 2021 Report 6 Monitoring of the effects of forestry creation and or related developments required under separate processes (EIA, AA) 7 Monitoring related to relevant Local Area Plans and County/City Development Plans or RSES's 8 An Bord Pleanála/Relevant County Council Planning Records 9 Monitoring of the IPFS, its measures, actions and performance against any targets set out in the IPFS, particularly relating to forestry related technological and innovative developments and or upgrades 10 EPA National Waste Statistics Summary Report 11 EPA State of the Environment Report 2020 12 DAFM Mid-term review</p>	<p>3 DAFM, Teagasc and Consortium Group, continually 4 DAFM, continuous 5 DAFM, COFORD, NPWS and Coillte, varies 6 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of EIA/ AA 7 In accordance with the monitoring provisions of the lower-level plans 8 Planning records from An Bord Pleanála or relevant County Council Authority should be reviewed and recorded at least at the plan min-term review stage (3 years) Assessment and recording of trends are conducted on an annual basis where possible 9 DAFM, continuous 10 EPA, annually 11 EPA, every 4 years 12 DAFM, quarterly to yearly basis</p>
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Appendix A

Interaction with Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Table A1 Interaction with Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
International Plans, Policy and Programmes		
Aarhus Convention	The Aarhus Convention is an international agreement that gives people the right to access information about the environment. It also promotes public participation in decision-making and provides access to justice on environmental matters.	DAFM, as the competent Authority and publisher of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all aspects of the Aarhus Convention in the adoption of this plan.
ESPOO Convention and Kyiv (SEA) Protocol	The Espoo (EIA) Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. The Kiev Protocol was the first legally binding international instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers. Its objective is 'to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs)'	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	An international co-operation to protect the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic is achieved through the OSPAR Convention. It aims to provide a comprehensive and simplified approach to addressing all sources of pollution which might affect the maritime area, and all matters relating to the protection of the marine environment.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EPA Land Use Review - The Land Use Evidence Review	Aims to address land use challenges and inform consideration of policy responses, this review is being carried out in two distinct phases: Phase 1 – Evidential Review Phase 1 of the Land Use Review, which is currently underway and being led by EPA. Phase 1 aims to provide an evidence base to determine an appropriate land use indicator set for Ireland, as well as determining the environmental, ecological, and economic characteristics of land types across Ireland. Phase 1 of the Evidence Review activity commenced in June 2021 and is scheduled to complete in Quarter 3, 2022. Phase 2 – Building on the evidence base from Phase 1. Phase 2 will identify appropriate policies, measures and actions in the context of the	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	<p>government's wider economic, social and climate objectives</p> <p>It is anticipated that such a review will allow knowledge transfer to policymakers, advisory services, and landowners in making informed choices as to how best to use land</p> <p>DECC and DAFM had prepared a concept paper for the National Land Use Evidence Review and identified policy relevant questions and policy support outputs desired from the EPA led Phase 1 Evidence Review stage. These specifics were key to informing the agile work programme devised by EPA</p>	
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<p>Links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal</p> <p>The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
EU forest strategy for 2030	The strategy builds on the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and will contribute to achieving the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<p>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries</p> <p>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
EU Common Agricultural Policy	To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food, and to ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. The DAFM recently held a series of public information sessions relating to Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) for the period 2023-2027. The information sessions took place over the month of March where negotiations are currently underway for CAP updates for the period 2023-2027.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
EU (2030) Biodiversity Strategy	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Water Framework Directive	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) requires EU Member States to achieve good status	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	in all bodies of surface water and groundwater by 2027	legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
LULUCF Regulation (Regulation 2018/841) and the proposed changes to these regulations currently being discussed at EU level	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation (EU 2018/841) The Regulation includes greenhouse gas emissions and removals from LULUCF into the 2030 climate and regulation framework	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Emissions Ceiling Directive (2016/2284)	The National Emission reduction Commitments Directive sets national emission reduction commitments for Member States and the EU for five important air pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) The directive transposes the reduction commitments for 2020 agreed by the EU and its Member States under the 2012 revised Gothenburg Protocol under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP Convention). The more ambitious reduction commitments agreed for 2030 are designed to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by half compared with 2005 Further, the Directive requires that the Member States draw up National Air Pollution Control Programmes that should contribute to the successful implementation of air quality plans established under the EU's Air Quality Directive	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Air Pollution Control Programme	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
8th Environmental Action Programme	8th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) to 2030 Guides European environmental policy until 2030, supporting the climate action objectives of the European Green Deal. It's overarching aim is to 'ensure wellbeing for all, while staying within the planetary boundaries	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The EU Zero Pollution Action Plan	The action plan requires among other commitments, that by 2030, the EU should reduce: by 25% the EU ecosystems where air pollution threatens biodiversity; by 50% nutrient losses, the use and risk of chemical pesticides, the use of the more hazardous ones, and the sale of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture; by 50% plastic litter at sea and by 30% microplastics released into the environment	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</p> <p>The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	<p>The Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <p>Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term,</p> <p>Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment, and,</p> <p>Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Clean Air Strategy for Ireland	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan (NWRP)	<p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment.</p> <p>The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	<p>between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions</p> <p>Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning "</p>	
Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	<p>The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy</p> <p>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste</p> <p>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export</p> <p>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Air Pollution Control Programme (DCCAE, 2019)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is the main governance instrument by which EU Member States must ensure that the emission reduction commitments for 2020-2029 and 2030 onwards are met. The first NAPCPs were due by 1 April 2019. This was the first iteration of the NAPCP report for Ireland, which comes under Article 6(10) of Directive (EU) 2016/2284. The NAPCP reports on both air quality and air pollution emissions of NOx, SOx, NMVOC, NH3, and PM2.5. The NAPCP is to be submitted every fourth year.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Food Wise 2025	Food Wise 2025 a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the

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	in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Food Vision 2030	<p>Food Vision 2030 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry. It sets out four high-level missions to fulfil this ambition:</p> <p>A climate-smart, environmentally sustainable agri-food sector</p> <p>Viable and resilient primary producers, with enhanced wellbeing</p> <p>Food that is safe, nutritious and appealing, trusted and valued at home and abroad</p> <p>An innovative, competitive and resilient sector, driven by technology and talent</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025	'Our Rural Future' provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Framework acknowledges that the country is heading into an era of unprecedented change as we recover from the impact of COVID-19, as we adapt to new ways of working, as the impact of Brexit presents itself and as we transition to a climate-neutral society. This change is considered a significant opportunity for rural areas	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020	This Plan will replace the National Forestry Programme 2014-2020
River Basin Management Plan	The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ag Climatise: A Roadmap Towards Climate Neutrality	This document is a roadmap designed to help all stakeholders to work together to tackle climate change and air pollution, by clearly explaining what we need to do and when we need to do it. By collectively pooling expertise and energy we can determine how best to do it, ensuring our sector remains at the forefront of globally sustainable food production systems.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	The goal of this framework is to optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country, is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas and is a sector in which people want to work.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Regions in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 required the National Transport Authority, following the approval of a transport strategy for the region by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, to prepare an Integrated Implementation Plan covering a six year period. The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, was approved in February 2016. The preparation of this Integrated Implementation Plan was aligned with the Government's review of capital spending which commenced in 2016 and culminated with the publication of the National Development Plan 2018-2027 in February 2018. The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, establishes an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA. It is focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater	cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies.	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Climate Action Plan 2021	The Climate Action Plan 2021 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021. The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, including in 2022, to ensure alignment with our legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Local Authority County Development Plans (CDP)	County Development Plans are used across Ireland as the main instrument used to regulate and control development in each County. The plan states the authority's policies for land use and for development control and promotion in its area. The authority, in making decisions on planning applications, must consider the provisions of the Plan, and try to secure its objectives.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The draft 4 th National Biodiversity Action Plan	The (draft) goal of the next National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) is that biodiversity is effectively conserved and restored, and the causes and key drivers of the biodiversity crisis are recognised and addressed. There are six objectives in the current draft NBAP: Fostering a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. Meeting urgent conservation needs. Securing nature's contribution to people. Linking biodiversity and climate action. Enhancing the evidence basis for action, and Strengthening partnerships for people and planet	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Threat Response Plans	New Threat Response Plans (TRP) are being prepared by NPWS as part of Ireland's response to the judgement of the European Court of Justice in case C-183/05, and the requirement to establish a system of strict protection for species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. These three-year plans provide detailed information on range, distribution and habitat. They also focus on the particular threats facing each species and identify the measures required to	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	<p>address these threats, as well as identifying who is responsible for implementing them and providing a time frame for delivery</p> <p>Forestry, agriculture and energy are the 3 relevant sectors for implementing the Threat Response Plans. The provisional publication date is Spring 2023 for the TRPs</p>	
Species Action Plans (SAPs)	<p>The Species Action Plans are intended to be used as a tool for identifying and prioritising measures to restore the populations of these species across their range within the EU. They provide information about the status, ecology, threats and current conservation measures for each species and list the key actions that are required to improve their conservation status in Europe. Each Plan is the result of an extensive process of consultation with individual experts in Europe.</p> <p>The plans are intended to assist Member States in the conservation of these species but they are not legally binding documents, nor do they engage the Member States beyond their existing legal commitments under this Directive.</p> <p>Consultation has recently been completed for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat SAP.</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	<p>The All Ireland Pollinator Plan aims to tackle the issue of Irish pollinators being in decline and ensure the sustainability of our food production: to avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector; and to protect the health of the environment. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a shared plan of action. By working together, it aims to collectively take steps to help restore pollinator populations to healthy levels.</p> <p>Over the next five years, this plan will work to bring about a landscape where pollinators can flourish.</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan	A key agricultural policy with the main objectives of ensuring a decent standard of living for farmers and the provision of stable and safe food supply at affordable prices for consumers. The CAP through various iterations is the principal policy that drives agricultural management throughout the European Union. It recognises the economic and rural importance of agriculture through a system of subsidies and support programmes.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Prioritised Action Framework 2021-2027 (NPWS)	This plan identifies the range of actions needed to help improve the status of Ireland's habitats and wildlife within the Natura 2000 site network.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Management plans for Natura 2000 sites	Member States need to designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and adopt conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans and other measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	<p>the natural habitat types and the species of Community interest</p> <p>Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive need to be managed in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats of birds. The Directives make it clear that conservation objectives should be met while taking account of economic, social, cultural, regional and recreational requirements. It is for Member States to establish the most appropriate methods and instruments for implementing the Directives and for achieving the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p>	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Draft Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan (DAFM)	This Plan for Forests & FPM in Ireland applies to the SACs designated for the species, plus the Owenduff Bog subcatchment of the (Munster) Blackwater River SAC. The objective of this Plan is to eliminate, reduce or mitigate diffuse and point sources of sediment and nutrients and the disruption of the natural hydrological regime, arising from forests and regulated forestry activities within the area of the Plan, to ensure that these do not threaten the achievement of the conservation objective for each of the SACs involved, in relation to FPM.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Marine Strategy Framework Directive	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires European member states, to reach good environmental status (GES) in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. The directive is very similar to the Water Framework Directive, but the focus is on the marine environment. Good environmental status in the marine environment means that the seas are clean, healthy and productive and that human use of the marine environment is kept at a sustainable level. Under the directive, EU marine waters must be assessed against an agreed set of standards across a number of important environmental areas, examples including, biodiversity, fish stocks, and contaminants. Based on the assessment, appropriate environmental targets and indicators must be set and programmes of measures put in place to reach GES.	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Directive of Maritime Spatial Planning	<p>In 2014 the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted Directive 2014/89/EU. This directive established a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and details the main goals (Article 5) and minimum requirements (Article 6). The Marine Spatial Plan must be in place by March 2021.</p> <p>In line with the requirements of EU Directive 2014/89/EU, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage formally established the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). Under Part 5 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018, the Minister is the competent authority for the purposes of the Directive and, by extension, for purposes of preparing Ireland's first marine spatial plan.</p> <p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) is Ireland's first comprehensive marine spatial planning framework. The NMPF brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time.</p>	Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Plan, Programme or Policy	Plan, Programme or Policy Objectives	Relevance of Plan, Programme or Policy to the Draft IFSIP
	<p>outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity</p>	
<p>Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Implementation Plan for the period 2019 – 2024 (EU – Ireland) - North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)</p>	<p>NASCO has adopted Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines that address the Organization's principal areas of concern for the management of salmon stocks</p> <p>The main purpose of NASCO's Implementation Plans are to demonstrate what actions are being taken by the Parties and or jurisdictions to implement NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. The Implementation Plans detail measures to be taken over five-year periods in relation to three areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of salmon fisheries; - Protection and restoration of Atlantic salmon habitat; and - Management of aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics <p>Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the Parties and or jurisdictions</p>	<p>Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
<p>North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) 2022 Annual Progress Report – EU Ireland</p>	<p>The Annual Progress Reports allow NASCO to evaluate progress on actions taken by Parties and or jurisdictions to implement its internationally agreed Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and, consequently, the achievement of their objectives and actions taken in accordance with the Convention. The Annual Progress Reports detail the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan; - Actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year; - Significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and - Actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention 	<p>Implementation of the Draft IFSIP will comply with all relevant environmental legislation and will align with, and cumulatively contribute towards the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>

