

# Draft Adare Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030 | VOLUME 3B



LIMERICK **ADARE**

Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City  
& County Council

Forward Planning  
19th August 2023



# Adare Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Natura Impact Report

August 2023

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Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
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## Purpose

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## Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
BSBI	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland
CDP	Limerick Development Plan
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
DoEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EC	European Communities
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environment Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FRS	Flood Relief Scheme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FPO	Flora Protection Order
GSI	Geological Survey Ireland
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest
LAP	Local Area Plan
LCCC	Limerick City and County Council
NIR	Natura Impact Report
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator
QI	Qualifying Interest
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant
Zol	Zone of Influence

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd. (hereafter JBA) has been commissioned by Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) to prepare an Natura Impact Report (NIR) for the proposed Adare Local Area Plan (LAP) 2024-2030 (Volume 1) and Adare Public Realm Plan 2024-2030 (Volume 2).

This Plan has also been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

## 1.2 The 'Project'

The Proposed Plan is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of any European Sites (Natura 2000) and may have potential adverse impacts upon the European Sites identified in Section 4. Therefore, the Draft plan is subject to the requirements of the AA process.

## 1.3 Legislative Context

The 'Habitats Directive' (European Commission 1992) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance contributing to biodiversity conservation in the European Union. The directive requires measures to be taken to maintain or restore habitats and species of European Community interest, at a favourable conservation status (Article 2 - Council Directive 92/43/EEC, 1992). The establishment European Sites, a network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and associated animal species (European Commission 1992) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the conservation of birds (European Commission 2009), provides the legislative means to achieve the necessary conservation objectives.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans or projects affecting European Sites (European Commission 2018).

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

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

Article 6(4) sets out the measure that should be taken when it is determined, as a result of Appropriate Assessment, that a plan/project will adversely affect a European site. Issues dealing with alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures need to be addressed in this case.

Article 6(4) states:

*"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted."*

*Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."*

The requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive have been transposed into Irish legislation by means of *inter alia* European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

## 1.4 Appropriate Assessment Process

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process was produced by the European Commission in 2002, which was subsequently developed into guidance specifically for Ireland by the Department of

Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009, rev 2010). Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) produced a Practice Note in 2021, PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR 2021). These guidance documents identify a staged approach to conducting an AA, as shown Figure 1-1.

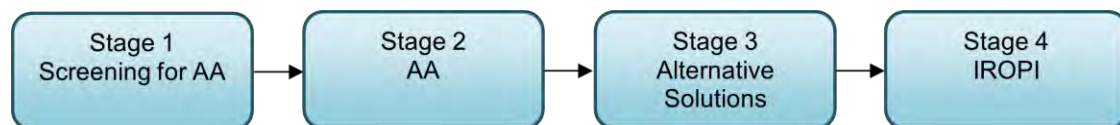


Figure 1-1: The Appropriate Assessment Process (from: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, DEHLG, 2009)

#### 1.4.1 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

The initial, screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine:

- whether the proposed plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European designated site for nature conservation
- if it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the European designated site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

For those sites where potential adverse impacts are identified, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, further assessment is necessary to determine if the proposals will have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European designated site, in view of the site's conservation objectives (i.e., the process proceeds to Stage 2).

#### 1.4.2 Stage 2 - AA

This stage requires a more in-depth evaluation of the plan or project, and the potential direct and indirect impacts of them on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone and in combination with other plans and projects, taking into account the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where required, mitigation or avoidance measures will be suggested.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s) concerned. If this cannot be determined, and where mitigation cannot be achieved, then alternative solutions will need to be considered (i.e., the process proceeds to Stage 3).

#### 1.4.3 Stage 3 - Alternative Solutions

Where adverse impacts on the integrity of European Sites are identified, and mitigation cannot be satisfactorily implemented, alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts need to be considered. If none can be found, the process proceeds to Stage 4.

#### 1.4.4 Stage 4 - IROPI

Where adverse impacts of a plan or project on the integrity of European Sites are identified and no alternative solutions exist, the plan will only be allowed to progress if imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be demonstrated. In this case compensatory measures will be required.

The process only proceeds through each of the four stages for certain plans or projects. For example, for a plan or project, not connected with management of a site, but where no likely significant impacts are identified, the process stops at stage 1. Throughout the process, the precautionary principle must be applied, so that any uncertainties do not result in adverse impacts on a site.

This report is in support of a Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Stage 2: Natura Impact Report.

#### 1.4.5 Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) Rulings

The CJEU has issued rulings on development plans, which are used to inform this assessment.

In *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)* [2018] the ruling stated that measures intended to reduce or avoid effects on a Natura 2000 site should only be considered within the framework of an Appropriate Assessment, and it is not permissible to take into account such

measures at the screening stage. In practice, this means that any activities that are not integral to the project (i.e., the project could conceivably take place without them) and have the effect of avoiding or reducing an impact on a Natura 2000 site, cannot be considered at the screening stage.

The CJEU ruling in *Grace & Sweetman (C-164/17)* [2018] clarified the difference between avoidance and reduction (mitigation) measures and compensation. Measures intended to compensate for the negative effects of a project cannot be considered in the assessment of the implications of a project, and instead are considered under Article 6(4). This means that any project where an effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site remains and can only be offset by compensation, would need to proceed under Article 6(4), demonstrating “imperative reasons of overriding public interest”.

The judgements referred to as the *Dutch Nitrogen cases (C -293/17 and C -294/17)* [2018] have important implications for projects that could potentially impact on sites that are exceeding critical thresholds for input of damaging ammonia (but could also reasonably apply where other nutrients are impacting European Sites). The judgements state that the use of thresholds to exclude project impacts is acceptable in principle, and that strategic plans can be used as mitigation but only with consideration of the certainty (or otherwise) of the outcomes of those strategic plans. It clarifies that where the status of a habitat type is already unfavourable the possibility of authorising activities which increase the problem is necessarily limited.

In the case of *Holohan v An Bord Pleanála (C-461/17)* [2018] provided clarification on the importance of an Appropriate Assessment to take into account habitat types and species outside the boundary of the Natura 2000 site where implications of the impacts on those habitat and species may impact the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. In this assessment functionally linked and supporting habitat for species outside of European Sites are assessed where they could potentially impact the conservation objectives of any screened in European Sites.

## 1.5 Methodology

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Report has been prepared having regard to the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-15 as amended and relevant jurisprudence of the EU and Irish courts. The following documents have also been used to provide guidance for the assessment:

- DEHLG (2009 rev 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG, 2009).
- Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) OPR Practice Note PN01 - Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR 2021).
- Commission Notice C (2018) - Managing European Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. European Commission (European Commission 2018).
- EC (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, and opinion of the commission. European Commission Management (European Commission, 2007).
- EC (2021) Assessment of plans and projects in relation to European Sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2021)
- CIEEM (2018). Guidelines and checklist for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine, Second Ed. (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental), updated 2022.

### 1.5.1 Desktop study

A desktop study was conducted of available published and unpublished information, along with a review of data available on the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) and Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) web-based databases, in order to identify key habitats and species (including legally protected and species of conservation concern) that may be

present within ecologically relevant distances from the project as explained below. The data sources below were consulted for the desktop study:

- Aerial photography available from [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie) and Esri World Imagery.
- NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) where Natura 2000 site synopses, data forms and conservation objectives were obtained along with Annex I habitat distribution data and status reports.
- River Basin Management Plans ([www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie))
- NBDC Biodiversity Maps ([maps.biodiversityireland.ie](http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie))
- BSBI plant distribution maps (<https://bsbi.org/maps>)
- Catchments ([www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie))
- Environmental Protection Agency Maps (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps>)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) website ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie))
- GSI - Groundwater data viewer (<https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com>)
- Planning Applications ([myplan.ie](http://myplan.ie))

### 1.5.2 Site Visit

A multidisciplinary walk over was undertaken on 29th March 2023 by the Limerick City and County Council forward planning team and heritage officer, the SEA consultants from Minogue Associates and the JBA Ecologist in preparation for the AA Screening report/NIS.

### 1.5.3 In-combination Assessment

The in-combination assessment followed the process for in-combination set out by the DTA Handbook (Tyldesley and Chapman 2013). The in-combination impacts are considered only after the assessment of the project alone. If the result of this is that the project will have no effect at all on a European site, then no in-combination assessment would be necessary. However, where there is no adverse effect on site integrity, but some adverse effect an assessment of this adverse effect in-combination with other plans or projects is carried out. Other plans or projects were searched for using the National Planning Application Database, EIA portal and Myplan.ie databases all accessed online. If no other plans or projects are identified, then the assessment is complete. Where other plans or projects are identified then initially a review is made of its AA screening, or AA, and if the Competent Authority for the plan or project has made a final determination of no effect on the integrity of any European site, either alone or in-combination, this determination is used in this assessment. Where there is not a full AA, or the findings are unclear or out of date, the plan or project documentation is checked for credible evidence of real (not hypothetical) risk to a European site. Where these are identified then a detailed assessment is carried out. A summary of the approach is presented in Figure 1-2.

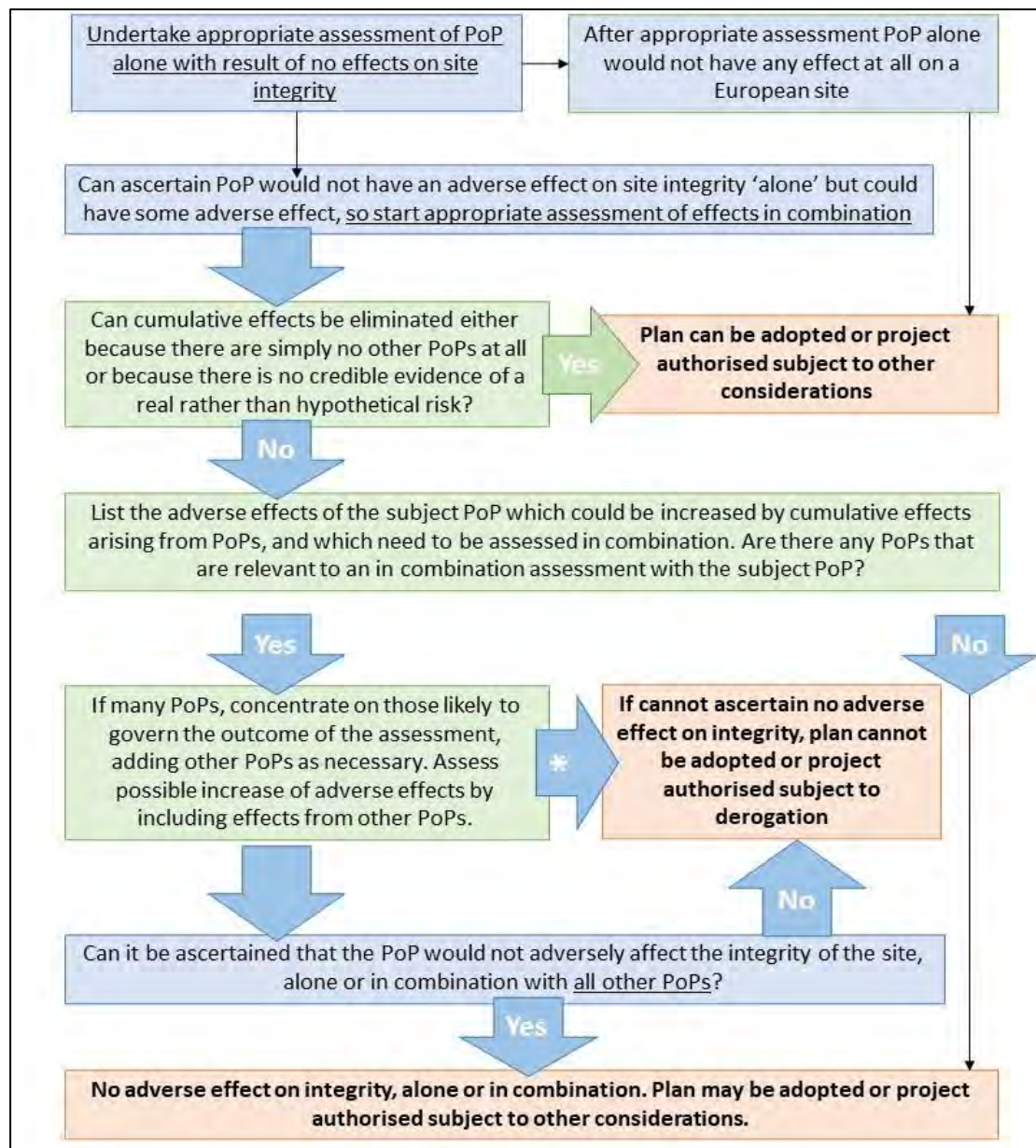


Figure 1-2: Flow diagram of process for in-combination assessment (modified from Tyldesley and Chapman, 2013)

Potential sources of cumulative impacts were identified based on the ecology of valued ecological features only for features where this is a residual or non-significant impact. Potential sources of cumulative impacts were sought within an area where there is the potential for a significant impact on relevant European Sites identified in Section 4.

## 1.6 Limitations and constraints

The assessment necessarily relies on some assumptions, and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. These would not affect the conclusion, but the following points are recorded to ensure the basis of the assessment is clear:

- The LAP is a higher-level plan. Therefore, this assessment cannot include any detailed assessment of any projects that may arise as a result of implementation of this Plan. Where broad level assessments are required to determine the potential for cumulative or in-combination impacts, the precautionary principle is used.
- Much of the implementation and monitoring of the plan is dependent on collaboration with stakeholders and a range of agencies. The implementation of the Plan will also depend on the

economic climate, political support, council funding and availability of funding from other sources. It is not possible to predict with certainty where these can be relied upon or where unpredictable changes will occur. However, the assumption is made that in all instances legislation will be followed and further AA will occur where needed by the Competent Authority.

- Any changes to the Plan will require re-assessment by a suitably qualified Ecologist to determine if further screening and assessment will be required. In all instances of this assessment, the precautionary principle is used.

## 2 Description of Draft Adare LAP and Public Realm Plan

### 2.1 Introduction

The Adare Local Area Plan (LAP) is a legal document consisting of a public statement of Limerick City and County Council's planning policies for the village of Adare. This plan, when adopted will replace the existing Adare LAP 2015 - 2021, extended to February 2024. The aim of the LAP is to establish a framework for the planned, coordinated, and sustainable development of the village of Adare, including the conservation and enhancement of its natural and built environment.

This Adare Public Realm Plan 2024-2030 (included as Volume 2 of the LAP) seeks to provide a more detailed spatial framework for the public areas of Adare village.

Both the Draft LAP (Volume 1) and the Public Realm Plan (Volume 2) should be read in conjunction with the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, which sets out the overarching development strategy for the administrative area of Limerick City and County Council.

### 2.2 Adare Location

Adare Village is located approximately 18km south west of Limerick City on the busy National Road (N21), which is the main tourist and traffic route serving the south west of the country. The River Maigue is situated to the east of the town. The river flows north and is a tributary of the River Shannon, with tidal influence, and forms an important element in the local landscape. Adare Manor Demesne holds a large area of land to the east of the village and is characterised by maintained grassland (Golf course), woodlands and mature trees, historic buildings and formal avenues. The old Limerick to Foynes railway line runs to the north west of the village.

The population of Adare was 1,129 in the 2016 Census (Central Statistics Office, 2023), representing a 2% increase on the 2011 population. Latest population figures released from the Census 2022 identifies the population in Adare as 1,224 however no breakdown of the population profile is available yet. The population growth target for the village is a population of 1,455 people by 2028 as set out in the Limerick Development Plan 2022—2028. Adare is identified as a Level 4 Large Village in the Limerick Development Plan and is allocated population growth of 29% on its 2016 population up until 2028. The location of Adare in relation to County Limerick is shown in Figure 2-1.



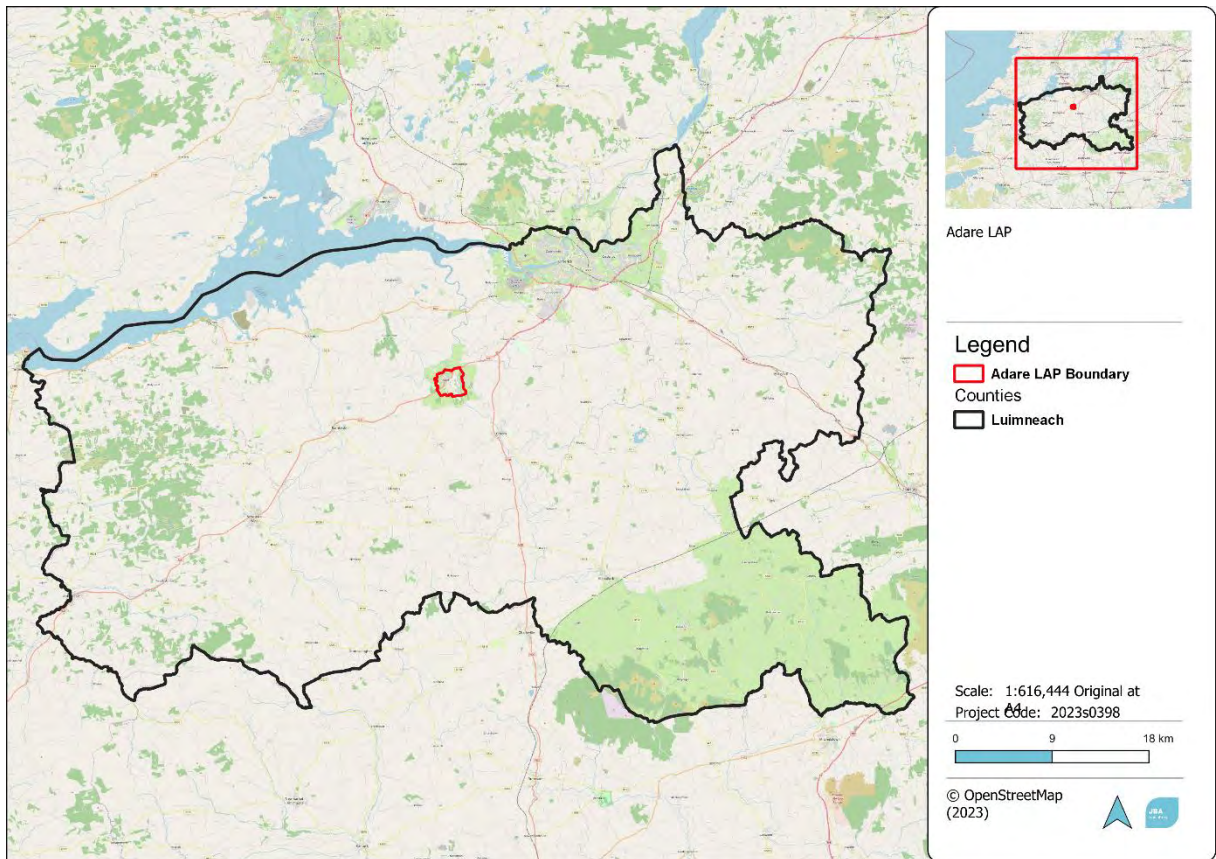


Figure 2-1: Site location and boundary of work

### 2.3 Adare LAP description (Volume 1)

The purpose of the Draft Adare Local Area Plan is to set out the policies and objectives that will guide the sustainable future growth of the village between 2024-2030 and beyond, and to ensure alignment with the provisions of higher-level planning policy.

The strategic vision for Adare is to fulfil the role of a Level 4 Large Village as identified in the Limerick Development Plan. This will include the provision for growth in population and employment, through a mix of high-quality residential development (choice and tenure), education and employment opportunities, sustainable mobility choices, a strengthened retail/commercial village centre, community infrastructure, active lifestyles and recreational choices, while sustaining Adare’s unique heritage assets. The future development of Adare will provide for low carbon, sustainable and consolidated growth in a coherent spatial manner.

**Overall Strategic Development Objectives:**

1. Seek the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the existing built environment, in accordance with the objectives for compact growth in higher-level spatial plans, through appropriate infill, brownfield and greenfield development, supported by the necessary physical and community infrastructure.
2. Promote sustainable economic development, enterprise and employment opportunities, prioritising the village centre, as the primary location for retail and services.
3. Promote and facilitate sustainable modes of transport, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, whilst protecting and improving existing road infrastructure.
4. Protect, conserve and enhance the built environment, through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation and ensuring quality urban design principles are applied to all new developments, respecting historic and architectural heritage.

5. Protect, enhance and connect areas of natural heritage, blue green infrastructure and open space for the benefits of quality of life and biodiversity, capitalising on climate action and flood risk measures.
6. Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles apply to all new developments having regard to the proposed Public Realm Plan set out in Volume 2 of this Plan.
7. Have cognisance of the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 - 2024, and any climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that emerge during the lifetime of this plan.
8. Guide the future development of Adare, in accordance with the Town Centre First policy approach seeking to bring people and appropriate business/services back into the heart of Adare through place-making, good quality urban design, and sustainable mobility as promoted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and the Heritage and the Department of Rural and Community Development.
9. Ensure the future development of Adare supports the transition to a low carbon society and economy, implementing national policy to reduce gas emissions, improve environmental quality and contribute to national targets for climate change.
10. Seek opportunities with relevant stakeholders for inward investment to the village, including national funding schemes and other initiatives, as they arise.

## 2.4 Adare Public Realm (Volume 2)

The Adare Public Realm Plan 2024-2030 (included as Volume 2 of the LAP) seeks to provide a more detailed spatial framework for the public areas of Adare village, which is likely to undergo significant change within the coming years as a result of the following:

- Climate adaptation in the form of flood defence works
- A bypass to reduce traffic and noise which was approved by An Bord Pleanála in August 2022
- A greenway connection to improve access and add to Adare's amenity offer
- The Ryder Cup is to be held at Adare Manor Hotel in 2027

While the Public Realm Plan aligns and adheres to the objectives outlined in the Local Area Plan, it also addresses broader strategic issues that are more closely associated with detailed design outcomes. In Adare's case, the Public Realm Plan also includes detailed material palettes and specifications.

The Adare Public Realm Plan is strategically aligned with and contributes to the Strategic Objectives set out within the Limerick Development Plan Layout of the Public Realm Plan.

The Layout of the Plan includes:

- Chapter 1 defines the Public Realm and sets out the aims and scope of the Plan.
- Chapter 2 examines Adare's Public Realm by looking in detail at what makes the village so unique in terms of its history, landscape and built heritage.
- Chapters 3 sets out the vision for the future and the challenges to this. It is broken down into three main areas: starting from the zoomed out perspective of the overall sustainable green structure of the village, then looking to the Mague River at the median scale, and finally at a more granular level, The Main Street. Each of these areas is analysed to establish its challenges, and then elaborated upon to provide design principles and proposals for the adaptation and transformation of these spaces.
- Chapter 4 sets out a suggested delivery and phasing plan that demonstrates how the projects can be incrementally implemented through the active support of residents, stakeholders and Limerick City and County Council.

## 3 Existing Environment

This section summarises the presence of any habitats or species protected under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (Annexes) known to be present within the Adare Plan boundaries and its surroundings. All relevant baseline data is information on the conditions necessary for the maintenance of European sites. This section also outlines the surface and ground water bodies present in Adare.

### 3.1 Annex species

A search of the 10km tetrad (R44) in which Adare is located was undertaken using the National Biodiversity Database (NBDC, 2023).

#### 3.1.1 Terrestrial mammals

The following Annexed terrestrial mammals were recorded, all of which are protected under the EU Habitats Directives (Annex II, IV, V).