Appendix B

Combined Figures Relating to Baseline Environment (As extracted from SEA Scoping Report)

Appendix C

Relevant Mitigation from DAFM Documents

Table 2 Summary of relevant mitigation from DAFM documents

Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
Afforestation/Reforestation/Forest Creation/Reconstitution/Any new Planting	Intervention 1 (Measure 1.2), Intervention 2 (Measure 1.2.3), Intervention 7 (Measure 1.2.3), Intervention 8 (Measure 1), Action 8, Action 9, Action 10, Action 30, Action 50, Action 51, Action 52, Action 53, Action 54, Action 55, Action 57, Action 76	Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (DAFM 2015) and the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM 2015) must be complied with. Including, but not limited to: When assessing a site for Forest Creation, a sample walkover soil survey is needed to identify the soil type(s) present For native forest creation, each new forest must reflect the appropriate native forest type (or types) identified during the application process as being the most ecologically appropriate for the site. The site must be capable of supporting the vigorous growth and sustainable long-term development of suitable species and FT for the site. Restrictions relating to land type, soil, elevation, aspect, shell marl, flooding and other site factors, as set out in the Forestry Schemes Manual I and the Land Types for Afforestation, apply. GPC 1 and 2 land categories are not eligible for grant aid under Forestry Programme 2023-2027 Afforestation is regulated under Forestry Act, 2014 (and any Act that succeeds or replaces that Act) Several ASAs also overlap with Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) catchments. Native Forests FT1, 2 and 3 applications must incorporate appropriate measures to ensure that no silt, nutrients or herbicides enter receiving waters. This is a key requirement within FPM catchments. The Forestry and FPM Requirements must be applied. All tree species proposed for planting under Native Forests FT1, 2 and 3 Scenario 1 to 6, must be: (i) native to the island of Ireland; (ii) representative of the native woodland type or types being promoted on site; and (iii) acceptable to DAFM The spacing of 2.0 m x 1.5 m is required for FT1, 2, 3 and 6, giving a planting density of 3,300 trees / ha. The spacing of 2.0M x 2.0M is required for FT4, 7, 10, 11 and 12 These specifications are aimed at promoting rapid establishment and the development of a vibrant emerging canopy in those areas planted. Any variation on the above requirements regarding species mix, density, composition and layout, must be agreed	All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents, such as 'Environmental Requirements for Afforestation' (DAFM, 2016) Land Types for Afforestation, (DAFM, 2015) and the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2015) must be complied with. Including, but not limited to: When assessing a site for Forest Creation, a sample walkover soil survey is needed to identify the soil type(s) present For native forest creation, each new forest must reflect the appropriate native forest type (or types) identified during the application process as being the most ecologically appropriate for the site. The site must be capable of supporting the vigorous growth and sustainable long-term development of suitable species and FT for the site. Restrictions relating to land type, soil, elevation, aspect, shell marl, flooding and other site factors, as set out in the Forestry Schemes Manual I and the Land Types for Afforestation, apply. GPC 1 and 2 land categories are not eligible for grant aid under Forestry Programme 2023-2027 Afforestation is regulated under Forestry Act, 2014 (and any Act that succeeds or replaces that Act) Several ASAs also overlap with Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) catchments. Native Forests FT1, 2 and 3 applications must incorporate appropriate measures to ensure that no silt, nutrients or herbicides enter receiving waters. This is a key requirement within FPM catchments. The Forestry and FPM Requirements must be applied. All tree species proposed for planting under Native Forests FT1, 2 and 3 Scenario 1 to 6, must be: (i) native to the island of Ireland; (ii) representative of the native woodland type or types being promoted on site; and (iii) acceptable to DAFM The spacing of 2.0 m x 1.5 m is required for FT1, 2, 3 and 6, giving a planting density of 3,300 trees / ha. The spacing of 2.0M x 2.0M is required for FT4, 7, 10, 11 and 12 These specifications are aimed at promoting rapid establishment and the development of a vibrant emerging canopy in those areas planted. Any variation on the above requirements regarding species mix, density, composition and layout, must be agreed	Biodiversity, Land and Soil, Water, Archaeology, Landscape and Visual, Population and Human Health

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards/ Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
		<p>in advance with DAFM. Polices on plant density spacings may be changed as directed by DAFM.</p> <p>Exclusion of ash due to ash dieback disease (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>), as set out in Forest Service Circular 04/2013.</p> <p>In the context of Ireland's special Protected Zone status with respect to specific harmful forest pests and diseases, plants of those species acceptable under FT 1 – 12 must be purchased from nurseries / brokers registered under the EU Plant Health Regulations, and must be accompanied by a valid EU Plant Passport where applicable, to certify the absence of the relevant pests and diseases</p> <p>Registered Forester must assess the site risk and identifying appropriate options</p> <p>Assess the site (both in-field and desk-based, using MapViewer on iNET);</p> <p>Identify the level of risk associated with the site (or parts thereof) regarding the potential for sediment and nutrient release and other negative impacts, arising from the nature, size and location of the project (including all operations and ancillary works) over the establishment period and the potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects. Select the appropriate option (or combination of options) that match the level of risk identified, drawing from a list of forestry operations, practices and measures ('options') set for each type of forestry development (as set out under S.I.191 of 2017). Appropriate ancillary options must also be selected.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to seek ecological input early in the design stage in situations where one or more of these scenarios apply, and to tailor any subsequent application accordingly before submission to DAFM</p> <p>In relation to setbacks from dwellings, setback planting is encouraged within the 30m to 60m zone, if agreed to by the neighbouring dweller.</p> <p>Minimum setback, as measured from the surfaced edge of the public road: 10 metre for broadleaves and 20m for conifers, (average, within any one application) (For conifer plots, note the additional requirement regarding edge planting)</p> <p>The Registered Forester must assess the potential risk of sedimentation and nutrient runoff entering into 'receiving waters' (aquatic zones (streams, rivers, lakes)), both during afforestation establishment phase. Forest management must continue to assess</p>	

Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant/Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>sedimentation and nutrient runoff throughout the remainder of the rotation and adapt the forest design and planned operations accordingly</p> <p>Ensure that an adequate contingency plan is prepared. This plan must clearly inform operators how to react and who to contact, should an unexpected event arise that may create a risk to the environment, e.g. a period of intense rainfall, an accidental spillage of chemicals, the discovery of an unidentified archaeological site, monument or object. The plan should be readily available onsite and all operators should be made familiar with its content.</p> <p>The Registered Forester must ensure that all operators are aware of the importance of any environmental setbacks required onsite, their location and extent, and what is and is not permitted within them. An environmental setback must not be used for any forest operation or for any other purpose which could compromise its protective function, or which could damage the environmental feature or sensitivity being protected. Minimum environmental setbacks to be applied are set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation.</p> <p>Where afforestation is approved near known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features, to seek to ensure that: (i) appropriate exclusion zones, fencing, access paths and other relevant measures are determined and required by condition to be incorporated into the project design; (ii) provision is made so there is an appropriate response should any previously unrecorded archaeological site, monument, object, structure or feature be discovered during site work; and (iii) any approved design is sympathetic to and provides an appropriate visual setting for such sites, monuments, structures or features. The minimum environmental setbacks set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation should be applied, unless conditions specify otherwise</p> <p>Existing access routes to an archaeological site must be left unplanted and undisturbed, and must be left open for pedestrian access by archaeological officials throughout the rotation. If there is no existing access route, leave an unplanted 4 metre wide route suitable for pedestrian access from the direction of the nearest public road, forest road or track</p> <p>An Archaeological Assessment / Archaeological Impact Statement is required for sites where it is determined that there is a significantly elevated potential for impacts on</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features.</p> <p>The Registered Forester should consult with the relevant County Development Plan (both Draft and Final Plans), which will identify areas of particular landscape sensitivity, important views and considered suitability for afforestation. The Registered Forester should also view the site from various vantage points and approaches, to identify how best to design the forest</p> <p>Monitor to ensure the successful establishment of forest edge planting and environmental setback planting (where undertaken) and maintain trees as appropriate (e.g. vegetation management, replacement of mortalities, adjustment and eventual removal of tree shelters) until the trees are established and free of vegetation competition or browsing pressure.</p> <p>Retain hedgerows, existing veteran trees, earth banks and stone walls unless required for access.</p> <p>Under Irish legislation, EIA is mandatory for the following forestry projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial afforestation which would involve an area of 50 hectares or more pursuant to Regulation 13(2)(a) of the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. 191 of 2017). Where EIA is not mandatory, regard should be had to Section 11(d)(i) of the Forestry Act 2014, Regulation 13(2)(c) Forestry Regulations 2017, and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and an EIA Screening carried out, as required. <p>An appropriate ecological assessment is required in sites where the habitat of Annex I bird species or Annex II species occur or are likely to occur to investigate the potential for where they occur.</p> <p>Each site being assessed for suitability must, amongst other things, undergo a preliminary soil investigation by a Registered Forester.</p> <p>Afforestation will be restricted to native tree species in the Top 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments, namely: Bundorragha, Caragh, Corrib, Cummeragh, Dawros, Kerry Blackwater, Leannan and Owragappul.</p> <p>The DAFM shall take cognisance of the EPA programme of water monitoring, particularly in the 233 waterbodies where forestry is identified as a pressure, and will</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
Forest Management/Forestry Operations including Felling and Thinning	<p>Intervention 3 (Measure 6)</p> <p>Intervention 4 (Measure 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)</p> <p>Action 11</p> <p>Action 15</p> <p>Action 26</p> <p>Action 27</p> <p>Action 28</p> <p>Action 29</p> <p>Action 33</p> <p>Action 34</p>	<p>Forestry Standards Manual</p> <p>Standards for felling and Reforestation</p> <p>Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements</p>	<p>engage with the Local Authorities Water Monitoring Programme (LAWPRO) Local Catchment Assessments (LCA). In addition, DAFM will undertake a programme of water monitoring using biological indicators in heavily forested waterbodies.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to timing of ecological surveys</p> <p>The Native Tree Area scheme will not follow the pre-approval process of the existing afforestation scheme. Direct entry to the scheme will apply, using the same approach that is employed with agri-environmental schemes. The scheme has been designed to avoid and minimise potential impacts from the outset using the best available information and by applying pre-emptive measures. These generic measures are mandatory in nature for all areas to be included in the scheme. They will not be proposed on a farm-by-farm basis by applying site specific conditions. Pre-emptive measures have been introduced to ensure that tree planting works are undertaken in a legally compliant and sustainable manner. These measures are applied in the form of two distinct stages; Stage 1: Scheme Eligibility Map and Stage 2: Scheme Pre-Emptive Measures.</p>	<p>Biodiversity, Land and Soil, Water, Population and Human Health, Landscape and Visual</p>
			<p>All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents, such as 'Environment Requirements for Afforestation' (DAFM, 2016) Land Types for Afforestation (DAFM, 2015) and the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2015) must be complied with. Including, but not limited to:</p> <p>Sediment control and management measures must take account of rainfall levels and the possible likelihood of rainfall deluge and flash-flood events</p> <p>Where trees are required to be removed (e.g. to facilitate the erection of a fence), a felling licence may be necessary</p> <p>Apply fertiliser manually after cultivation to afforestation sites, avoiding drains, all environmental setbacks, areas within 20 metres of aquatic zones, and waterlogged areas</p> <p>All existing fences and boundaries must be to a standard that can exclude domestic stock and protect the growing crop.</p> <p>When selecting the most appropriate / preferred forestry option(s), the following must be considered:</p>	