- European Otter *Lutra lutra*: EU Habitats Directive Annex II
- Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*: EU Habitats Directive Annex II
- Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Lesser Noctule *Nyctalus leisleri*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Nathusius's Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Natterer's Bat *Myotis nattereri*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*: EU Habitats Directive Annex IV
- Pine Marten *Martes martes*: EU Habitats Directive Annex V

##### 3.1.1.1 Lesser Horseshoe Bat

There are five known lesser horseshoe bat roosts within Adare Local Area Plan, which are monitored by NPWS. Details the lesser horseshoe bat roosts have been reviewed via NPWS (sensitive data request via LCCC Heritage Officer) which include summer roosts, satellite roosts and hibernacula.

There are no known maternity roosts located within Adare. The nearest SAC designated for Lesser Horseshoe Bat is Curraghchase SAC, located >4km from the Plan Area.

##### 3.1.1.2 Otter

Otter is a Qualifying Interest of the Lower River Shannon SAC. From NBDC maps records, Otter has been recorded around Adare in the following locations:

- One live otter seen in September 2013 at Railway bridge, River Mague, Adare (Grid location R459466).
- During a Road Kill Survey by www.biology.ie, a body of an otter was recorded in Adare town.
- Further upstream of the Mague, there have been sightings and tracks recorded in 2010 (R480477), 2015 (R479438), and 2017 (R479440).

Otter is likely present in the River Mague and the Adare river.

### 3.1.2 Aquatic species

#### 3.1.2.1 White-clawed Crayfish

The White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* is listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive and is protected under the Wildlife Act 1976. White-clawed Crayfish is present in the River Mague on the main channel, and in its tributaries.

A survey commissioned by the Mague Rivers Trust in 2018 found crayfish present in Mague at Adare bridge. (Sweeney, 2018).

### 3.1.2.2 Fish

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) have carried out electrofishing survey on the River Maigue, upstream of Adare in Castleroberts, approx. 3km upstream of the N21 bridge (IFI, 2023). The survey data is from 2008, 2012, and 2016 with the following species recorded:

- 2008 IFI survey: Brown trout *Salmo trutta*; European eel *Anguilla anguilla*; Lamprey sp. *Lampretra*; Minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus*; Salmon *Salmo salar*; Stone loach *Barbatula barbatula*
- 2012 IFI survey Brown trout; European eel; Lamprey sp.; Minnow; Salmon; Stone loach; Three-spined stickleback *Gasterosteus aculeatus*.
- 2016 IFI survey: Brown trout; European eel; Lamprey sp.; Minnow; Salmon; Stone loach

Lamprey and Salmon are QIs of the Lower River Shannon SAC and are likely to be present in the Plan Boundary in the River Maigue.

Further upstream, within the River Camogue, the 2018 Environmental River Enhancement Programme (McCullom, et al., 2019) has additional records of Brown Trout, Atlantic Salmon and Pike, which have been taken into account, as it has been recorded that species traverse from the Shannon Estuary and the River Maigue on route to spawning upstream. Additionally, the 2021 Consolidated Fish Counter Summary Report (IFI, 2021), recorded 107 Spring Salmon, 1128 Grilse, and 304 Late Sumer Salmon within the Maigue.

### 3.1.2.3 Amphibians

Common Frog *Rana temporaria* have been recorded under NBDC records in the Plan Area, and is protected under EU Habitats Directive Annex V.

### 3.1.3 Annex Bird species

Protected bird species under the EU Birds Directive were recorded. Their conservation concern status in Ireland is also presented (Gilbert, 2021). Note records recorded under NBDC database before 1980s such as Hen harrier and Corncrake are excluded.

Species	EU Birds Directive (and BoCCI status)	QI of Shannon SPA (NPWS, 2015a)
Common Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section II BoCCI- Amber List	No
Common Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I BoCCI- Amber List	Not a QI of the Shannon SPA, but an Annex I species
Common Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section I	No
Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section III BoCCI- Red List	No
Common Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section I	No
Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section II BoCCI- Red List	Yes
Eurasian Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section II BoCCI- Amber List	Yes
Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section II BoCCI- Amber List	Yes
European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I Annex II, Section II Annex III, Section III BoCCI- Red List	Yes
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section III	No

Species	EU Birds Directive (and BoCCI status)	QI of Shannon SPA (NPWS, 2015a)
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I	No but Annex I species
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section I BoCCI- Amber List	No
Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section II BoCCI- Red List	Yes
Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex II, Section I Annex III, Section III BoCCI- Red List	No
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I	No but Annex I species
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I BoCCI- Amber List	No but Annex I species
Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	EU Birds Directive Annex I BoCCI- Amber List	Yes
Annex I = Birds which are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution		

### 3.1.4 Flora

Two Flora Protected Order 2022 Plants (FPO) haven been previously recorded near to Adare (NBDC, 2023). This includes Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa* and Triangular Club-rush *Schoenoplectus triqueter*. Both of these species are noted as sub-type of Annex I habitat Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260], a QI of Lower River Shannon SAC.

- Opposite-leaved Pondweed, which occurs in clear base rich waterbodies including canals, rivers, lakes and ditches is protected under the Flora Protection Order 2022 and is recorded within the 10km tetrad.
- Triangular Club-rush is present in Ireland by the River Shannon (County Limerick) and its tributaries.

Surveys conducted for Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) are the most recent surveys for these plants in the area (AECOM, 2019). Presence / absence surveys were undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed River Mague Crossing for Triangular Club Rush and Opposite-leaved pondweed in September 2016, May 2018 and September 2019. This crossing is located just outside the Plan boundary area to the North.

Triangular Club-rush was recorded in small quantities (less than 10 stems) on the intertidal muds on the west bank of the River Mague in the immediate vicinity of the proposed crossing point in September 2016. However, a follow-up survey undertaken in September 2019 found no evidence of Triangular club-rush at this location.

Opposite-leaved Pondweed is noted by Reynolds (Reynolds, 2013) in a large drainage ditch to the west of the flood embankments along the River Mague downstream of Adare in the vicinity of the proposed crossing point. During the surveys undertaken in May 2018 and September 2019, no evidence of Opposite-leaved Pondweed was recorded in the drainage ditch. However, absence of Opposite-leaved Pondweed on one occasion does not preclude it appearing there at a later stage, as this plant requires disturbance.

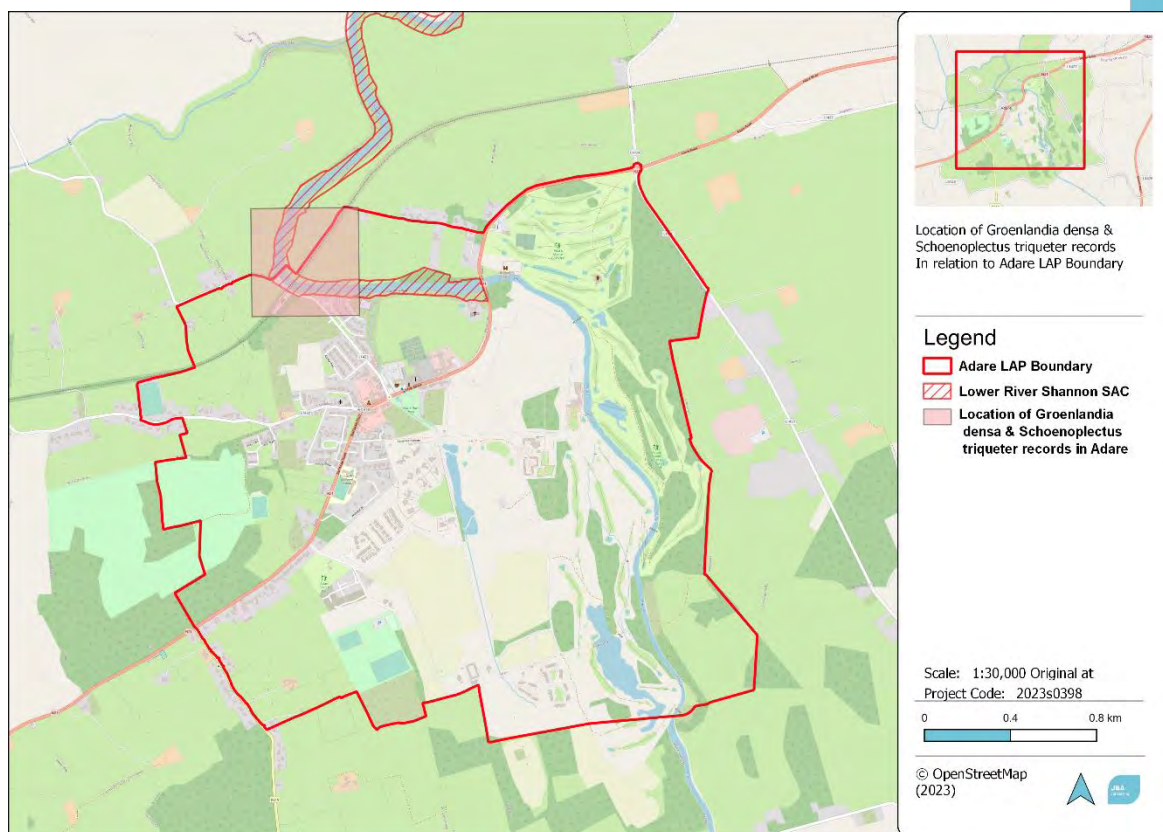


Figure 3-1 Location of *Groenlandia densa* and *Schoenoplectus triqueter* in relation to Adare (records from BSBI data download from 2006, 2009 and 2021)

## 3.2 Annex habitats

### 3.2.1 Floating River Vegetation

There is a broad definition of the features of this habitat type, covering from upland, flashy, oligotrophic, bryophyte- and algal-dominated rivers, to tidal reaches dominated by higher plants. Due to the frequent alteration of river communities from anthropogenic development, many of Ireland's rivers represent an altered state of the habitat. Neither a full monitoring programme or a typical species definition for this habitat have been established, however the habitat type is largely synonymous with Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus*. Some of the characteristic species associated with this habitat type include Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa*, Starworts (e.g. *Callitriche truncata*), Triangular Club-rush *Schoenoplectus triqueter*, Needle Spike Rush *Eleocharis acicularis* and Mud-dwelling Mosses (e.g. *Ephemerum* spp.). While there exists no list of typical species for this habitat, based on the interpretation manual of EU habitats (Commission of the European Communities, 2013) the stereotypical plants also include: *Berula erecta*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*, *Myriophyllum* spp., *Potamogeton* spp., *Ranunculus aquatilis*, *Ranunculus peltatus*, *Ranunculus penicillatus*, *Ranunculus trichophyllus*, *Zannichellia palustris*. As there is a broad definition of the habitat features, and of species present, this Annex Habitat is difficult to define (NPWS, 2019a)

The characteristic species were searched for using the BSBI search portal within the River Maigue both adjacent and downstream of the town. Of such, the following species were recorded in and along the River Maigue since 2000:

- Opposite-leaved Pondweed *Groenlandia densa*
- Blunt-fruited Water Starwort *Callitriche obtusangula*
- Triangular Club-rush *Schoenoplectus triqueter*
- Lesser Water-parsnip *Berula erecta*
- Spiked Water Milfoils *Myriophyllum spitacum*

- A variety of *Potamogeton* spp (including *Curled Pondweed Potamogeton crispus*, *Broad Leaved Pondweed Potamogeton natans* and *Perfoliate Pondweed Potamogeton perfoliatus* )
- Horned Pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*

### 3.2.1.1 Alluvial Woodland

Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) [91E0] is a QI of the Lower River Shannon. There is an NPWS record of Alluvial Woodland located downstream of Adare and along the Maigue (Figure 3-2).

Overall, mapping information is poor regarding Alluvial Woodland along the River Maigue. From Aerial photography, the River Maigue banks/riparian area is generally quite wooded, and therefore it should be assumed this habitat may be present downstream of the Plan boundary.

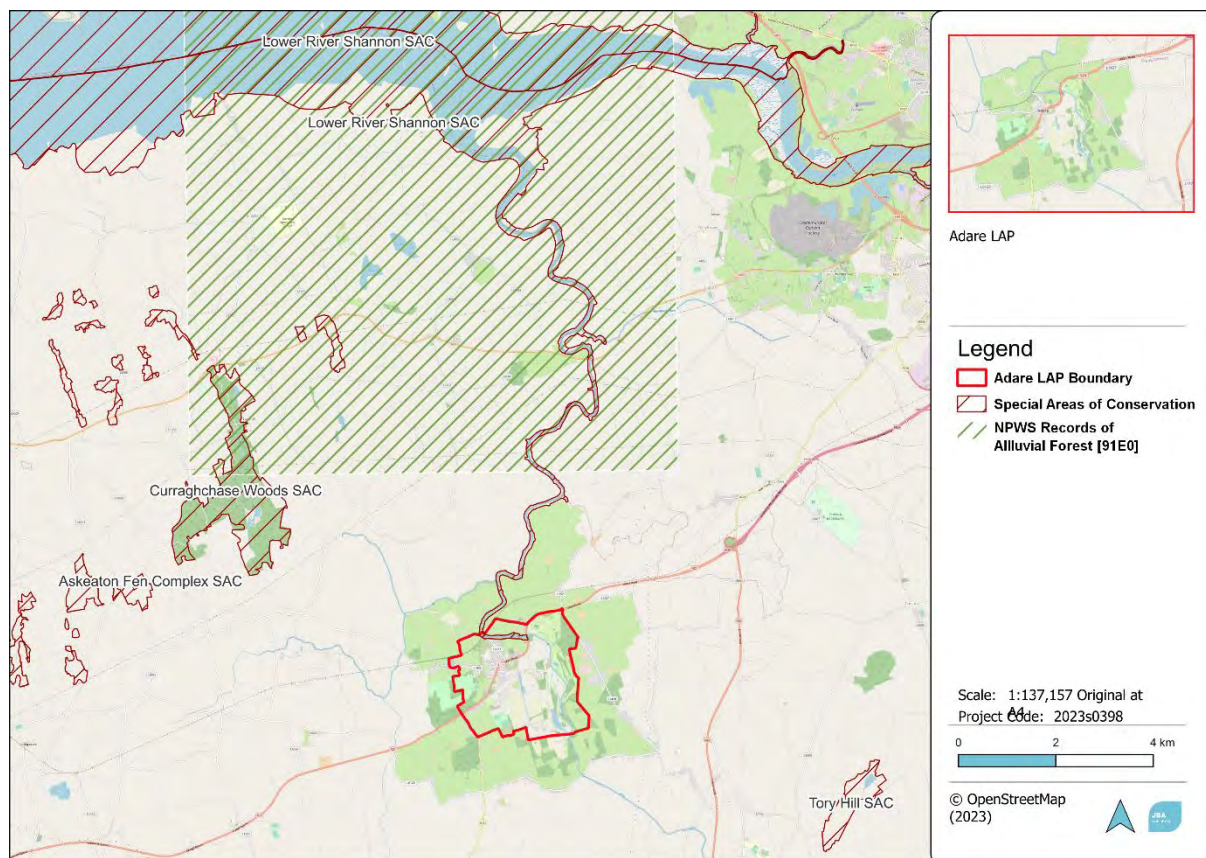


Figure 3-2: NPWS records of Alluvial Forest [91E0] in relation to Adare

## 3.3 Surface Waterbodies

The entirety of the proposed project is located within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Shannon Estuary South catchment, and most of the plan is situated within the Maigue\_SC\_040 sub-catchment, while a small area to the north-west extends into the Maigue\_SC\_050 sub-catchment (EPA, 2023). The main watercourse that flows through the town is the Maigue (090) which currently is of "Moderate" WFD status. The Adare River is a smaller river (EPA name is Gortnaganniff) which flows through the centre of Adare and is a tributary of the Maigue.

The Maigue, a limestone river, flows north and connects the lower River Shannon estuary. The Maigue has three tributaries within the plan area, Mountwilliam, Gortaganniff and Kilgobbin. The Maigue is recorded as a transitional waterbody up to as far as the N21 bridge, it flows from here to the nearest SPA downstream approximately 8.5km.

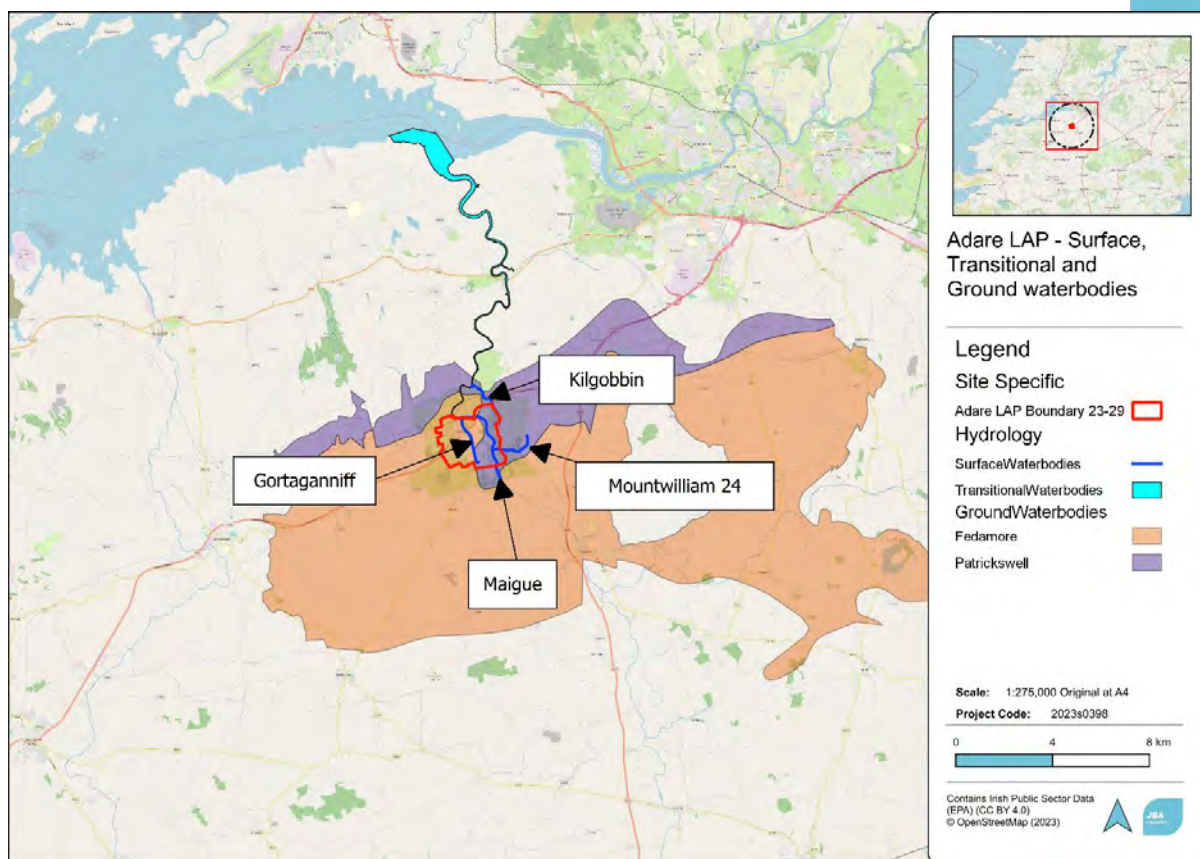


Figure 3-3 Surface and ground waterbodies in the vicinity of the Plan

### 3.4 Groundwater

The majority of Adare town (and the plan boundary) is located primarily within the Fedamore (IE-SH-G-084) groundwater body, while some of the plan boundary extends east into the Patrickswell (IE-SH-G-197) groundwater body. The Patrickswell groundwater body currently holds a 'Good' WFD status' (EPA, 2023). The Fedamore groundwater body also currently holds a 'Good' WFD status. The plan boundary has a karstic flow regime.

### 3.5 Wastewater

Adare village (and the plan boundary) is currently serviced by a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with a capacity of 2,500 in 2020, the treatment type is 3P - Tertiary P removal. The current population of Adare is 1,224, so there is sufficient capacity for the current population size and water treatment needs of the village.

However, the latest available Annual Environmental Report for Adare Wastewater Treatment Plant D0312-01 (Irish Water, 2021) has found that the WWTP discharge was not compliant with the Emission Limit Values (ELV's) set in the wastewater discharge licence but is capable of meeting Urban Waste Water Treatment standards.

There are project upgrade works to be included in the next investment Programme from Irish Water from 2025-2029 and this, along with existing capacity, will accommodate the envisaged population growth to 203 (https://www.water.ie/projects/local-projects/limerick-wastewater-treat)

The WWTP discharges to the River Maigue, see figure below.



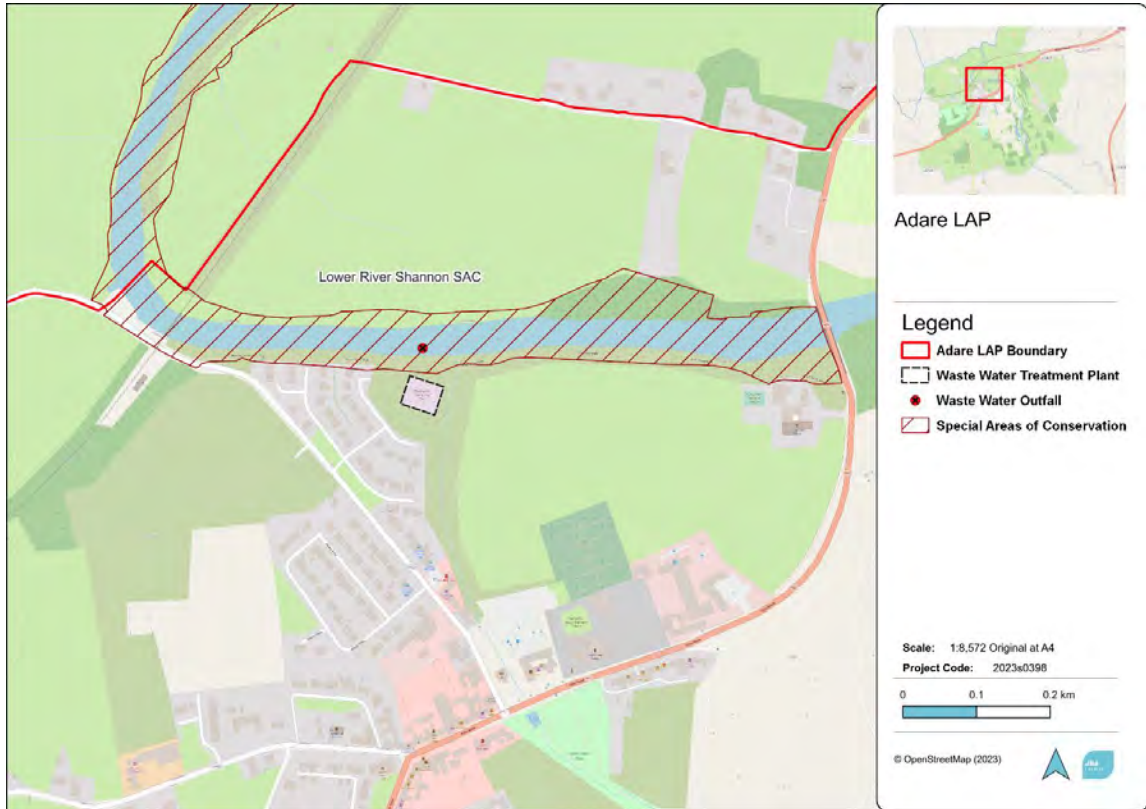


Figure 3-4 Adare WWTP location and discharge point

**3.5.1 Water Supply and Treatment:**

Adare’s public water supply is currently provided from the existing Water Treatment Plant in Castleroberts located to the southeast of the village, and there is capacity in the system to cater for the population growth anticipated over the lifetime of the Plan.