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Measures/Action Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
	<p>Action 35</p> <p>Action 36</p> <p>Action 37</p> <p>Action 39</p> <p>Action 41</p> <p>Action 42</p> <p>Action 45</p> <p>Action 49</p> <p>Action 56</p> <p>Action 59</p> <p>Action 60</p> <p>Action 61</p> <p>Action 62</p> <p>Action 63</p> <p>Action 64</p>		<p>No commercial conifer afforestation is envisaged within close proximity to aquatic zones within the Plan's area on sites deemed to be highly sensitive in nature. On such sites, afforestation will be excluded or limited to the creation of new native forest under FT1.2 and 3</p> <p>A reduced or no-thin policy may be needed where certain site conditions exist (e.g. high water table, high exposure) which elevate the risk of windblow and subsequent sediment release. Any area proposed for clearfelling will need to be assessed individually and an appropriate harvesting plan put in place. In most cases, it is anticipated that standard harvesting machinery will be used to clearfell the majority of existing sites, with alternative options (such as manual felling and cable extraction) considered for more sensitive sites or parts of sites.</p> <p>Careful consideration is required regarding the most appropriate post-clearfell option or combination of options, using the Reforestation Objective system set out in the Felling & Reforestation Policy</p> <p>The aerial fertilisation of forests requires a licence from the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine under S.I.191 of 2017. As a general policy, forest owners should assume that this activity will not be permitted in any of the 27 FPM Catchments.</p> <p>Aerial Fertilisation shall not carry out aerial fertilisation in the period from 1 September to 31 March of the following year.</p> <p>Adhere to all setback outlined in S.I.191 of 2017 when carrying out Aerial Fertilisation.</p> <p>Plan extraction routes to avoid exclusion zones for water, archaeology and onsite habitats.</p> <p>Before the commencement of any works, all machine drivers and other operators should be fully aware of any environmental sensitivities onsite, and the relevant standards that apply. For example, operators must be made aware of the location of any exclusion zones for water, onsite habitats and biodiversity features, and archaeological features, and what they entail for operations. All operators must also be familiar with the content of the Harvest Plan and the Contingency Plan</p> <p>Contingency Plan must clearly inform all machine drivers and other operators how to act and who to contact, should an unexpected event arise that may create a risk to the</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>environment. Examples include an accidental fuel spillage or the discovery of an unidentified archaeological site or artefact.</p> <p>Exclusion zones at harvesting stage, where not otherwise specified as an archaeological condition of the felling licence, will be the minimum setbacks for archaeological sites, monuments, important built heritage structures or features</p> <p>The treatment and reporting of the discovery of archaeological finds during harvesting or at reforestation stage should be as per the specifications in Section 3.8 (page 44) of the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (December 2016)</p> <p>Store and prepare all chemicals, urea, fuel and machine oils at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose.</p> <p>Similarly, undertake all machine refuelling, maintenance and repair at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose. Collect spent oils and remove for correct offsite disposal.</p> <p>All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents, such as the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2015) and the Standards for Felling and Reforestation (DAFM, 2019) must be complied with. Including, but not limited to:</p> <p>Sediment must be prevented from entering aquatic zones. This is achieved by adherence to Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, Standards for Felling and Reforestation and any site-specific measures that may also be required</p> <p>In relation to setbacks from dwellings, setback planting is encouraged within the 30m to 60m zone, if agreed to by the neighbouring dweller.</p> <p>Minimum setback, as measured from the surfaced edge of the public road: 10 metre broadleaves and 20m for conifers (average, within any one application) (For conifer plots, note the additional requirement regarding edge planting)</p> <p>If vegetation clearance with machine is required, particular care is needed to guard against soil damage, compaction, rutting or removal. Subsequent spraying may also be required, using approved herbicide appropriate to the target vegetation</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>Where trees are required to be removed (e.g. to facilitate the erection of a fence), a felling licence may be necessary</p> <p>Good site hygiene and biosecurity controls will be employed to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (e.g. rhododendron, Japanese knotweed) by thoroughly checking/washing vehicles prior to entering and leaving the project site.</p> <p>Minimise the crossing of drains during felling and extraction, and limit machine activity to brushed extraction racks</p> <p>Where felling operations adjoin public roads, appropriate safety signs should be in place to alert the public, including road users. Close off the forest (or parts of, if large) to users, if utilised for recreation.</p> <p>Where practical and feasible and with consideration to other environmental receptors, access to forest land should select the least visually-sensitive route, particularly in areas of high landscape sensitivity. Existing access routes and crossing points should be used when present and suitable.</p> <p>The felling and replanting of forests damaged by storms, fire, pests or diseases should take appropriate cognisance of underlying environmental receptors such as water quality, habitats and species, archaeology and landscape.</p> <p>The potential of operations to cause disturbance should be considered and where possible, reflected in the timing of operations</p> <p>All forest operations within areas of high-water sensitivity (such as Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments and high-status objective waterbodies) must be planned and managed with a particular regard to the protection of water quality, aquatic ecosystems and species.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring of specified areas at initial afforestation or reforestation stage by an independent archaeological consultant retained by the Applicant or the Registered Forester is required where it is determined that there is an elevated potential for impacts on known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features in those areas.</p> <p>Trees within archaeological exclusion zones should only be felled following the preparation by an archaeologist or other suitably qualified environmental professional.</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
Use of Forests for Amenity, Recreation or Education	<p>Intervention 6 (Measure 1. 2. 3. 4) Action: See Action 16 Action 65 Action 66 Action 67</p>		<p>in conjunction with a forester or arborist, of a plan outlining the most appropriate means to fell and remove trees from on or around the monument.</p> <p>Where required, bio-security measures shall be adopted on sites where there is known or high risk of pest, disease or invasive species, including cleaning vehicles regularly, contained wheel wash zones and foot wash areas and cleaning equipment of all organic debris to avoid the spread and/or introduction of non-native invasive species, pests and diseases from site to site</p> <p>Prior to operations commencing, all machine operators and other site personnel will be appropriately briefed by the appointed Works Manager, Registered Forester or Site Ecologist, on the specific sensitivities of the site and on all relevant conditions, including the location of all exclusion zones and environmental setbacks</p>	Biodiversity, Population and Human Health, Land and Soil, Water, Air Quality and Climate
Forest Road Works	<p>Intervention 3, Measure 1.2.3. 4, Action 47</p>	<p>Forest Road Manual Forestry Standards Manual</p>	<p>All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents, such as 'Environmental Requirements for Afforestation' (DAFM, 2016) Land Types for Afforestation (DAFM, 2015) and the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2015) must be complied with. Including, but not limited to:</p> <p>All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents must be complied with.</p> <p>Ensure that proposals for forestry projects or infrastructure incorporate natural features, where feasible.</p> <p>Ensure that forest amenity and recreational facilities are managed in a way which ensures that there is no potential for significant adverse environmental effects.</p>	Biodiversity, Land and Soil, Water, Archaeology, Population and Human Health

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
best practice construction measures99		Forestry Standards Manual	<p>Under Irish legislation, EIA is mandatory for the following forestry projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> private roads which would exceed 2,000 metres in length (S.I.600 of 2001, as amended by S.I.235 of 2008) and Regulation 13(2)(b) of S.I. 191 of 2017). Where EIA is not mandatory, regard should be had to Section 11(d)(i) of the Forestry Act 2014, Regulation 13(2)(d) Forestry Regulations 2017, and Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and an EIA Screening carried out, as required. The development of new forest roads should be subject to options assessment, where appropriate. Access to forest land should select the least environmentally-sensitive route and utilise existing access where available and suitable Archaeological monitoring of specified sections of a forest route by an independent archaeological consultant is required where it is determined that there is an elevated potential for impacts on known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features in those sections. The potential of operations to cause disturbance should be considered and where possible, reflected in the timing operations Alternative options such as lower density roading, temporary bridging and the adoption of alternative silvicultural systems, will be considered on case-by-case basis, on sites with acute water sensitivity. Ensure that stream and river crossings constructed for forestry purposes are developed in compliance with the Coford Forest Road Manual and the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidelines on the Protection of Fisheries During Construction In or Adjacent to Waters. 	All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents, such as 'Environmental Requirements for Afforestation' (DAFM, 2016) Land Types for Afforestation. (DAFM, 2015) and the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2015) must be complied with, including, but not limited to:

99 Where 'construction' is taken to mean any works involving machinery, traffic movements, noise and air emissions etc.

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards and Reforestation Forest Road Manual	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
		Standards for Felling and Reforestation Forest Road Manual	<p>Prior to the commencement of operations, install silt traps within existing forest drains that connect with aquatic zones, either directly or indirectly through other relevant watercourses.</p> <p>Minimise the crossing of drains during felling and extraction, and restrict machine activity to brashed extraction racks and haulage routes.</p> <p>Create and maintain dense mats of brush and branch wood on all machine routes, to avoid soil damage, erosion and sedimentation. Concentrate brush mats on primary routes and in sections crossing soils with a low bearing capacity. The junction of extraction paths and landing sites should also be supplied with a protective brush cover. Brush mats should be renewed when they become heavily used and worn, and no longer function effectively.</p> <p>Store, fuel and machine oils at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose.</p> <p>Similarly, undertake all machine refuelling, maintenance and repair at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose. Collect spent oils and remove for correct offsite disposal.</p> <p>Areas recognised for their geological importance should be taken into consideration during the layout, design and construction of forest roads.</p> <p>The construction of new drains, or changing the shape of drains, should not take place in exclusion zones and should only enter aquatic buffer zones where the site is flat (or almost so) and will not result in sediment entering the aquatic zone.</p> <p>Special construction works will only apply to permanent bridges and large culverts greater than or equal to 1.0 metre in diameter, and will be limited to situations where the forest area served exceeds 5 hectares.</p> <p>It should be noted that the approval of the Minister is required for all forest road works projects, whether grant aided or not.</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measure/Action	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>Roading plans to be based on detailed surveys and environmental care principles that ensure that all environmentally sensitive locations are identified and appropriate design and construction techniques adopted</p> <p>Roads must not follow watercourses, crossings must be kept to a minimum and crossing structures (bridges, fords, etc.) must not impede the waterflow.</p> <p>Roadside drains should be provided to minimise the concentrations and velocity of runoff and ensure that water drains from the road surface.</p> <p>Methods for the construction of forest roads and associated special construction works including the specification of machinery and ancillary equipment should be selected to promote efficient construction and minimise environmental impact.</p> <p>Road construction should ideally be undertaken during summer periods when lower rainfall and drier soil conditions minimise the risk of erosion.</p> <p>The refuelling and maintenance of machines must not take place close to sensitive sites in order to prevent spillage of fuel and oils from entering streams and watercourses. Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines require this work to be carried out at least 50 m from the nearest aquatic zone on a dry, elevated site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All temporary bridging and road reinforcements will be subject to the appropriate assessment process and EIA process, where required, and located only where appropriate. • Crossing structures (bridges, fords, etc.) must not impede the waterflow. • Machinery used in forest operations should be managed so as to minimise the potential for any offsite air, noise or vibration impacts. • Prior to operations commencing, all machine operators and other site personnel will be appropriately briefed by the appointed Works Manager, Registered Forester or Site Ecologist, on the specific sensitivities of the site and on all relevant conditions, including the location of all exclusion zones and environmental setbacks 	

Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where instream works are required, and to prevent the spread of freshwater invasive species and disease (e.g. Crayfish Plague, Zebra mussel, fishhook waterflea), any vehicles, tools and PPE directly involved in instream works, e.g. culvert for access purposes, are clean (disinfected and dried) and free of soil/sand/gravel and plant debris before entering and leaving the site. Sediment must be prevented from entering aquatic zones. This is achieved by adherence to Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, Standards for Felling and Reforestation and any site-specific measures that may also be required Regularly check silt traps and silt fences, and maintain as required, to ensure their continued effectiveness throughout works. If vegetation clearance with machine is required, particular care is needed to guard against soil damage, compaction, rutting or removal. Subsequent spraying may also be required, using approved herbicide appropriate to the target vegetation Where trees are required to be removed (e.g. to facilitate the erection of a fence), a felling licence may be necessary Good site hygiene and biosecurity controls will be employed to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (e.g. rhododendron, Japanese knotweed) by thoroughly checking/washing vehicles prior to entering and leaving the project site All forest operations within areas of high-water sensitivity (such as Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments and high-status objective waterbodies) must be planned and managed with a particular regard to the protection of water quality, aquatic ecosystems and species. Create and maintain dense mats of brash and branch wood on all machine routes where necessary, to avoid significant soil damage. 	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
Biodiversity Protection	All	<p>Environmental Requirements for Afforestation</p> <p>Forestry Standards Manual</p> <p>Standards for Felling and Reforestation</p> <p>Forest Establishment Silvicultural Standards</p> <p>Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements</p>	<p>erosion and sedimentation that will cause significant environmental impact in the absence of mitigation.</p> <p>All of the mandatory requirements set out in the full suite of DAFM documents, such as 'Environmental Requirements for Afforestation' (DAFM, 2016) L and Types for Afforestation. (DAFM, 2015) and the Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2015) must be complied with. Including, but not limited to:</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to seek ecological input early in the design stage in situations where one or more of these scenarios apply, and to tailor any subsequent application accordingly before submission to the DAFM</p> <p>The DAFM may require an ecological report assessing the habitat and its extent and identifying mitigation measures capable of ensuring that the project can take place in a manner compatible with the maintenance or restoration to a favourable conservation status of that habitat.</p> <p>If any unusual pest or disease is observed please immediately contact your local Forestry Inspector or Forest Health section</p> <p>Plants of the genera listed in Table 8.7 should only be purchased from nurseries registered under the EU Plant Health Regulations and the plants must be accompanied by a valid EU Plant Passport, where applicable, https://www.teagasc.ie/media/websites/crops/forestry/advice/Standards-for-Felling-and-Reforestation.pdf</p> <p>Good Plant Protection Practice document sets out general principles of integrated pest management, which all professional users are required to follow</p> <p>Plants of those species acceptable FTI 2 and 3 and listed below should only be purchased from nurseries / brokers registered under the EU Plant Health Regulations, and must be accompanied by a valid EU Plant Passport, where applicable, to certify the absence of the relevant pests and diseases</p> <p>DAFM policy is to maintain a healthy forest environment by ensuring good management, and by identifying risks and maintaining a sustained commitment to measures that prevent the entry and establishment of destructive forest pests and diseases, including those which may impact negatively on native woodland.</p>	Biodiversity

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			<p>The Native Woodland Establishment Framework incorporates changes introduced in Forest Service Circular 4/2013, taking account of the suspension of the grant aiding of ash planting in response to the Chalara fraxinea ash dieback disease</p> <p>Registered Forester must assess the site risk and identifying appropriate options assess the site (both in-field and desk-based, using MapViewer on iNET); identify the level of risk associated with the site (or parts thereof) regarding the potential for sediment and nutrient release and other negative impacts, arising from: the nature, size and location of the project (including all operations and ancillary works) over the short, medium and long term; and the potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects; and then select the appropriate option (or combination of options) that match the level of risk identified, drawing from a list of forestry operations, practices and measures ('options') set for each type of forestry development (as set out under S.I.191 of 2017). Appropriate ancillary options must also be selected.</p> <p>All applications within the area of the Forestry & FPM Plan (as described in Table 2.2) will be subjected to 100% field inspection by District Forestry Inspectors throughout the lifetime of this Plan</p> <p>As part of the evaluation process, each application will undergo AA screening by DAFM under the AAP, to determine if there is a possibility of a significant effect on the conservation objective for FPM (and that for any other qualifying interest(s) listed for the SAC in question).</p> <p>In addition to the actions listed for forestry in the RBMP, the key principles guiding the DAFM's input into achieving the objectives of the RBMP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to safeguard water during all forestry operations; • to restructure existing forests to reflect water sensitivities, where required; & • to situate & design new woodlands & forests in a way that protects water quality. <p>Using the WFD's 'source-pathway-receptor' model, reducing sources & breaking pathways are key</p>	

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			<p>The aim is to fully realise the significant role woodlands & forests can have in protecting & enhancing Ireland's waters & associated aquatic ecosystems</p> <p>The Framework will apply to all applications for S.I.191 / 2017 licences (for afforestation, forest road construction</p> <p>DAFM must undertake a 'screening' for appropriate assessment to evaluate if there is a possibility of the project – either alone or in combination with other plans and projects – having a significant effect on the conservation objectives and associated qualifying interests of any NATURA 2000 site</p> <p>Certain types of woody habitat (including areas of blackthorn scrub, pockets of high forest trees less than 0.1 ha in area, and hedgerows) can be maintained for biodiversity purposes</p> <p>An ABE of plot size should be mapped and recorded as a separate plot in the Certified Species Map legend. Biodiversity plots must have a minimum width of 20 metres.</p> <p>The submission of a BIO Map is required at pre-approval (Form 1) stage and at 1st instalment (Form 2) stage for the Afforestation Scheme and the Forest Road Scheme</p> <p>Where trees are required to be removed (e.g. to facilitate the erection of a fence), a felling licence may be necessary</p> <p>All existing fences and boundaries must be to a standard that can exclude domestic stock and protect the growing crop</p> <p>The Registered Forester must ensure that all operators are aware of the importance of any environmental setbacks required onsite, their location and extent, and what is and is not permitted within them. An environmental setback must not be used for any forest operation or for any other purpose which could compromise its protective function, or which could damage the environmental feature or sensitivity being protected.</p> <p>Monitor and apply appropriate control to prevent the colonisation of setbacks by rhododendron and other invasive alien species.</p>	

Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
Planting on Peatlands	Action 43 and Action 64	Environmental Requirements for Afforestation Forest Protection Guidelines, Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forestry Standards Manual, Department of	<p>The colonisation of the water setback with invasive species, in particular, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and rhododendron, is of significant concern regarding water quality.</p> <p>Prior to operations commencing, all machine operators and other site personnel will be appropriately briefed by the appointed Works Manager, Registered Forester or Site Ecologist, on the specific sensitivities of the site and on all relevant conditions, including the location of all exclusion zones and environmental setbacks. All operators must also be familiar with the content of the Harvest Plan and the Contingency Plan</p> <p>Before operations commence, identify exclusion zones along the edge of all aquatic zones, hotspots and water abstraction points, and mark this clearly on a site map.</p> <p>Retain existing hedgerows and mature broadleaves onsite, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>Regularly check silt traps and silt fences, and maintain as required, to ensure their continued effectiveness throughout works.</p> <p>Setbacks from environmental receptors that may not have been installed at initial planting must be created at reforestation</p> <p>No commercial conifer afforestation is envisaged within close proximity within 30 metres to aquatic zones within the Plan's area on sites deemed to be highly sensitive in nature. On such sites, afforestation will be excluded or limited to the creation of new native woodland under NWS Establishment.</p>	Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Land and Soil, Water, Air and Climate,

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
		<p>Agriculture, Food and the Marine Forest Service (2015)</p> <p>Standards for Felling and Reforestation, (2019), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</p> <p>Land Types for Afforestation, Forest Service (2015)</p> <p>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</p> <p>Native Woodland Establishment GPC9 & GPC10 Silvicultural Standards Forest Service (2015)</p> <p>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</p>	<p>of chemicals, the discovery of an unidentified archaeological site, monument or object. The plan should be readily available onsite and all operators should be made familiar with its content.</p> <p>The Registered Forester must ensure that all operators are aware of the importance of any environmental setbacks required onsite, their location and extent, and what is and is not permitted within them. An environmental setback must not be used for any forest operation or for any other purpose which could compromise its protective function, or which could damage the environmental feature or sensitivity being protected. Minimum environmental setbacks to be applied are set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation.</p> <p>Where afforestation is approved near known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features, to seek to ensure that: (i) appropriate exclusion zones, fencing, access paths and other relevant measures are determined and required by condition to be incorporated into the project design; (ii) provision is made so there is an appropriate response should any previously unrecorded archaeological site, monument, object, structure or feature be discovered during site work; and (iii) any approved design is sympathetic to and provides an appropriate visual setting for such sites, monuments, structures or features. The minimum environmental setbacks set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation should be applied, unless conditions specify otherwise.</p> <p>Existing access routes to an archaeological site must be left unplanted and undisturbed, and must be left open for pedestrian access by archaeological officials throughout the rotation. If there is no existing access route, leave an unplanted 4 metre wide route suitable for pedestrian access from the direction of the nearest public road, forest road or track.</p> <p>An Archaeological Assessment / Archaeological Impact Statement is required for sites where it is determined that there is a significantly elevated potential for impacts on known or suspected archaeological sites and monuments or other important built heritage structures or features.</p> <p>Monitor to ensure the successful establishment of forest edge planting and environmental setback planning (where undertaken) and maintain trees as appropriate (e.g. vegetation management, replacement of mortalities, adjustment and eventual</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents, Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
Protection of Water Resources	All	Environmental Requirements for Afforestation Forestry Standards Manual Standards for Felling and Reforestation Forest Establishment Silvicultural Standards	<p>removal of tree shelters) until the trees are established and free of vegetation competition or browsing pressure.</p> <p>Retain hedgerows, existing veteran trees, earth banks and stone walls unless required for access.</p> <p>An appropriate ecological assessment is required in sites where the habitat of Annex I bird species or Annex II species occur or are likely to occur to investigate the potential for where they occur.</p> <p>Each site being assessed for suitability must, amongst other things, undergo a preliminary soil investigation by a Registered Forester.</p> <p>Afforestation will be restricted to native tree species in the Top 8 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments, namely: Bundorrnagha, Caragh, Corrib, Cumberagh, Dawros, Kerry Blackwater, Leannan and Ownagappul.</p> <p>The DAFM shall take cognisance of the EPA programme of water monitoring, particularly in the 233 waterbodies where forestry is identified as a pressure, and will engage with the Local Authorities Water Monitoring Programme (LAWPRO) Local Catchment Assessments (LCA). In addition, DAFM will undertake a programme of water monitoring using biological indicators in heavily forested waterbodies.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to timing of ecological surveys</p>	Water, Biodiversity, Population and Human Health
			<p>If subsequently licensed, all afforestation must adhere to environmental requirements that include (in relation to water) mandatory water setbacks and other protective measures regarding cultivation, fertiliser application, and herbicide use</p> <p>Forest restructuring is also crucial to reshape the existing forest estate to take account of water and other environmental sensitivities. This should be undertaken primarily at reforestation post-clearfell, when the replanting of the site can incorporate water setbacks, native woodland zones and hydrological restoration. This ensures that the new rotation of the forest has a far more sensitive 'footprint' regarding water.</p> <p>Ensure that an adequate contingency plan is prepared. This plan must clearly inform operators how to react and who to contact, should an unexpected event arise that may create a risk to the environment, e.g. a period of intense rainfall or an accidental</p>	

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	<p>Woodland for Water: Creating new native woodlands to protect and enhance Ireland's Water</p>		<p>spillage of chemicals. The plan should be readily available onsite and all operators should be made familiar with its content.</p> <p>The Registered Forester must ensure that all operators are aware of the importance of any environmental setbacks required onsite, their location and extent, and what is and is not permitted within them. An environmental setback must not be used for any forest operation or for any other purpose which could compromise its protective function, or which could damage the environmental feature or sensitivity being protected. Water setback distances will vary depending on soil type, slope and the presence of environmental sensitivities such as freshwater pearl mussel or high status objective waterbodies.</p> <p>Stop all drainage and cultivation operations during periods of rainfall, in situations where rainfall level and site conditions create the risk of sediment becoming mobilised onsite. Operations can only recommence once an adequate period of time has elapsed for the risk to abate. This safeguard is triggered by tracking weather forecasts and by contingency planning</p> <p>Match fertiliser type and application rate to specific plots – aim to achieve successful establishment with the minimal level of fertiliser input possible. Do not apply fertiliser if it is not needed</p> <p>The colonisation of the water setback with invasive species, in particular, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and rhododendron, is of significant concern regarding water quality.</p> <p>Water sampling under the Acid Sensitivity Protocol for Afforestation is not required for DAFM afforestation applications within Acid Sensitive Areas (ASAs) that comprise Native Forest Establishment Ft 1, 2 and 3 or agroforestry.</p> <p>Applications for afforestation approval (with or without grant aid) on sites located within certain 6 inch Ordnance Survey sheets designated as acid sensitive areas (see following pages for list) require a site-specific assessment of the acid sensitivity of watercourses. Sampling and analysis shall be carried out on at least four separate occasions within the period 1st February to the 31st May inclusive, with each sample taken at least 28 days apart.</p> <p>Where site permitting, the required 20% broadleaf component within any afforestation project located within, or partially within, specified water sensitive areas may include</p>	

Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>a Native Forest Establishment plot (or plots) along sensitive sections of any watercourse adjoining or crossing the site, to enhance water protection</p> <p>Sediment must be prevented from entering aquatic zones. This is achieved by adherence to the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, Standards for Felling and Reafforestation, and with appropriate sections of this manual. Site-specific measures may also be required.</p> <p>Fertiliser should not be discharged into a free-flowing drain, nor into a sediment trap</p> <p>Apply fertiliser manually after cultivation to afforestation sites, avoiding drains, all environmental setbacks, areas within 20 metres of aquatic zones, and waterlogged areas</p> <p>Before the commencement of any works, all machine drivers and other operators should be fully aware of any environmental sensitivities onsite, and the relevant standards and licence conditions that apply. For example, operators must be made aware of the location of any exclusion zones for water, onsite habitats and biodiversity features, and what they entail for operations. All operators must also be familiar with the content of the Harvest Plan and the Contingency Plan</p> <p>Before operations commence, identify exclusion zones along the edge of all aquatic zones, hotspots and water abstraction points, and mark this clearly on a site map.</p> <p>Regarding aquatic zones, ensure banks remain undisturbed. No branches or debris are to enter the aquatic zone during operations. Immediately and with care, remove any branches that do fall in.</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of operations, install silt traps within existing forest drains that connect with aquatic zones, either directly or indirect through other relevant watercourses.</p> <p>Minimise the crossing of drains during felling and extraction, and restrict machine activity to brushed extraction racks and haulage routes.</p> <p>Store and prepare all chemicals, urea, fuel and machine oils at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant</p>	Formatted: Font: Bold, Font color: Background 1

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			<p>Similarly, undertake all machine refuelling, maintenance and repair at a dry, elevated location onsite at least 50 metres from the nearest aquatic zone and at least 20 m from the nearest relevant watercourse. Do not utilise water, habitat or archaeological setbacks for this purpose. Collect spent oils and remove for correct offsite disposal.</p> <p>Regularly check silt traps and silt fences, and maintain as required, to ensure their continued effectiveness throughout works.</p> <p>Undertake regular visual checks of relevant watercourses (primarily at their outflow from the site) and adjoining aquatic zones, to confirm (or otherwise) that no sediment or silt discharge is arising from site works.</p> <p>The general approach regarding the treatment of the natural riparian zone and DAFM-stipulated 10-25 metre wide aquatic buffer zone (ABZ)</p> <p>Details regarding the design and treatment of the water setback and the natural riparian zone should be site-specific. Adopting the DAFM requirement as the minimum width, the actual width of the setback can be increased at various points along its length, to reflect factors that may heighten the risk of sedimentation at particular locations (e.g. natural hollows and other preferred flow paths, where water gravitates towards as it approaches the receiving watercourse). This will maximise the level of protection against the runoff of sediment and nutrients into the stream or river. Varying the width of the setback (particularly in relation to sunlight) will also increase the biodiversity 'edge effect' between the setback and the native forest canopy.</p> <p>In areas where the DAFM Forestry & Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements apply, a 2.5 metre wide setback is stipulated.</p> <p>Activities within the setback may be subject to the agreement of Inland Fisheries Ireland and (where relevant) the National Parks & Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Several ASAs also overlap with Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) catchments. Native Forest Establishment applications must incorporate appropriate measures to ensure that no silt, nutrients or herbicides enter receiving waters. This is a key requirement within FPM catchments</p> <p>Permanent undisturbed water setback, 10-25 metres in width (or wider, if required), uncrossed by new drains & largely unplanted. Can be widened at key locations onsite, where site hydrology & slope increase the vulnerability of receiving waters. Planting</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measure/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>within 10 metres may be allowable in certain circumstances such as for alluvial woodland.</p> <p>New native forest created under FT1 or FT2, 20 metres or greater in width & uncrossed by new drains. Can be widened at key locations onsite, where adjoining land use, site hydrology & slope increase the vulnerability of receiving waters</p> <p>Setback planting comprising single trees or small groups of suitable native riparian species of trees & shrubs strategically planted & maintained for bank stabilisation, dappled shading & as a food source for aquatic life</p> <p>Possible blocking of existing drains (with silt traps, slow-flow dams) to break existing pathways from source to the receiving watercourse, & to create pocket wetlands & settlement areas</p> <p>Native forest establishment has an overriding ecological focus. For example, site disturbance and inputs must be minimised, species selection must reflect the most appropriate native forest type for the site (based on site, drainage, elevation, etc.), and all forest reproductive material (seed, transplants, cuttings) used must come from suitable sources within Ireland (within limited practical exceptions)</p> <p>Generally, sites that flood are excluded from the Afforestation Scheme. However, native forest plots located on natural floodplains may be acceptable, where 1) the frequency of flooding and the inundation periods involved do not impede establishment and development; and 2) such plots form part of a larger application or a wider multi-site project developed with input from other statutory bodies and aimed at the strategic development of native woodland along a sensitive watercourse, for water protection</p> <p>Each project under FT1 or FT2 must promote the native forest type that would occur naturally on the site (or parts of the site). This framework uses location, soil and main habitats and vegetation to identify the most ecologically appropriate native woodland type</p> <p>All tree species proposed under FT1 or FT2 must be: (i) native to the island of Ireland; and (ii) appropriate to the native woodland type identified for promotion onsite (or parts thereof)</p> <p>Under FT1 or FT2, the identified woodland type should be realised with the minimal</p>	

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Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>amount of site inputs (e.g. fertilisers) and disturbance (e.g. cultivation). The focus is on retaining natural site conditions and facilitating the emergence of the native forest type that would occur naturally on the site.</p> <p>While standard fertiliser application is not accepted under FT1 or FT2, a once-off hand application at establishment (using slow release formulations) is allowed on marginal sites.</p> <p>sites, in order to boost initial growth. However, this need is unlikely to arise on most sites where the Woodland for Water measure might be applied.</p> <p>Pre- and post-planting herbicide application must be kept to the minimum required to ensure success, and should be used together with other methods, e.g. planning with larger transplants</p> <p>Herbicide application is not permitted within the water setback or within 20 metres of an aquatic zone, whichever is greatest. Limited exemptions may apply, where agreed by the relevant statutory body (e.g. stem injection to eliminate stream-side rhododendron, in order to tackle infestation and to reinstate natural vegetation</p> <p>For Forest Types other than FT1, 2 or 3, wider setbacks are required for sites on peat soil or within the catchment area of a high ecological status (HES) objective waterbodies</p> <p>Water setback planting can involve single or small irregular groups (5-10 trees) of native riparian species (birch, willow, and occasional alder and pedunculate oak) at strategic points within the water setback. This planting should not exceed 20% of the area of the water setback.</p> <p>Typically, trees are to be pit-planted. No cultivation is permitted within the water setback, but soil can be imported from outside the setback, and deposited to create individual planting positions, if required</p> <p>Fertiliser application and vegetation management can be applied to establish setback planting, based on the following restrictions: Fertiliser application is limited to the manual application of an appropriate slow release formulation into the planting pit. Regarding vegetation management, herbicide use is prohibited. Use nonherbicide methods instead, such as trampling, mulches and mats.</p>	

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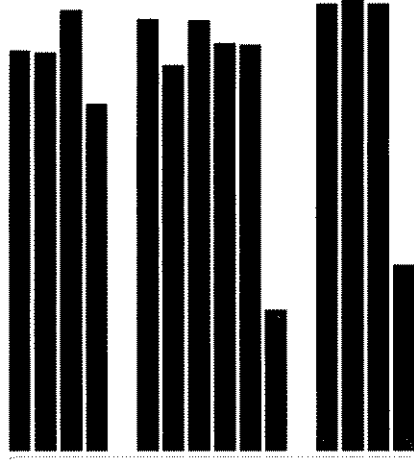
Measures/Actions Category	Specific Measures/Actions	Relevant Guidance Documents/ Standards	Relevant Mitigation Measures	Aspect of Environment to which they relate
			<p>The Registered Forester must ensure that all operators are aware of the importance of the water setback, its location and extent, and what is and is not permitted within it. The marking out of the setback prior to site operations commencing is encouraged, to avoid incursions</p> <p>Any planting carried out in the water setback must be monitored, and trees maintained as needed (e.g. vegetation management, replacement of mortalities, adjustment and eventual removal of tree shelters) until they are fully established and free of grazing/browsing pressure and vegetation competition</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring and appropriate control is needed to prevent the colonisation of water setbacks by invasive species. In particular, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and rhododendron, are of significant concern regarding water quality. Where best practice involves herbicide use, consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland and other relevant bodies in advance. Controlling such species is difficult and expensive, and often requires a wider catchment approach for progress to be sustained.</p> <p>Periodic mowing and strimming of vegetation and subsequent removal of cuttings from the site, may be useful in reducing the build-up of nutrients in the water setback arising from its buffering role. Controlled grazing, with prior DAFM agreement, may also fulfil this role</p>	

Table 3 Mitigation Measures as set out in the accompanying NIR (as they relate to proposed Intervention and Measures)

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSP	Further Mitigation
Intervention 1 Forest Creation	<p>Within the Draft IFSP, DAFM has included 'Identification of relevant baseline elements' with pertains to Statutory management requirements under Section 4.1 Forestry Act and Forestry Regulations. "The Forestry Act 2014 and Forestry Regulations is the primary legislative framework for supporting the development and promotion of forestry in Ireland and set out the provisions for licensing (consent) for afforestation and forest road applications, aerial fertilisation licensing and felling licences. Landowners submitting applications for forestry licences must follow the</p>	<p>Further Mitigation</p> <p>Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness of measures implemented to avoid significant adverse effects where forests are created as part of Intervention 1 Forest Creation be carried out post forest creation.</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
Native Tree Area Scheme	<p>requirements prescribed in the legislation which includes requirements for public consultation”</p> <p>Defined within are the required elements of an afforestation licence, including the requirement for AA Screening of all forestry licence applications</p> <p>The mandatory requirements relevant to the AA process found within the Draft IFSIP are:</p> <p>All initial afforestation applications are screened for appropriate assessment (AA) to determine whether the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 sites), in view of the site’s conservation objectives</p> <p>Afforestation applications within European sites (SAC or SPA) will only be approved if they are compatible with the conservation objectives of the European site and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned</p> <p>The Minister has an obligation, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of SI 191 of 2017 to refuse an application if, in his or her opinion, the proposed development is <u>likely to have significant adverse impact on nature conservation</u></p> <p>Public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, insofar as the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are relevant to those functions, shall—</p> <p>(a) take the appropriate steps to avoid, in candidate special protection areas, pollution and deterioration of habitats and any disturbances affecting the birds insofar as these would be significant in relation to the objectives of Article 4 of the Birds Directive;</p> <p>(b) outside those areas, strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats;</p> <p>(c) take appropriate enforcement action.</p> <p>The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I.191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used; and</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements for all afforestation licence applications and considering that an afforestation licence is required for the Measures found within Intervention, it is not anticipated that Intervention 1 shall pose a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites and/or their QIs. With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness of measures implemented to avoid significant adverse effects where forests</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
	<p>The Native Tree Area Scheme has been developed to incentivise small scale planting without the requirement of an afforestation licence. Amendments to the Animal Health and Welfare and Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022 has introduced Regulations to facilitate this scheme Pursuant to 22A.</p> <p>(1) The Minister may, for the purpose of enabling the State to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient, biodiversity rich and environmentally sustainable economy, provide by regulation for a scheme to facilitate the planting of native tree areas</p> <p>(2) Regulations under subsection (1) may—</p> <p>(a) subject to paragraph (b) and subsection (3), provide for the exemption of the planting of native tree areas, that would, but for such exemption, be subject to the requirements of section 22, from the requirements of that section.</p> <p>(b) prescribe conditions for an exemption under paragraph (a), having regard to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the requirements of the environment and environmental law, (ii) the need for increased planting of native tree species, (iii) public safety, (iv) fire, pest or disease control, and (v) research and such other silvicultural requirements as the Minister considers appropriate. <p>and</p> <p>(c) in relation to the scheme referred to in subsection (1)—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) prescribe the terms and conditions of that scheme, having regard to such matters referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (v) of paragraph (b) and any other matters as the Minister considers relevant, and (ii) provide for the provision of native tree area grants for the planting of native tree areas <p>(3) Regulations under subsection (1) shall provide that an exemption from the requirements of section 22 shall be granted only where, on the basis of objective information, the proposed native tree area is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site in view of the site conservation objectives, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects</p>	<p>are created as part of Intervention 1 Forest Creation be carried out post forest creation.</p>



Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
Measure 1	<p>(4) In this section, "European site" has the same meaning as it has in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)";</p> <p>As a result of the aforementioned requirements set out for the Native Tree Area within Intervention 1, it is not anticipated that this Scheme shall pose a potential for likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 site network and/or QIs</p> <p>All measures within Intervention 1 are subject to requirements that are outlined above in the overall objective. All afforestation licences are required to adhere to and provide the following:</p> <p>All initial afforestation applications are screened for appropriate assessment (AA) to determine whether the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 sites), in view of the site's conservation objectives</p> <p>Afforestation applications within European sites (SAC or SPA) will only be approved if they are compatible with the conservation objectives of the European site and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned</p> <p>The Minister has an obligation, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of SI 191 of 2017 to refuse an application if, in his or her opinion, the proposed development is likely to have significant adverse impact on nature conservation</p> <p>Public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, insofar as the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are relevant to those functions, shall—</p> <p>(a) take the appropriate steps to avoid, in candidate special protection areas, pollution and deterioration of habitats and any disturbances affecting the birds insofar as these would be significant in relation to the objectives of Article 4 of the Birds Directive;</p> <p>(b) outside those areas, strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats, and</p> <p>(c) take appropriate enforcement action</p> <p>The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I. 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements for all afforestation licence applications and considering that an afforestation licence is required for the Measures found within Intervention, it is not anticipated that Intervention 1 shall pose a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites and/or their QIs</p>	<p>Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness of measures implemented to avoid significant adverse effects where forests are created as part of Intervention 1 Forest Creation be carried out post forest creation.</p>

Intervention, Measure, Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation Within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Intervention 2 -- Agroforestry</p>	<p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p> <p>All measures within Intervention 1 are subject to requirements that are outlined above in the overall objective. All afforestation licences are required to adhere to and provide the following:</p> <p>The mandatory requirements relevant to the AA process found within the Draft IFSIP are:</p> <p>All initial afforestation applications are screened for appropriate assessment (AA) to determine whether the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 sites), in view of the site's conservation objectives</p> <p>Afforestation applications within European sites (SAC or SPA) will only be approved if they are compatible with the conservation objectives of the European site and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned</p> <p>The Minister has an obligation, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of SI 191 of 2017 to refuse an application if, in his or her opinion, the proposed development is likely to have significant adverse impact on nature conservation</p> <p>Public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, insofar as the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are relevant to those functions, shall—</p> <p>(a) take the appropriate steps to avoid, in candidate special protection areas, pollution and deterioration of habitats and any disturbances affecting the birds insofar as these would be significant in relation to the objectives of Article 4 of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>(b) outside those areas, strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats, and</p> <p>(c) take appropriate enforcement action</p> <p>The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I. 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements for all afforestation licence applications and considering that an afforestation licence is required for the Measures found within Intervention, it is not anticipated that Intervention 1 shall pose a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites and/or their QIs</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness of measures implemented to avoid significant adverse effects where forests are created as part of Intervention 1 Forest Creation be carried out post forest creation.</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft ESIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Overall Objective</p>	<p>Within the overall objective for Intervention 2, the following mitigation is stated: "Specific requirements for this measure will vary for each of the three types of agroforestry system listed above. All mandatory and legal standards as set out in the Forestry Act 2014, the Forestry Regulations (SI No. 191/2017 as amended), and specified by the Department for the establishment and management of forests in the Forestry Standards Manual will apply to this intervention". Pursuant to Part 8 of the Forestry Regulations (SI No. 191/2017), the Protection of European sites, all applications for a forestry licence under sections 17 or 22 of the Principal Act shall be assessed as to whether they shall, individually or in combination with other projects or plans, have a likely significant effect on a European site i.e., Screening for Appropriate Assessment. As a result of the requirement for Screening for Appropriate Assessment and subsequent Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, where necessary, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 2 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs. With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites.</p>	<p>Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness of measures implemented to avoid significant adverse effects where agroforestry systems are created as part of Intervention 2 Creation of Agroforestry Systems be carried out post forest creation. DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review and develop mandatory 'no-go' zones and 'go-to' or preferred areas for afforestation</p>
<p>Measure 1 Silvopastoral Systems</p>	<p>Within the overall objective for Intervention 2 (and all the measures within), the following mitigation is stated: "Specific requirements for this measure will vary for each of the three types of agroforestry system listed above. All mandatory and legal standards as set out in the Forestry Act 2014, the Forestry Regulations (SI No. 191/2017 as amended), and specified by the Department for the establishment and management of forests in the Forestry Standards Manual will apply to this intervention". Pursuant to Part 8 of the Forestry Regulations (SI No. 191/2017), the Protection of European sites, all applications for a forestry licence under sections 17 or 22 of the Principal Act shall be assessed as to whether they shall, individually or in combination with other projects or plans, have a likely significant effect on a European site i.e., Screening for Appropriate Assessment. As a result of the requirement for Screening for Appropriate Assessment and subsequent Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, where necessary, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 2 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs. With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites.</p>	<p>Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness of measures implemented to avoid significant adverse effects where agroforestry systems are created as part of Intervention 2 Creation of Agroforestry Systems be carried out post forest creation. DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review and develop mandatory 'no-go' zones and 'go-to' or preferred areas for afforestation</p>
<p>Requirement for Measure 1</p>	<p>Within the overall objective for Intervention 2 (and all the measures within), the following mitigation is stated: "Specific requirements for this measure will vary for each of the three types of agroforestry system listed above. All mandatory and legal standards as set out in the Forestry Act 2014, the Forestry Regulations (SI No. 191/2017 as amended), and specified by the Department for the establishment and management of forests in the Forestry Standards Manual will apply to this intervention". Pursuant to Part 8 of the Forestry Regulations (SI No. 191/2017), the Protection of European sites, all applications for a forestry licence under sections 17 or 22 of the Principal Act shall be</p>	<p>Where setback areas for grazing are to be examined on a case-by-case basis DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review to develop mandatory 'no-go' zones and 'go-to' or preferred areas for afforestation so as to avoid the potential for likely significant effects</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft ESIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Intervention 3 – Infrastructure and Technology Investments</p>	<p>measures within Intervention 2 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type and for the decommissioning of any temporary structures</p> <p>DAFM to consider the recommendation within the Independent Regulatory Review of whether there is any category of forest road which might be considered lower risk, from an environmental and social perspective. Assuming there is, it would need to be verified through environmental assessment (using criteria set out in the SEA/EIA/Habitats and Water Framework Directives) that a forest road of that type or scale is objectively a low environmental risk, subject to any site-specific considerations, such that it merits a permit procedure involving less control than a full licence. In each case it will be necessary for a prior AA and EIA screening to be carried out before the works proceed, with the right of DAFM to intervene to require AA or EIA to be carried out</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate post-construction environmental monitoring of all forest road creation</p>
<p>Overall Objective</p>	<p>Within the specific requirements for this Intervention and all measures within:</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based FORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p> <p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p> <p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (SI 558 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g. SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g. Appropriate Assessment)</p> <p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts</p> <p>DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines, Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines, Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources</p> <p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p>	<p>DAFM apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type and for the decommissioning of any temporary structures</p> <p>DAFM to consider the recommendation within the Independent Regulatory Review of whether there is any category of forest road which might be considered lower risk, from an environmental and social perspective. Assuming there is, it would need to be verified through environmental assessment (using criteria set out in the SEA/EIA/Habitats and Water Framework Directives) that a forest road of that type or scale is objectively a low environmental risk, subject to any site-specific considerations, such that it merits a permit procedure involving less control than a full licence. In each case it will be necessary for a prior AA and EIA screening to be carried out before the works proceed, with the right of DAFM to intervene to require AA or EIA to be carried out</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate post-construction environmental monitoring of all forest road creation</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSP	Further Mitigation
<p>Specific Requirements for this Intervention</p>	<p>Within the specific requirements for this Intervention, and all measures, within:</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p> <p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p> <p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations, 2010 (S.I.538 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment)</p> <p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts</p> <p>DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources), Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines Forest Service (3000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources)</p> <p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p>	<p>DAFM to apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type and for the decommissioning of any temporary structures</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review of whether there is any category of forest road which might be considered lower risk, from an environmental and social perspective. Assuming there is, it would need to be verified through environmental assessment (using criteria set out in the SEA/EIA Habitats and Water)</p>
<p>Measure 1. Forest Road Scheme</p>	<p>Within the specific requirements for this Intervention and all measures within:</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p>	<p>DAFM to apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type and for the decommissioning of any temporary structures</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review of whether there is any category of forest road which might be considered lower risk, from an environmental and social perspective. Assuming there is, it would need to be verified through environmental assessment (using criteria set out in the SEA/EIA Habitats and Water)</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
Measure 2: Additional Element to Forest Road Scheme	<p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p> <p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (SI 558 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment)</p> <p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts</p> <p>DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines, Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources), Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines, Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources)</p> <p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p>	<p>Framework Directives) that a forest road of that type or scale is objectively a low environmental risk, subject to any site-specific considerations, such that it merits a permit procedure involving less control than a full licence. In each case it will be necessary for a prior AA and EIA screening to be carried out before the works proceed, with the right of DAFM to intervene to require AA or EIA to be carried out</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate post-construction environmental monitoring to all forest road creation</p>
Measure 2: Additional Element to Forest Road Scheme	<p>Within the specific requirements for this intervention and all measures within.</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based IFORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p> <p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p> <p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (SI 558 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p>	<p>DAFM to apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate post-construction environmental monitoring of all forest road creation</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Measure 3: Additional Element to Forest Road Scheme</p>	<p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natura Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment) Water Framework Directive Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p> <p>Within the specific requirements for this Intervention and all measures within All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based FORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply: The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017) European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 558 of 2010), as amended European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natura Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment) Water Framework Directive Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources</p>	
		<p>DAFM to apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type DAFM to incorporate post-construction environmental monitoring to all forest road creation DAFM to incorporate environmental monitoring of all water features created as part of this measure</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft iFSIP	Further Mitigation
	<p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p> <p>Within the specific requirements for this Intervention and all measures within:</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p> <p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p> <p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 1538 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment)</p> <p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts</p> <p>DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines Forest Service (2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources</p> <p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p>	<p>DAFM to apply pollution prevention guidelines as a mandatory requirement for construction of any forest road type</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate post-construction environmental monitoring to all forest road creation</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate environmental monitoring of all water features created as part of this measure</p>
Measure 8: Investment aid for the development of the forest tree nursery sector	<p>Within the specific requirements for this Intervention and all measures within:</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system), referral to</p>	<p>Any actions arising from this Measure to be reviewed for potential likely significant effects on European sites and whether they may fall under the definition of a project for plan which might require an AA Screening</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSP	Further Mitigation
<p>Main Requirements</p>	<p>statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p> <p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p> <p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 558 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment)</p> <p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts</p> <p>DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines, Forest Service C1000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines, Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources</p> <p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p>	
<p>Main Requirements</p>	<p>Within the specific requirements for this intervention and all measures within:</p> <p>All applications in relation to licensed activities that are part of this and all interventions will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk, field inspection (if required) and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system), referral to statutory consultees as required, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive, to ensure compatibility with the environment and to consider areas of habitat and species sensitivity within the project plan</p> <p>In assessing an application for a forestry licence, the Department is required to consider potential impacts across a range of issues and sensitivities. The following lists the primary components of the legal, regulatory and funding framework that apply:</p> <p>The Forestry Act 2014 (the Act) and the supplemental Forestry Regulation 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017)</p>	<p>Any future nurseries are subject to a Screening for AA</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
	<p>European Communities (Forest Consent & Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 558 of 2010), as amended</p> <p>European Union rules governing the Implementation Plan</p> <p>Legally protected species and habitats and associated designations (e.g., SAC, SPA, Natural Heritage Areas) and procedures (e.g., Appropriate Assessment)</p> <p>Water Framework Directive</p> <p>Legislation regarding archaeology and built heritage, including the National Monuments Acts</p> <p>DAFM requirements, procedures and protocols the Forestry Standards Manual, the relevant Forest Service Requirements and Guidelines including but not limited to Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines, Forest Service (2000) Department of the Marine and Natural Resources Forest Harvesting & the Environment Guidelines, Forest Service 2000 Department of the Marine and Natural Resources)</p> <p>Given the requirement for the AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) as part of any and all licensed activities, it is not anticipated that any of the measures within Intervention 3 shall pose the potential for likely significant effects to European sites and/or their QIs</p>	
Intervention 4 – Sustainable Forest Management		
Overall Objective	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process."</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>Any future measures and/or actions arising from this overall objective should be reviewed for potential likely significant effects on European sites and whether they may fall under the definition of a project for plan which might require an AA Screening</p>
Measure 1: Forest Management Scheme: Element 1: Thinning, tending and agroforestry	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats</p>	<p>All thinning related activities fall under the licensing requirement for forestry related activities</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review of whether there is any category of 'thinning' which might be considered lower risk, from an environmental and social perspective. Assuming there is, it would need to be verified through environmental assessment</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
Requirement	<p>Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process.</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>(using criteria set out in the SEA, EIA/Habitats and Water Framework Directives) that the 'thinning' activity is objectively a low environmental risk, subject to any site-specific considerations, such that it merits a permit or registration procedure involving less control than a full licence. In each case it will be necessary for a prior AA screening to be carried out before the works proceed, with the right of DAFM to intervene to require AA to be carried out, and a licence application to be made for the proposed 'thinning' activity. For public and larger forests, it would be most efficient to define and assess the proposed thinning activities in a forest management plan or equivalent, subject to prior AA. This recommendation would require legislative amendments and significant preparatory work and assessment to set the criteria for the appropriate level of regulatory control for the 'thinning' activities concerned.</p>
Requirement	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based FORIS system)."</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process."</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>All thinning related activities fall under the licensing requirement for forestry related activities</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review of whether there is any category of 'thinning' which might be considered lower risk, from an environmental and social perspective. Assuming there is, it would need to be verified through environmental assessment (using criteria set out in the SEA, EIA/Habitats and Water Framework Directives) that the 'thinning' activity is objectively a low environmental risk, subject to any site-specific considerations, such that it merits a permit or registration procedure involving less control than a full licence. In each case it will be necessary for a prior AA screening to be carried out before the works proceed, with the right of DAFM to intervene to require AA to be carried out, and a licence application to be made for the proposed 'thinning' activity. For public and larger forests, it would be most efficient to define and assess the proposed thinning activities in a forest management plan or equivalent, subject to prior AA. This recommendation would require legislative amendments and significant preparatory work and assessment to set the criteria for the appropriate level of regulatory control for the 'thinning' activities concerned.</p>