## 4 European Sites, Pathways and Potential Impacts

### 4.1 Zone of Influence

The DEHLG (2009) guidance identifies that Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project should consider the following European Sites:

- Any European Sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area.
- Any European Sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. This is dependent on the nature and scale of the plan, with 15km generally recommended for plans, but potentially much less for projects.
- Any European Sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area, but may potentially be impacted upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

When determining the Zol for this Plan, the nature and scale of the proposed policies and objectives are considered in relation to the conservation objectives of the European sites that may be connected to the Plan. For an impact to occur, a Source (potential impacts from the Plan), Pathway (e.g., surface water, groundwater, land or air connectivity) and Receptor (Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the European sites) must be present.

### 4.2 European sites within the Plan's Zol

There are four Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and one Special Protection Area (SPA) in the 15km Zol of the Plan. These are listed below in Table 4-1:

Table 4-1: European Sites within the vicinity of the Plan

European Site (Natura 2000 site)	Approximate direct distance from site	Approximate hydrological distance from site
Lower River Shannon SAC	Within Plan boundary	Yes - Located within the LAP via River Maigue and Gortnagannif Stream (Adare River)
River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	5.2km	Yes - downstream of LAP by 8.3km via River Maigue
Curraghchase Woods SAC	4.1km	No hydrological pathway
Tory Hill SAC	5.2km	No hydrological pathway
Askeaton Fen Complex SAC	6.3km	No hydrological pathway

These five European Sites are shown in Figure 4-1 in relation to the Plan Boundary, and are further described below in Table 4-2.

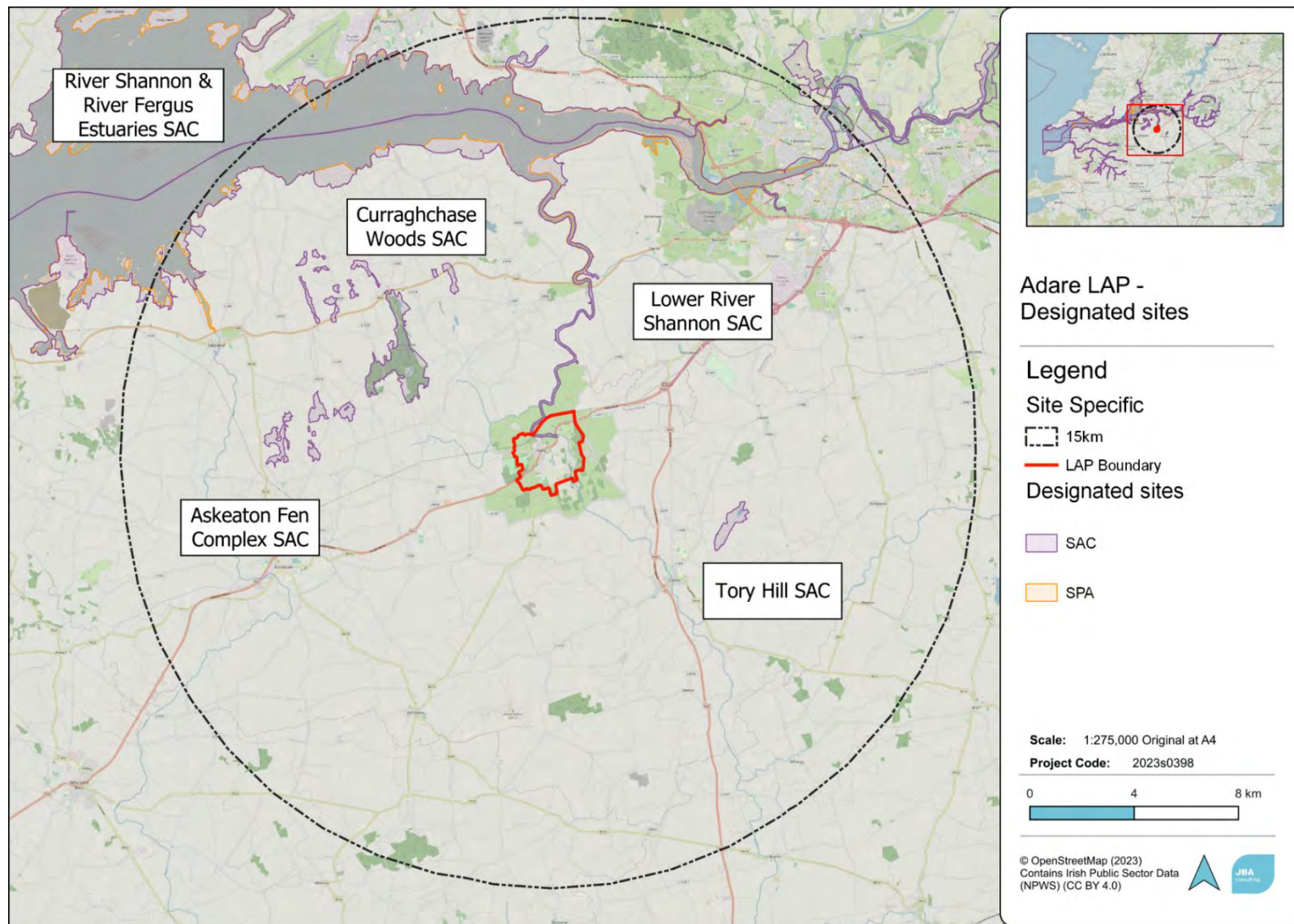


Figure 4-1: European Sites within 15km of the site boundary (© OpenStreetMap contributors, 2023)

Table 4-2: Site briefs; Qualifying Interests; and project-relevant threats /pressures and their impacts and sources in relation to the European Sites within the 15km Zol (including hydrological connectivity extension).

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
Lower River Shannon SAC [002165]	The Lower River Shannon stretches a distance of approximately 120km, encompassing the Shannon, Feale, Mulkear and Fergus estuaries, forming the largest estuarine complex in Ireland. These estuaries feature a vast expanse of intertidal mudflats, often fringed with saltmarsh vegetation. The estuaries support the largest numbers of wintering waterfowl in Ireland, with Annex I Birds Directive species present, including both known wintering and breeding bird species. There is a resident population of Bottlenose Dolphin, the only population of this species in Ireland. There are five Annex II fish species found within the site including all three Irish Lamprey species, along with two fish listed within the Irish Red Data Book. While Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> , another Annex II species occurs abundantly within the River Cloon (NPWS, 2013a).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]</li> <li>- Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>- Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>- Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>- Reefs [1170]</li> <li>- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>- <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>- Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> <li>- Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>- <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>- Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>- Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029]</li> <li>- Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095]</li> <li>- Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096]</li> <li>- River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099]</li> <li>- Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106]</li> <li>- Common Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> [1349]</li> <li>- Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355]</li> </ul> (NPWS, 2012a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Urbanised areas, human habitation Moderate Impact, Outside Source</li> <li>- Eutrophication (natural) Moderate Impact, Outside Source</li> <li>- Discharges Moderate Impact, Outside Source</li> <li>- Air pollution, air-borne pollutants Moderate impact, Outside Source (EEA, 2018a)</li> </ul>
River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [004077]	This site forms the largest estuarine complex in Ireland, covering the entire estuarine habitat from Limerick City as far as Doonahan in Co. Clare and Dooneen Point in Co. Kerry. The site is an SPA supporting widespread bird species and is noted as the most important coastal wetlands of the country for birds, regularly in excess of 50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017]</li> <li>- Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A038]</li> <li>- Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]</li> <li>- Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048]</li> <li>- Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050]</li> <li>- Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urbanised areas, human habitation High Impact, Inside Source (EEA, 2020)</li> </ul>

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
	wintering and migratory waterfowl of many internationally important species (NPWS, 2015a).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054]</li> <li>- Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056]</li> <li>- Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i> [A062]</li> <li>- Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137]</li> <li>- Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140]</li> <li>- Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141]</li> <li>- Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142]</li> <li>- Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143]</li> <li>- Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149]</li> <li>- Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156]</li> <li>- Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]</li> <li>- Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160]</li> <li>- Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162]</li> <li>- Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> [A164]</li> <li>- Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]</li> <li>- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> (NPWS, 2012)	
Curraghchase Woods SAC [000174]	The site is located west of the plan area and is a mixture of woodland and wetland, characterised by glacial drift deposits over Carboniferous limestones. The main interest at the site is the presence of Lesser Horseshoe Bat hibernation roosts in the cellars of Curraghchase House, while the woodlands provide ideal foraging habitat for these bats, and this site is the largest known site for this bat species in Co. Limerick. Additionally, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> , an Annex II species is present within the site's wetlands, along with two Annex I woodland habitats present within the site (NPWS, 2019b).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>- <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]</li> <li>- Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016]</li> <li>- Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303]</li> </ul> (NPWS, 2023)	No relevant threats/ pressures from the Plan (EEA, 2019)
Tory Hill SAC [000439]	Tory Hill is an isolated, wooded limestone hill situated south of the Plan area, of importance as an example of a prime limestone hill in a region of volcanic intrusions of differing shape and geology. The site is of conservation interest for terrestrial and wetland habitat diversity. Ecological characteristics of note within this site include a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</li> <li>- Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]</li> <li>- Alkaline fens [7230]</li> </ul> (NPWS, 2018a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</li> </ul> Moderate impact, Inside and Outside sources (EEA, 2018b)

Site Name	Brief	Qualifying Interests	Project-relevant Threats / Pressures: Impact (Source)
	presence of Bee Orchid, and the Annex I Habitats Alkaline Fen and Calcareous Fen (NPWS, 2013b).		
Askeaton Fen Complex SAC [002279]	Askeaton Fen Complex consists of a number of small fens west of the Plan area. The area has undulating hills, and is underlain with Lower Carboniferous Limestone, the base of the hills has a diversity of fens, reedbeds with marl and peat deposits. The site is of value due to its support of two different types of fen that each exhibit sub-types. <i>Cladium</i> fen I listed as an EU Annex I Habitat priority habitat, while the habitats supply refuge for fauna in an area that is otherwise managed intensively (NPWS, 2014).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]</li> <li>- Alkaline fens [7230] (NPWS, 2018b)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)</li> </ul> Moderate threat, Outside Source (EEA, 2018c)

\* = priority Annex I habitat

# = indirect threat via the increase in the local populace and recreational activities as a result of the development.

#### 4.2.1 An initial scoping of European sites within 15km of the proposed works

Five European Sites are located within 15km of the Plan Boundary. No further sites are hydrologically linked up to 20km. Some of these European Sites can be further screened out based on pathways from the plan.

In Table 4-2 below, these sites are further screened for pathways including surface water, groundwater, and air pathways, as well as disturbance to species if applicable. European Sites are screened-in if they are determined to be within at least one pathway in the Zol.

Table 4-3: Further screened for pathways to European Sites.

Site	Distance from Plan boundary	Surface Water Pathway	Groundwater Pathway	Air Pathway	Disturbance Pathway	Pathway present?
Lower River Shannon SAC	0 km	Yes - Located within the LAP via River Maigue and Adare river	Yes - Located within the Plan's groundwater body	Yes - Located within the LAP	Yes - Annex II fish and Otter are present within River Maigue in Adare	Yes
River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	5.2km	Limited- SPA boundary downstream of LAP by 8.3km via River Maigue, most of QI birds and their habitat is located even further downstream.	No - Not located with the Plan's groundwater body	No pathway	Limited- presence of some QI birds within Adare, however Adare is not important ex-situ site for these QI birds either wintering or breeding.	Yes (although limited)
Curraghchase Woods SAC	4.1km	No pathway	No - Not located with the Plan's groundwater body	No pathway	Although Lesser Horseshoe bat have known roosts within Adare, the populations in Curraghchase SAC will not be impacted following the 2.5km Zone of Influence for foraging and commuting routes. (NPWS, 2018c)	No
Tory Hill SAC	5.2km	No pathway	No - Not located with the Plan's groundwater body	No pathway	N/A (no species QI)	No
Askeaton Fen Complex SAC	6.3km	No pathway	No - Not located with the Plan's groundwater body	No pathway	N/A (no species QI)	No



### 4.3 Summary of Pre-Screening

Due to the lack of pathways based on preliminary screening on Sites within the Zol of 15km, the following European Sites will not be further assessed for potential impacts:

- Askeaton Fen Complex SAC
- Tory Hill SAC
- Curraghchase Woods SAC

The two European sites that were identified which have pathway for potential likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the Plan are:

- Lower River Shannon SAC
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

### 4.4 Potential Impacts from Plan on European Sites

Development for housing, business, infrastructure, services, and recreation/tourism promoted as part of the Adare LAP can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated.

These impacts can be direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation, or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation etc. They can include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from construction phases.

This chapter identifies the potential impacts and their pathways to European sites within and adjacent to Adare which may arise from the Adare LAP. It then goes on to identify the types of impact/pathways to which the qualifying features present upon the European sites are particularly sensitive.

As outlined in the EC guidance on the assessment of plans and projects affecting European sites (EC, 2002), impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of Plans are as follows in Table 4-4 below:

Table 4-4: Potential Hazards to European sites

Potential Hazard	Description
Habitat loss	This is a loss of habitat within the designated boundaries of a European site – it is expected that there would be no direct loss to development resulting from implementation of the LAP
Habitat fragmentation	This is where activities result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat. Most likely to affect species.
Changes in physical regime	These are changes to physical process that will alter the present characteristics of the European site e.g., fluvial, and geomorphological processes, erosion processes, deposition.
Physical damage	This includes recreational pressures such as trampling and erosion, and where sites are close to urban areas, other damaging activities may occur such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.
Habitat/community simplification	Changes to environmental conditions, due to human activities, which result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity.
Disturbance (noise, visual)	Activities which result in disturbance, causing sensitive birds and mammals to deviate from their normal, preferred behaviour, such as construction, recreational, traffic.
Competition from invasive non-native species	Activities may cause the introduction or spread of invasive non-native animals and plants, which could result in changes to community composition and even to the complete loss of native communities.
Changes in water levels or tables	Activities that may affect surface and groundwater levels, such as land drainage and abstraction, may have adverse impacts on water dependant habitats and species.
Changes in water quality	Activities that may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills, run-off from urban areas, nutrient enrichment from agriculture, and discharge from sewage works, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.
Changes to surface water flooding	Activities that may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding, which may affect riverine and floodplain habitats
Turbidity and siltation	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light.
Pollution	Activities that may lead to the release of pollutants to the air such as oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulphur or ammonia, or pollutants deposited on the ground through acidification or terrestrial eutrophication via soil (deposition of nitrogen).

#### 4.4.1 Qualifying Interests and Sensitivity to Hazards

Table 4-5 shows the qualifying features of the European sites within the Zol of the Adare LAP and identifies the hazards to which they are most sensitive.

It must be noted that during the assessment of the potential impacts of the LAP on a European site, all the potential hazards will be considered.

Table 4-5: Sensitivity of Qualifying Features to Potential Hazards

European site	Qualifying Interest	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/community simplification	Disturbance (noise/visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
<b>Lower River Shannon SAC</b>	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	√		√	√	√		√	√		√		√
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	√		√	√	√		√					√
	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410]	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√
	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
	Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029] Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√

European site	Qualifying Interest	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
	Common Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> [1349]	√		√	√	√	√			√		√	√
	Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
<b>River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA</b>	Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017]	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A038]												
	Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046]												
	Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048]												
	Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050]												
	Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052]												
	Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054]												
	Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056]												
	Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i> [A062]												
	Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137]												
	Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140]												
	Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141]												
	Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142]												
	Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143]												
	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149]												
	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156]												
	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157]												
	Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160]												
	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162]												
	Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> [A164]												
	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]												
	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
<b>Curraghchase Woods SAC</b>	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	√	√	√	√	√		√					√
	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√
	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016]	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√

European site	Qualifying Interest	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/community simplification	Disturbance (noise/ visual)	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Pollution
	Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303]	√	√	√	√	√	√						
<b>Tory Hill SAC</b>	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	√	√	√	√	√		√					√
	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√
<b>Askeaton Fen Complex SAC</b>	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230]	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√

## 4.5 Potential Impacts from the Plan

### 4.5.1 Introduction

The LAP has the potential to cause a number of direct and indirect effects on European sites via one or more pathways. Such potential effects include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from the development construction phases. The main potential effects are described below.

### 4.5.2 Urbanisation

Urbanisation is a broad term that can act as a pathway to produce a number of often disparate impacts to European sites. Note that current population data is absent at the time of this report due to the deferred national census due to COVID 19, which means population data is reliant upon the 2016 Census Data, and the 2021 Census population numbers are available at county scale only. 2022 population data available for Adare and population identified as 1224.

The population of Adare was 1,129 in the 2016 Census, (Central Statistics Office, 2022) representing a 2% increase on the 2011 population. Latest population figures released from the Census 2022 identifies the population in Adare as 1,224 however no breakdown of the population profile is available yet. The population growth target for the village is a population of 1,455 people by 2028 as set out in the Limerick Development Plan 2022—2028. Adare is identified as a Level 4 Large Village in the Limerick Development Plan and is allocated population growth of 29% on its 2016 population up until 2028.

An increase in population will lead to increases in impacts from development. Impacts from increased urbanisation may include:

- Habitat loss should the development occur within the boundaries of a European site. Loss of supporting habitats, grazing and roosting areas used by wetland birds that are not within the boundaries of the designated site but that provide important functional habitat linkages, can also be a significant impact.
- Physical damage, for example from trampling and erosion, and also activities such as fly-tipping, littering, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.
- Habitat fragmentation, whereby new development results in the separation of available habitats or splits extensive areas of suitable habitat. It is most likely to impact upon species.
- Disturbance (noise and visual) associated with both the construction phase (e.g., from plant movements, machinery) and also the operational phase (e.g., from users of the development undertaking activities such as walking or water sports which generate disturbance). This typically affects sensitive species such as birds and mammals causing them to deviate from their normal preferred behaviour. Increased
- Air pollution from increased traffic both during the construction and operational phases.
- Light pollution which affect species sensitive to lighting at night.

The River Mague, part of the Lower River Shannon SAC, lies within the Plan area, and is likely to be impacted by urbanisation. Although it is unlikely there will be any direct habitat loss, as there is no Zoning for development within the boundary of the SAC, there may be fragmentation and degradation due to increased development, loss of functionally linked habitat and temporary impacts such as release of pollutants during construction.

Otters, a QI of the Shannon Callows SAC, may be impacted by increased urbanisation through loss of riparian habitat and decrease in water quality and increase in disturbance. Pollution events may degrade the Annex I habitat Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260].

### 4.5.3 Recreational Impacts

Increased recreational pressures from urban populations, including dog walking, jogging, cycling, horse riding, motorbike scrambling, boating and other water-based recreational activities are likely to result from new housing developments and population increases.

The River Maigue, part of the Lower River Shannon SAC is directly within and adjacent to the Plan Area, which has a walking path along the river on top of the embankment beside the river, within the plan area.

Improved access to the countryside and increased population and tourism will also attract more visitors to the area as well as residents. This can lead to significant pressures on sensitive habitats resulting in damage and disturbance to the species they support. Typical impacts of tourism and recreation include:

- Physical damage, for example from trampling and erosion
- Disturbance to species, such as mammals, fish, ground-nesting birds and wintering wildfowl, from walking, cycling and water sports, resulting in increased mortality and nesting success, and displacement.
- Air pollution and disturbance from traffic
- Disturbance from dogs and pollution from dog excrement.

In addition, where sites are close to urban areas and new developments, recreational pressures can be exacerbated by other damaging activities such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.

Many European sites will be vulnerable to some degree of impact as a result of recreational pressure, although the effects of recreational impacts are complex and very much dependent on the specific conditions and interest features at each site. For example, some mammals and bird species are more sensitive to disturbance associated with walkers or dogs than others; some habitats will be more sensitive to trampling than others; and some sites will be more accessible than others.

Most recreational activities with the potential to affect European sites are 'casual' and pursued opportunistically (e.g., walking, walking dogs, cycling, horse riding) which makes it difficult to quantify or predict the impacts of these activities on European sites and harder to control or manage. It also means it is difficult to explore in detail all potential impacts of recreational pressures at the strategic level. However, it is possible for plans and strategies to influence recreational use of European sites through the planning process, for example by increasing the amount of green/open space and leisure/recreational facilities required within or near developments if potentially vulnerable European sites are located nearby.

The Lower River Shannon SAC is located within and adjacent to the Plan area. It is likely to be impacted by recreational activities on the River Maigue, such as walkers along the embankments, coarse fishing/angling, and tourism, which is zoned within the plan area along the Maigue (SAC).

The left bank of the Maigue is accessible due to the golf course upstream of the N21 road bridge, and the walking path along the embankment south of the bridge. The right bank is outside of the plan area downstream of the bridge, and upstream it is zoned for tourism.

The screening assessment will consider the potential for recreational pressures on a European site by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such pressures, the accessibility of the site to the public, the likely attractiveness of the site and its habitats/species to visitors, and the proximity of the site to sites allocated for development.

#### 4.5.4 Transport and related infrastructure

To enhance the local economy of Adare, and to promote residential, commercial and recreational development, transport and its related infrastructure will likely increase. New or additional transport infrastructure to support expanding development can have impacts, during construction and operation, on European Sites, and can act as a pathway to produce several often-disparate impacts to European sites. This can include:

- Habitat loss: should any infrastructure development occur within the boundaries of a European site.
- Loss of supporting habitats, damaging or changing feeding and roosting located used by wetland birds that are not within the boundaries of the designated site but that provide important functional habitat linkages, can also be a significant impact.
- Habitat fragmentation, whereby new development results in the separation of available habitats or splits extensive areas of suitable habitat. It is most likely to impact upon species.

- Disturbance (noise and visual) associated with both the construction phase (e.g., from plant movements, machinery) and also the operational phase (e.g., increased traffic). This typically affects sensitive species such as birds and mammals causing them to deviate from their normal preferred behaviour.
- Air pollution from increased traffic both during the construction and operational phases.

The N21 Limerick to Killarney Road passes through the centre of Adare and causes heavy traffic congestion at peak times of the day and throughout the year, but most especially in the summertime. An Bord Pleanála approved the Foynes to Limerick Road, including a Bypass of Adare in August 2022. The location of the Bypass is proposed to the north of the village and would reduce significantly the transport movements through the village. An Appropriate Assessment (NIS) has been undertaken for this planned road, which will mitigate impacts (EirEco et al. 2019). The construction of this road will reduce traffic in Adare by 80%, which will relieve impacts, such as air pollution, from the Plan area on the Lower River Shannon SAC.

Work has commenced on re-instating the Foynes to Limerick Railway line with a contract recently awarded. It is anticipated that works will be completed by 2025. This will include re-instating the rail and crossing over the River Maigue (and SAC) at the north side of Adare.

An indicative link route is identified on the Land Use Zoning map to link from the Rathkeale Road through to Station Road. It is anticipated this route will allow for increased mobility around the village and will include active travel paths for sustainable modes of movement around Adare.

Works have taken place recently to provide a footpath/cycleway from the Deerpark estate along the L1422-314 towards Guineys filling Station. Future provision may be made to extend this footpath out to the GAA grounds and to provide an extension to the footpath along the Rathkeale Road to connect into the footpath to the Ballingarry junction.