Intervention, Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Measure 2: Forest Management Scheme: Element 2 continuous cover forestry</p>	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4: "All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) " It is recommended that the following italicised text "<i>referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process.</i>" With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>All thinning related activities to fall under the licensing requirement for forestry related activities All Forest Owners receive support and training on biodiversity and AA obligations</p>
<p>Requirements</p>	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4: "All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) " It is recommended that the following italicised text "<i>referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process.</i>" With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>All thinning related activities fall under the licensing requirement for forestry related activities All Forest Owners to receive support and training on biodiversity and AA obligations</p>
<p>Measure 3: Forest Management Scheme: (Element 3 coppice and coppice with standards)</p>	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4: "All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) " It is recommended that the following italicised text "<i>referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process.</i>"</p>	<p>All thinning related activities fall under the licensing requirement for forestry related activities All Forest Owners to receive support and training on biodiversity and AA obligations</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Requirements</p> <p>Measure 6 Forest management plans (iPLAN scheme)</p>	<p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p> <p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "<i>referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process.</i>"</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>All thinning related activities fall under the licensing requirement for forestry related activities</p> <p>All Forest Owners to receive support and training on biodiversity and AA obligations</p>
	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "<i>referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process.</i>"</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>Support and training on biodiversity and Appropriate Assessment obligations under the Habitats Directive to be delivered to all users of the iPLAN scheme</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review builds on the methodology employed in the Indicative Forestry Statement (2008) by consulting with the public and key stakeholders on the relevant data sets which may be available", reliable, and relevant to be incorporated into the spatial mapping process, and the criteria which should be used to determine the categories (and sub-categories, if required) of areas which may be identified as suitable or unsuitable, perhaps with more granular breakdown of the type of forests which may be suitable in certain areas. As the goal is to move towards a more plan-led approach to forestry licensing, the objective should be to produce an up-to-date spatial map which will guide and support current and future forest policies and programmes, attract afforestation to the right areas, while respecting obligations under EU environmental directives. For this reason, prior to the adoption of any up-to-date version of the Indicative Forestry Statement and spatial map, it would be necessary to ensure that it is subject to assessment under the SEA and Habitats Directives. This would then potentially allow DAFM to filter licence applications by reference to that document and the spatial categorisation, by reference to (i)</p>

Intervention, Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFISIP	Further Mitigation
Measure 7: Native woodland conservation	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based IFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for ELA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process."</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>those which are more likely to be favourably considered from an environmental perspective, (ii) those which will require much greater levels of technical scrutiny, and (iii) those which are likely to be given less favourable consideration unless significant mitigations are proposed and carefully assessed</p> <p>This would allow DAFM to deploy specialist resources where they are most needed, and to support the EU Forest Strategy 2030 for the right tree in the right place and for the right purpose</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate environmental monitoring on all sites where native woodland conservation occurs</p>
Main requirements	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based IFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for ELA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process."</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate environmental monitoring on all sites where native woodland conservation occurs</p>
Measure 8: Environmental enhancement scheme	<p>Mitigation stated within the overall objective for Intervention 4:</p> <p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based IFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for ELA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process."</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>Support and training on biodiversity and AA obligations under the Habitats Directive to be delivered to all users</p>

Intervention, Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Main requirements</p>	<p>"All applications in relation to schemes that are part of this intervention will undergo a detailed project evaluation by the Department (via desk and field inspections, where required, and use of the GIS-based iFORIS system) "</p> <p>It is recommended that the following italicised text "<i>referral to statutory consultees, AA Screening and Appropriate Assessment (where required) under the Habitats Directive and screening for EIA to ensure compatibility with the environment. It is a mandatory requirement that all applications adhere to the environmental guidance set out within the guideline documents in Section 7.1 within the licensing application process</i>"</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate environmental monitoring as an aspect of this measure</p>
<p>Intervention 5: Developing skills and empowering people for SFM</p>		
<p>Measure 1: Forestry knowledge transfer groups (KTGs)</p>	<p>Mitigation recommendations for this Measure are found in the adjoining column</p>	<p>All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including applicants, landowners, licensed foresters etc receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review that DAFM Inspectors and other personnel directly involved in decision making are provided with regular access to relevant training opportunities, both internal and external, to keep abreast of relevant developments in EU and domestic environmental law, and the appropriate methodological approach to carrying out screening for AA and screening for EIA (where applicable) and assessing the implications for water quality and species. All personnel involved in the preparation of licence decisions would benefit from periodic refresher training on the duty to give reasons under section 7(3) of the Forestry Act and Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Forestry Regulations, which will include the reasons for the AA screening / AA determination</p>
<p>Measure 2: Training call for proposals</p>	<p>Mitigation recommendations for this Measure are found in the adjoining column</p>	<p>All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including applicants, landowners, licensed foresters etc to receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review that DAFM Inspectors and other personnel directly involved in decision making are provided with regular</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Intervention 6 – Open Forests</p>	<p>Text outlined within the Draft IFSIP pertaining to Intervention 6 states: <i>“Applications for new forests will be submitted through the Afforestation Scheme as mentioned in intervention 1.”</i></p> <p>All afforestation applications as part of Intervention 1 are required to adhere to and provide the following:</p> <p>The mandatory requirements relevant to the AA process found within the Draft IFSIP are:</p> <p>All initial afforestation applications are screened for appropriate assessment (AA) to determine whether the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 sites), in view of the site’s conservation objectives</p> <p>Afforestation applications within European sites (SAC or SPA) will only be approved if they are compatible with the conservation objectives of the European site and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned</p> <p>The Minister has an obligation, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of SI 191 of 2017 to refuse an application if, in his or her opinion, the proposed development is likely to have significant adverse impact on nature conservation</p> <p>Public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, insofar as the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are relevant to those functions, shall—</p> <p>(a) take the appropriate steps to avoid, in candidate special protection areas, pollution and deterioration of habitats and any disturbances affecting the birds insofar as these would be significant in relation to the objectives of Article 4 of the Birds Directive.</p>	<p>access to relevant training opportunities, both internal and external, to keep abreast of relevant developments in EU and domestic environmental law, and the appropriate methodological approach to carrying out screening for AA and screening for EIA (where applicable) and assessing the implications for water quality and species. All personnel involved in the preparation of license decisions would benefit from periodic refresher training on the duty to give reasons under section 7(3) of the Forestry Act and Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Forestry Regulations, which will include the reasons for the AA screening / AA determination</p>
<p>Specific Requirements</p>	<p>Follow-up environmental monitoring of the new forests created as part of Intervention 2</p> <p>DAFM to integrate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review to develop mandatory of ‘no-go’ zones and ‘go-to’ or preferred areas for afforestation</p>	