Presently there is no off-road access northward of the village towards the Adare Castle and the Plan will support proposals to provide safe access to the Castle subject to appropriate environmental considerations.

Any development of transport infrastructure within the Plan area may have an impact on the Lower River Shannon SAC due to proximity.

#### 4.5.5 Hydrological Impacts

New development and population increase can result in hydrological effects to existing watercourses and groundwater resources. Such effects can include changes to surface and ground water flows, quality and levels; this can have subsequent effects on habitats and supported species. The main types of potential hydrological effects are as follows:

- *Water abstraction* – new developments would increase the demand for water resulting in increased levels of water abstraction and subsequently affect surface and/or ground water flow, quality and levels. Any such effects would be more extreme during the summer as water demand will peak at this time. The assessment of potential effects of increased water demand will consider how the public water supply system operates and how it is regulated with other water-resource consents. Adare's public water supply is currently provided from the existing Water Treatment Plant in Castleroberts located to the southeast of the village and there is capacity in the system to cater for the population growth anticipated over the lifetime of the Plan.
- *Water discharges* – new developments could result in an increase in discharges to water via foul and surface water/storm water drainage (flood risk). This could also occur during construction phases (e.g., oil spillage or other pollution incidents from construction plant and machinery) but would be short-term and of reduced significance. Discharges can also occur during the operational phase of works through the increased use of waterways by motor powered boats and oil from a higher number of cars using roads close to the watercourse network. Such discharges can impact on surface water and ground water quality, quantity and flows. The water quality effects of the plan are likely to be either controlled by existing consent regimes (which must undergo AA) or have diffuse 'in-combination' effects that are difficult to quantify and therefore any assessment must focus on the development of suitable mitigating policy that will minimise the impacts of development on water quality.



- Wastewater - The Adare Wastewater Treatment Plant (DO312) discharges to the River Maigue (Lower River Shannon SAC). The latest available Annual Environmental Report has found that the WWTP discharge was not compliant with the Emission Limit Values (ELV's) set in the wastewater discharge license, but is capable of meeting Urban Waste Water Treatment (Irish Water 2023). The ambient monitoring results does not meet the required Environmental Quality Standards (EQS). The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. Potential availability of capacity would depend on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach set out in Regulations of the Waste Water Discharge Regulations 2007. There are project upgrade works to be included in the next investment Programme from Irish Water from 2025-2029 and this along with existing capacity will accommodate the envisaged population growth to 2030.

The screening assessment will consider the potential for impacts on a European site due to changes in water levels and/or quality by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such impacts, and the pathways i.e., the hydrological connectivity between the site and the areas proposed for development.

In line with the recent *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/1*, policy or proposal-level protective and mitigation measures relating to water abstraction and/or water discharges will only be considered at the AA stage (NIR).

A large proportion of the activities which exploit water resources, such as agriculture, flood defence, recreation, power generation, fisheries or nature conservation, will not be directly controlled or influenced by options/policies contained within the Local Plan. Furthermore, specific consenting regimes, independent of the Local Plan, tend to regulate water supply and exploitation in relation to water-resource sensitive European sites. However, development promoted or supported by the Local Plan will likely increase demand for water.

Major flooding events from the River Maigue have occurred in Adare, most recently in 2014, particularly during tidal events. Flooding events can lead to increased pollution impacts through surface water pathways, as floodwaters may cause discharge from sewage networks, slurry tanks, and petroleum tanks into the surrounding environment. A Flood Relief Scheme is being planned for Adare and this may have cumulative impacts on the European Sites.

#### 4.5.6 Air Quality Effects

Given the traffic issues in the plan area, with the N21 running through the main street, the pollutants of most concern are those whose main source is traffic such as Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide.

Air Quality Index for the area is overall good. Note the nearest air quality station is Station 75, Askeaton and Station 85, Henry Street Limerick City (<https://airquality.ie/station/EPA-75>).

New developments and an increase in population have the potential to result in increased use of the road network by vehicles, which could have adverse effects on air quality. This could have subsequent effects on habitats sensitive to air quality changes and higher deposits of nitrogen dioxide, particulates and sulphur dioxide (diesel trains) such as on bogs and peatlands. For example, there is the potential for effects on the health of *Sphagnum* (which is critical to the ability of the degraded raised bog to re-establish actively growing peat within the site).

It should be noted that the likelihood of this effect is greatly reduced as the distance increases between the deposit area (typically the road network) and the European site. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m. (Smithers et al. 2016) report that, in relation to NO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> associated with vehicle emissions, levels are greatest within the first 50-100m from the road, but may be discernible at greater distances. However, heavy metals from vehicle emissions decline rapidly within the first 5-10m and may not be discernible beyond 50m from the roadside.

Only one European Site, the Lower River Shannon SAC, is located within 200m of the Plan area, and the QIs of this site are not threatened by air pollution.

## 5 Other Relevant Plans and Projects

### 5.1 Cumulative Effects

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the proposed works, other relevant projects and plans in the region that may induce cumulative impacts must also be considered at this stage.

### 5.2 Plans and Projects

The following projects or plans were identified as potential sources of cumulative impacts:

- Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028
- National Planning Framework 2040
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region 2019-2031
- Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024
- Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)
- Limerick | Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040
- Adare Flood Relief Scheme
- Ryder Cup 2027
- Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027
- Capacity extension, Foynes

#### 5.2.1 Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028

This is the current development plan for Limerick and will continue to have effect until a new Development Plan for Limerick is prepared. The most recent plan was adopted by the Elected Members of Limerick City and County Council at a Special Meeting on 17th June 2022 and came into effect on 29th July 2022 (LCCC, 2022).

The purpose of each Development Plan or Strategy is to set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Plans seek to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of each county.

Biodiversity Conservation and Management supports are laid out in each Plan and Strategy to support these objectives. All European Sites within the considered zone of influence of each Plan, must be assessed for potential to be impacted by each Plan and for there to potentially be in-combination impacts as a result of each Plan. County Development Plans are designed to be taken in conjunction with other similar plans and programmes, to have the overall effect of strengthening the management of, and enhancing the protection and conservation of European Sites. Specific statements, policies and objectives are formulated within each Plan to allow the Council to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of European Sites. Each Plan updates the policies and objectives of the Council in accordance with the Regional Planning Guidelines and National Policy. The outcomes of these Plans are Projects that will in themselves, require specific Natura Impact Statements (NIS) where relevant.

Prior to any works commencing on a project that may impact the European Site network, the project shall be subject to a full Natura Impact Assessment in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). This requirement is made explicit in each Plan.

**Therefore, provided that any works that may occur as a result of the Plan are assessed for individually, or included in the NIS for the Plan, the Plan should not significantly adversely affect relevant European Sites in combination with the proposed LAP.**

#### 5.2.2 National Planning Framework - Project Ireland 2040

National Planning Framework - Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all of its people. Alongside the development of physical infrastructure, Project Ireland 2040 supports business and communities across all of Ireland in realising their potential. The National Development Plan and the National Planning Framework combine to form Project Ireland 2040. Development of infrastructure may have localised adverse impacts. Actions that may arise as a result of Project Ireland 2040 will be considered at a project level, which will ensure that

any cumulative or in-combination impacts are addressed. Due to the high-level nature of this Plan, it is not possible to determine with confidence the likely impacts or mitigation measures required yet in detail.

Therefore, cumulative or in-combination impacts may arise as a result of projects that may occur as a result of Project Ireland 2040. Any projects that may arise as a result of this plan will have a project level AA which will assess these in detail and provide suitable mitigation measures where appropriate.

### 5.2.3 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region 2019-2031

The Southern Regional Assembly has prepared a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region for 2019-2031, which came into effect on 31st January 2020. The RSES provides a long-term, strategic development framework for the future physical, economic and social development of the Southern region including County Limerick.

The RSES aims to provide a strategy for growth in a sustainable way, which includes integrating the value of biodiversity into the economy as well as threats and pressures. This includes protecting the Natura 2000 Network, providing environmental assessments for projects, plans and activities (e.g., EclA reports, and SEA, EIA and AA processes).

### 5.2.4 Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

Limerick City and County Council has developed a 5-year Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which sets out a vision for a climate ready Limerick City and County, that understands how climate change will affect their communities and businesses, as well as setting out how the County will work together to reduce the risk and avail of the opportunities that climate change will bring. The strategy has been through a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening (LCCC, 2019a) and an AA screening (LCCC 2019b), where these reports have concluded that the strategy will have no significant effect on local environmental features or on European sites, respectively.

### 5.2.5 Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)

This project promotes efficient and effective transport links in the Munster region, improving connectivity of Foynes Port, Limerick and its surrounding areas. The project is a proposed 35km length of motorway upgrade from Attyflin to Rathkeale, while connecting the port of Foynes to the motorway network. The project consists of:

- Approx.15.6 km dual carriageway from Foynes to Rathkeale (with approx.1.9km single carriageway link road between Ballyclogh and Askeaton),
- Approx.17.5 km motorway from Rathkeale to the existing motorway network at Attyflin (N21/N20/M20 junction)
- A Service Area for Heavy Goods Vehicles near Foynes

This project has undergone an AA Screening (AECOM, 2019) and has identified four different European Sites as being potentially affected by its development, namely the Lower River Shannon SAC, the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA, the Curraghchase Woods SAC and the Askeaton Fen Complex SAC. An accompanied Natura Impact Statement has been prepared (AECOM, 2019), the mitigation measures outlined within have ensured that the proposed road development would not, by itself or in combination with other plans or projects, adversely affect the integrity of any of these sites.

### 5.2.6 Limerick | Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

Included within the Iarnród Éireann Rail Freight Strategy 2040 and the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (NTA, 2022), is the commitment to the reinstatement of the 42km stretch of freight rail between Limerick and Foynes, which includes utilisation of the station at Adare. While this line is initially intended for freight services,. The works outlined for this development include:

- Vegetation clearance and removal of existing track
- Replacement of track formation and installation of a new ballast bed to current Iarnród Éireann standards.
- Rehabilitation and / or renewal of bridges and culverts.
- Supply and installation of new rail and concrete sleepers along the entire route.

- Renewal of road infrastructure at public road level crossings.
- Renewal of accommodation crossings.
- Renewal of lineside fencing.
- Installation of infrastructure to accommodate the next phase of the project.

The AA/NIS prepared in support of the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy determined that, in the absence of appropriate avoidance/mitigation measures, it could result in adverse effects on site integrity for the Lower River Shannon SAC, Curraghchase Woods SAC, Askeaton Fens Complex SAC, Tory Hill SAC, Ballyallia Lough SPA, Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA in view of their Conservation Objectives.

Based on the AA Screening and NIS published as part of the Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) mitigation measures have been included in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy AA to ensure that they would have no significant effect, alone or in-combination, on the Conservation Objectives of each of the Qualifying Interests of the European Site affected by these schemes.

### 5.2.7 Adare Flood Relief Scheme (Office of Public Works/ LCCC)

Limerick City and County Council as the Lead Authority, in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW), are advancing with the Adare Flood Relief Scheme. The OPW has recommended the development of a Flood Relief Scheme for Adare as a result of the work completed in the Shannon Estuary South River Basin (UoM 24) CFRAM Study Area. Limerick City and County Council commissioned Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers in September 2021, to develop and implement a Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) for Adare.

The project is in Options development stage, and Ground Investigation Works have been carried out and have been subject to an AA Screening (Delichon Ecology, 2022).

Throughout the development of Adare FRS consideration will be given to the N21 Limerick/Foynes Road, the 2027 Ryder Cup, Adare Public Realm Plan, potential future upgrade of the Foynes/Limerick Railway, and other public projects in the area.