Intervention, Measure, Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSP	Further Mitigation
<p>Measure 2: The active forest</p>	<p>(b) outside those areas, strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats, and</p> <p>(c) take appropriate enforcement action</p> <p>The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, SI 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements for all afforestation licence applications and considering that an afforestation licence is required for the Measures found within Intervention, it is not anticipated that Intervention 1 shall pose a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, and/or their QIs</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p> <p>Text outlined within the Draft IFSP pertaining to Intervention 6 states:</p> <p><i>"Applications for new forests will be submitted through the Afforestation Scheme as mentioned in intervention 1"</i></p> <p>All afforestation applications as part of Intervention 1 are required to adhere to and provide the following:</p> <p>The mandatory requirements relevant to the AA process found within the Draft IFSP are:</p> <p>All initial afforestation applications are screened for appropriate assessment (AA) to determine whether the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 sites), in view of the site's conservation objectives</p> <p>Afforestation applications within European sites (SAC or SPA) will only be approved if they are compatible with the conservation objectives of the European site and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned</p> <p>The Minister has an obligation, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of SI 191 of 2017 to refuse an application if, in his or her opinion, the proposed development is likely to have significant adverse impact on nature conservation</p> <p>Public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, insofar as the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are relevant to those functions, shall—</p>	<p>Follow-up environmental monitoring to be carried out on forests created as part of the Neighbourhood Scheme</p> <p>DAFM to incorporate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review to develop mandatory of 'no-go' zones and 'go-to' or preferred areas for afforestation</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
	<p>(a) take the appropriate steps to avoid, in candidate special protection areas, pollution and deterioration of habitats and any disturbances affecting the birds insofar as these would be significant in relation to the objectives of Article 4 of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>(b) outside those areas, strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats, and</p> <p>(c) take appropriate enforcement action</p> <p>The schemes as applied must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements for all afforestation licence applications and considering that an afforestation licence is required for the Measures found within Intervention, it is not anticipated that Intervention 1 shall pose a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites and/or their QIs</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	
Requirements	<p>The potential for likely significant effects is mitigated through the implementation of mitigation identified within Measure 2 (above)</p>	<p>All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including foresters, advisors, contractors etc. to receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations under the Habitats Directive</p>
Measure 3: Heartwoods Environmental Target and Requirements	<p>Text outlined within the Draft IFSIP pertaining to Intervention 6 states:</p> <p><i>“Applications for new forests will be submitted through the Afforestation Scheme as mentioned in intervention 1”</i></p> <p>All afforestation applications as part of Intervention 1 are required to adhere to and provide the following:</p> <p>The mandatory requirements relevant to the AA process found within the Draft IFSIP are:</p> <p>All initial afforestation applications are screened for appropriate assessment (AA) to determine whether the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site (i.e. Natura 2000 sites), in view of the site’s conservation objectives</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate the recommendation of the Independent Regulatory Review to develop mandatory ‘no-go’ zones and ‘go-to’ areas for afforestation</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
	<p>Afforestation applications within European sites (SAC or SPA) will only be approved if they are compatible with the conservation objectives of the European site and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.</p> <p>The Minister has an obligation, pursuant to Regulation 20(3) of SI 191 of 2017 to refuse an application if, in his or her opinion, the proposed development is likely to have significant adverse impact on nature conservation.</p> <p>Public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, insofar as the requirements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are relevant to those functions, shall—</p> <p>(a) take the appropriate steps to avoid, in candidate special protection areas, pollution and deterioration of habitats and any disturbances affecting the birds insofar as these would be significant in relation to the objectives of Article 4 of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>(b) outside those areas, strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats, and</p> <p>(c) take appropriate enforcement action</p> <p>The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used.</p> <p>In lieu of the above requirements for all afforestation licence applications and considering that an afforestation licence is required for the Measures found within Intervention, it is not anticipated that Intervention 1 shall pose a likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites and/or their QIs.</p> <p>With the implementation of the above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites.</p>	
<p>Intervention 7- Climate Resilient Reforestation</p> <p>Overall Objective</p>	<p>Text within the overall objective of Intervention 7 states:</p> <p><i>“Mandatory replant conditions are determined as per Felling and Reforestation Policy (DAFM, 2017) and are consistent with Sustainable Forest Management Principles ... And “In addition to mandatory requirements set under replanting conditions, all interventions will be subject to the DAFM-Forest Service Forestry Standards, including the accepted species, origin and provenance list”</i></p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate follow up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 7</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
	<p>In addition, the following text pertaining to Intervention 7 states:</p> <p><i>“Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums requires landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These includes a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. The replanting condition and other statutory obligations are determined as part of granting of the felling license Under the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017.”</i></p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S.I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	
<p>Measure 1: Resilient reforestation (Element 1: Reforestation for continuous cover forestry)</p>	<p>The following text pertaining to Intervention 7 states:</p> <p><i>“Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums requires landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These includes a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. The replanting condition and other statutory obligations are determined as part of granting of the felling license Under the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017.”</i></p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S.I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM incorporate follow to up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 7</p>
<p>Measure 2: Resilient reforestation (Element 2: Reforestation for native woodlands)</p>	<p>Text within the main requirements of Measure 2 states ‘<i>The Native Woodland Scheme Framework applies</i>’.</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate follow up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 7</p>

Intervention, Measure, Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSIP	Further Mitigation
<p>Measure 3: Resilient reforestation: Element 3 (Reforestation for Biodiversity and water protection.)</p>	<p>Requirements for the Native Woodland Scheme Framework includes the application of the Forest Service AA procedure and further safeguards for the environment¹⁰⁰ In addition, further text states: “<i>Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums requires landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These include a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation The replanting condition and other statutory obligations are determined as part of granting of the felling license Under the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017.</i>”</p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S.I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	
	<p>The following text pertaining to intervention 7 states:</p> <p>“<i>Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums requires landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These include a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation The replanting condition and other statutory obligations are determined as part of granting of the felling license Under the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017.</i>”</p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S.I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate follow up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 7</p>

¹⁰⁰ DAFM (2015) Native Woodland Conservation Scheme. September 2015. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine. Accessed at <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/2015-03-native-woodland-conservation-scheme/>, on 10/10/2022.

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSP	Further Mitigation
<p>Intervention 8 – Reconstitution</p> <p>Overall Objective</p>	<p>Text within the Draft IFSP pertaining to Intervention 8 states:</p> <p>Explanation as to how the commitment goes beyond mandatory requirements</p> <p><i>Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums require landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These include a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used.</i></p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate follow up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 8</p>
<p>Measure 1: Reconstitution Scheme</p>	<p>Text within the Draft IFSP pertaining to Intervention 8 states:</p> <p>Explanation as to how the commitment goes beyond mandatory requirements</p> <p><i>Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums require landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These include a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used.</i></p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites. With the implementation of the above.</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate follow up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 8</p>

Intervention Measure Requirement	Pre-existing Mitigation within the draft IFSP	Further Mitigation
Requirements	<p>it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p> <p>Text within the Draft IFSP pertaining to Intervention 8 states:</p> <p>Explanation as to how the commitment goes beyond mandatory requirements</p> <p><i>Whilst the schemes align with specific objectives of Article 6, the requirements for payments for grants and premiums require landowners to include specific measures, which are assessed by Department Inspectors. These include a suite of mandatory measures relating to biodiversity, environmental protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The schemes as applied, must be in compliance with the Forestry Act, 2014, S.I 191 of 2017 (as amended) and existing forestry requirements, such as adherence to the standards set out in the Forestry Standards Manual, Environmental Requirements for Afforestation and the Land Types for Afforestation. These include specific requirements with regard to establishment, land types, environmental protection, forest design, a prescribed list of species/provenance and origin for the planting material used.</i></p> <p>With the requirement that schemes be in compliance with the Forestry Act 2014 S.I 191 of 2017 in addition to the mandatory adherence to the suite of documents aforementioned above, it is not anticipated that this objective shall pose any potential for likely significant effects to European sites</p>	<p>DAFM to incorporate follow up environmental monitoring for sites that fall under Intervention 8</p>

Table 4 Mitigation Measures set out in the NIR (as they relate to Goals and Actions)

Goal & Action	Mitigation
Action 6 - Engage with forest owners through Forestry Knowledge Transfer Groups to develop skills and expertise across the forestry sector	<p>All Forest Owners receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations</p> <p>All licensed Foresters receive education and training on AA obligations and the potential risks to the key receptors. Such training should encompass guidance on the identification of receptors, the risk, pressures and threats they face and measures to avoid</p>
Action 9 - Review, implement and build on the recommendations of the independent Regulatory Review of the existing statutory framework for the licensing of forestry activities in relation to environmental and public participation obligations	<p>Any recommendations or actions arising from the independent Regulatory Review be subject to a Screening for AA where relevant</p>
Action 10 - Support the work of the Land use Review Group to ensure that balanced land use options inform forest establishment decisions	<p>Any 'optimal land use options' recommended by the Land use Review Group relating to forest establishment be subject to AA Screening</p>
Action 11 - Align tree planting measures in Agri-Environment Schemes with forest creation support measures	<p>All tree planting measures in Agri-Environment Schemes facilitate education and training to all involved parties regarding biodiversity and AA obligations</p>
Action 14 - Provide advice, training, and research on farm forestry and related matters	<p>All involved in the provision of advice, training and research on farm forestry receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations</p>

Goal & Action	Mitigation
Action 15 - Promote forests and forestry on the public forest estate through the provision of recreation areas, the development of visitor destinations, and knowledge transfer initiatives on the multifunctional role of forests in our society.	The provision of recreation areas and development of visitor destinations be subject to Screening for AA where applicable
Goal - Incentives for forest creation and management New incentives for the establishment and management of diverse, multifunctional forests that strengthen the economic viability of rural communities, protect our environment and are resilient in the face of climate change.	Any future support scheme within the Draft IFSP should be reviewed for potential likely significant effects on European sites and whether they may fall under the definition of a project or plan which might require AA Screening
Action 20 – Update the reference standard for forest practice in Ireland	The reference standard for forest practice reflects obligations that fall under the Habitats Directive, best available science and so as to avoid inappropriate or inadequate regard to Natura 2000 sites and that an AA Screening be prepared for any updated reference standard as necessary
Action 28 – Review and assess the training needs of those who are directly involved in submitting forestry licence applications	All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including applicants, landowners, licensed foresters etc receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations
Action 30 - Establish forest Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTGs) to increase the standard of forest management activity amongst participating forest owners	All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including applicants, landowners, licensed foresters etc receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations
Action 31 - Provide support for ongoing continuous professional development among forest professionals, including foresters, ecologists, forest operatives and advisors	All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including foresters, advisors, contractors etc receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations
Goal – Forest Expansion A major expansion of climate resilient and healthy forests following the principles of sustainable forest management and the right trees in the right places for the right reasons with the right management	All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including applicants, landowners, licensed foresters etc receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations
Action 38 – Provide advisory and knowledge transfer services to support landowners in the forest establishment decision	All persons involved in the forestry licence application process, including applicants, landowners, licensed foresters etc receive education and training on the biodiversity and AA obligations
Action 42 – Implement support schemes for the reconstitution of forests following significant damage by natural causes	All cases considered in the reconstitution scheme undergo a Screening for AA, and where applicable, a Stage 2 NIS
Action 43 – Implement redesign and habitat restoration measures for forests on peatlands based on the best available science	All cases relating to habitat redesign and restoration for forests on peatland be subject to a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and where applicable, a Stage 2 NIS
Action 44 - DAFM will encourage alignment of its actions to support the actions in the Climate Action Plan on the Built Environment including standards, research and technologies	Ensure alignment with other national, regional and local level plans such as the Biodiversity Action Plan, the Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000, River Basin Management Plans etc., where applicable elsewhere in the Draft IFSP
Goal – Supply An expansion at scale to continue to increase the supply of sustainable raw material from Ireland's forest resource. A critical component will be efficient and effective licensing and regulatory procedures. Also, investment in research and development in the supply chain employing innovative technologies is to be prioritised	Any future support scheme as part of this overall Goal should be reviewed for potential likely significant effects on European sites and whether they may fall under the definition of a project or plan which might require AA Screening
Goal – Native Forest Expansion A major expansion of native forests and improved diversity of native tree species in new and existing forests	Any future support scheme as part of this overall Goal should be reviewed for potential likely significant effects on European sites and whether they may fall under the definition of a project or plan which might require AA Screening

Goal & Action	Mitigation
<p>Goal – Protecting and Restoring Natural Heritage and Ecosystem Services Forestry practices will safeguard and enhance the quality of Ireland’s air, water, soils, landscapes, habitats and population of protected species. This includes support and funding for the provision of non-timber ecosystem services</p>	<p>All actions as part of this Goal incorporate a Screening for AA and Ecological Impact Assessment for any forestry activities to review the potential for likely significant effects on European sites</p>
<p>Action 64 - Support the establishment and natural regeneration of native forest on post-industrial cutaway peatlands, where appropriate</p>	<p>All projects that fall under this category of 'natural regeneration of native forest on post-industrial cutaway peatlands, where appropriate' be subject to a Screening for AA, and where applicable, a Stage 2 NIS to assess the potential for likely significant effects</p>
<p>Action 66 - Implement the restoration and conservation of forests in state-owned properties, particularly National Parks and Nature Reserves</p>	<p>All cases for the implementation and conservation of forests in state-owned properties, including National Parks and Nature Reserves be subject to a Screening for AA, and where applicable, a Stage 2 NIS</p>
<p>Action 71 - Review and expand the Neighbourhood Scheme to support the creation of new public amenity forests and the enhancement of existing forests for public access, education, recreation and health and wellbeing for rural and urban communities</p>	<p>All cases relating to the expansion of the Neighbourhood forests be subject to a Screening for AA, and where applicable, a Stage 2 NIS</p>
<p>Action 79 - Establishment of a number of pilot areas to develop a plan led approach to afforestation in collaboration with stakeholders. These pilot areas will help inform a national approach to plan led afforestation.</p>	<p>All cases relating to the establishment of pilot areas to develop a plan led approach to afforestation be subject to a Screening for AA, and where applicable, a Stage 2 NIS</p>