### 5.2.8 Ryder Cup 2027 - Adare Manor

As of July 25th, 2019, Adare Manor has been scheduled to be the host of the Ryder Cup in 2027. This decision was following the renovations and subsequent reopening of the Hotel in April of 2018. Prior to these renovations, they underwent an AA Screening (Creagh House Environment Ltd., 2015) which concluded in the project resulting in no significant impacts that would occur in relation to the QIs of the European Sites: Lower River Shannon SAC, Curraghchase Woods SAC and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA. While these renovations were not anticipated to impact on any European Sites, since the announcement of the hosting of the Ryder Cup, it is expected that an additional AA Screening will be performed for any preparations.

### 5.2.9 Capacity Extensions at Shannon Foynes

The project is to facilitate capacity extension at Shannon Foynes Port. This requirement to extend Port capacity is responsive to a historic pattern of commercial growth through the Port of Foynes consistent with the projections envisaged in the Port Company's spatial and commercial masterplan – 'Vision 2041' and the resultant fruition of those projections experienced to date. This capacity extension is provided in two interrelated ways – increased capacity of the quay wall, and increased capacity of supporting landside storage facilities and logistics. Consequently, the project includes two specific elements of development and operational activities as follows:

- Jetty Extension
- Durnish Land Development

This project is forecast to influence the length of the Shannon Estuary, including the port facilities at Foynes, Limerick Docks and Shannon Airport, and with commercial jurisdiction over marine activities on a 500km<sup>2</sup> area on the Estuary itself.

These proposed procedures have undergone an AA Screening (RPS, 2018) which identified two European Sites; Lower River Shannon SAC and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA,

that would be susceptible to the impacts of deteriorated water quality, significant underwater noise, aerial and visual noise disturbance, and habitat loss. The accompanied NIS has been completed, in which further investigation ruled out adverse effects would be likely as a result of aerial noise and visual disturbance, and habitat loss without mitigations necessary. Mitigation measures were outlined for reducing the risk of pollution incidents on Annex I habitats while mitigations were also outlined for both pollution incidents and noise disturbance on Annex II species. Following the mitigations provided, it was concluded that there would be no significant effects which would adversely affect the European Sites.

#### 5.2.10 River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 / 2022-2027

The 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2018-2021 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2021 (DoHPLG, 2018a). Changes from previous River Basin Management Plans is that all River Basin Districts are merged as one national River Basin District. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters — to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.

The first cycle of River Basin Management Plans included the Eastern River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015 (WFD, 2010). The plans summarised the waterbodies that may not meet the environmental objectives of the WFD by 2015 and identified which pressures are contributing to the environmental objectives not being achieved. The plans described the classification results and identified measures that can be introduced in order to safeguard waters and meet the environmental objectives of the WFD.

- Prevent deterioration of water body status.
- Restore good status to water bodies.
- Achieve protected areas objectives.
- Reduce chemical pollution of water bodies.

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (2018-2021) outlines the new approach that Ireland will take to protect our waters over the period to 2021. It builds on lessons learned from the first planning cycle in a number of areas:

- stronger and more effective delivery structures have been put in place to build the foundations and momentum for long-term improvements to water quality.
- a new governance structure, which brings the policy, technical and implementation actors together with public and representative organisations. This will ensure the effective and coordinated delivery of measures.

Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (DoHLGH, 2021) was out for public consultation until March 31st 2022. The Consultation report was published in July 2022. Following review of the submissions, the DoHLGH will commence a review and where necessary update the draft RBMP with a view to finalisation and publication in Q3/Q4 of 2022.

The 3rd cycle draft Catchment Reports were published in August 2021. The draft Catchment Reports provides a summary of the water quality assessment outcomes for respective catchments, including status and risk categories, significant threats and pressures, details on protected areas and a comparison between cycle 2 and cycle 3.

The third cycle draft Catchment Report for Shannon Estuary South Catchment (Catchment Science & Management Unit, 2021) identified that between Cycles 2 and 3 the status of waterbodies has been consistent for the most part. The overall change in quality between Cycles 2 and 3 include 1 lake waterbody that has dropped from a High Status to a Good Status, there are 62 waterbodies which are achieving a Good Status, which remains an unchanged number between Cycles, however this includes 7 waterbodies that declined to Moderate Status, and 7 which were increased to Good Status, 24 waterbodies achieving a Moderate Status which is an increase by five waterbodies, 24 achieving a Poor Status which is a decrease of five waterbodies, and 1 achieving a Bad Status which is an increase of one. Additionally, there are 40 unassigned waterbodies, which remains unchanged between Cycles.

**The Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 is not anticipated to contribute to cumulative or in-combination effects.**

### 5.3 Summary

The Limerick Development Plan; Foynes to Limerick Road(including Adare Bypass), Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Limerick | Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, Adare Flood Relief Scheme, National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and River Basin Management Plan are considered in combination with the currently proposed LAP in the Screening Assessment section below.

## 6 Screening Assessment

### 6.1 Introduction

This section considers the development policies and objectives of the Adare LAP and identifies whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans.

Section 4 identified that the following European Sites within a 15km radius have a pathway with the plan boundary:

- Lower River Shannon SAC
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

Assessment of the potential impacts of Adare LAP aims objectives, strategies and policies is required under regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011).

This section aims to identify whether the proposed Plan aims, objectives, strategies and policies are likely to have a significant effect, either alone, or in-combination with other projects and plans, on the European Sites within the Zol.

The 'screening' process addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive:

- Is the plan or programme directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site; and
- Will the plan or programme, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a European site in view of its conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain, then the plan or programme that is under assessment is subject to a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, reported in the form of a NIR.

The aims, objectives, strategies and policies of Adare LAP are not directly connected to the management of any European Sites; however, they could have potential to cause significant effects on European Sites.

### 6.2 Screening methodology

In accordance with DEHLG guidance, the key to determining if an AA is required for a Plan, is in the assessment of whether the plan and its policies and objectives are likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

For this process, the screening of this plan has been broken down into 4 steps.

1. Description of the plan
2. Screening of European sites within the Zol of the plan dependent on the presence of potential pathways and nature of the qualifying interests.
3. Assessing the measures to identify potential impacts. Determining the significance of these potential impacts and the requirement for follow up assessments.
4. Screening Statement with conclusions.

#### 6.2.1 The Precautionary Principle

If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine no likely significant effects on a site then the precautionary principle will be applied, and the plan will be subject to an AA.

#### 6.2.2 Mitigation, Avoidance and Protective Measures

Following the *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* Case C-323/17, the assessment does not consider protective, avoidance or mitigation measures for stage 1 Screening. These measures are carried forward and considered as part of the stage 2 AA.

## 6.3 Screening of European Sites

The two European sites that were identified which have pathway for potential likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the Plan are:

- Lower River Shannon SAC
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

The pathways identified includes Land, surface water, ground water, Air and disturbance pathways to the Lower River Shannon SAC is overlapping with Plan Area, and Surface water and disturbance impact to Bird QIs of the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA>

This section further identifies the Qualifying Interests (receptors) that could potentially have significant adverse effects from the Adare LAP and Public Plan.

### 6.3.1 Lower River Shannon SAC

The River Maigue is located within and adjacent to the Adare Plan area, is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC. This is a very large SAC stretching from Killaloe in Co. Clare to Loop Head/ Kerry Head, over a distance of 120 km and includes many major river systems, such as the Mulkear, Maigue and Feale catchments.

This SAC is designated for 14 Annex I habitats and 7 Annex II species, however not all of these Qualifying Interests are present within the River Maigue.

The Annex I habitat present in the Maigue in Adare, includes water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]. This is a habitat sub-type which includes Triangular Club-rush (*Scirpus triquetrus*) and Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*). Triangular Club-rush is a rare and highly threatened vascular plant in Ireland with restricted distribution to tidal stretches of the River Shannon. Opposite-leaved Pondweed is typically associated in Ireland with tidal stretches of rivers or disturbed watercourses. Both species are protected under the Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000) and listed on the Flora Protection Order 2015 (NPWS 2012a).

Priority Annex I habitat Alluvial Forests\*[91E0] is mapped further downstream of the Miague (outside the Plan area), however mapping information is poor regarding Alluvial Woodland along the River Maigue. From Aerial photography, the River Maigue banks/riparian area is generally quite wooded, and therefore it should be assumed this habitat may be present downstream of the Plan boundary.

The River Maigue supports the Annex II species Otter, and aquatic species Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*), and Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*).

#### Qualifying Interests

The site is a SAC selected for the following habitats and species listed on Annex I / II of the EU Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are European Site codes):

- [1110] Sandbanks
- [1130] Estuaries
- [1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats
- [1150] Coastal Lagoons\*
- [1160] Large Shallow Inlets and Bays
- [1170] Reefs
- [1220] Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks
- [1230] Vegetated Sea Cliffs
- [1310] Salicornia Mud
- [1330] Atlantic Salt Meadows
- [1410] Mediterranean Salt Meadows
- [3260] Floating River Vegetation
- [6410] Molinia Meadows
- [91E0] Alluvial Forests\*



- [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)
- [1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- [1096] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
- [1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- [1106] Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- [1349] Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

However, as this is a large site encompassing both estuarine, terrestrial and riparian habitats and species, not all QIs are located within the Zone of Influence of the Adare LAP. Based on the available mapping and baseline data, the following QIs have been screened-in:

- [3260] Floating River Vegetation
- [91E0] Alluvial Forests\*
- [1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- [1096] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
- [1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- [1106] Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

### 6.3.2 River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA is located 5.2km away, or 8.3km downstream of the River Maigue from the Adare Plan Boundary.

The SPA is the most important coastal wetland site in the country and regularly supports in excess of 50,000 wintering waterfowl. This SPA supports the largest numbers of wintering waterfowl in Ireland. Twenty one Qualifying Interest birds species are protected under this SPA, of which the following have been recorded in Adare: Eurasian Curlew, Eurasian Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, European Golden Plover, Northern Lapwing, Whooper Swan.

Some bird species may pass through the site whilst on migration in spring and/or autumn, or a few may be over-wintering or breeding within the Adare LAP boundary. Although Adare is not an important location, either wetlands or River Maigue, for significant numbers of QI birds or ex-situ habitat. Given the mobile nature of the Qualifying Interests of this SPA and the proximity of the proposed Plan to the SPA, all SPA bird species shall be considered in the assessment, and should be included based on Surface water pathways.

#### Qualifying Interests

The site is a SPA selected for the following species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (numbers in brackets are European Site codes):

- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038]
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]
- Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
- Scaup (*Aythya marila*) [A062]
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]

- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) [A164]
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

## 6.4 LAP Policies and Objectives

The development policies and objectives have been initially been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA 2021). Each policy is allocated one or more screening categories, shown in Table 6-1 below. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table 6-2. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. The screening outcome includes any relevant in-combination assessment outcomes.

Table 6-1: Screening categories for the development policies (adapted from DTA, 2021)

Screening Category	Description	Screening Outcome
A	General statement of policy/ general aspiration.	Out
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.	Out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan.	Out
D	Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy.	Out
E	Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.	Out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change.	Out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a European site.	Out
H	Policy or proposal, the actual or theoretical effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects).	Out
I	Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone.	In
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination.	Dependant on in-combination test
K	Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.	Screened out after in-combination test
L	Policy or proposal likely to have a significant effect in combination.	Screened in after in-combination test.

Table 6-2: Screening table of Adare LAP policies and objectives

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>		
<b>Spatial Planning Objective 01:</b>		
It is an objective of the Council to ensure that provisions of the Draft Adare Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030 for population and economic growth align with the policies and objectives of the higher-level spatial plans, such as the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) and the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Out
<b>Chapter 2: Adare in Context</b>		
<b>The Plan will focus on the following Key Challenges and Emerging Opportunities</b>		
Compact Growth – The LAP shall adhere to the targets set out in the core strategy, and Settlement Strategy and Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) of the Limerick Development Plan 2022- 2028.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Out
Village Centre First – A successful village centre, includes a retail sector, which plays a crucial role in terms of economic growth and development. The LAP promotes stimulating regeneration and renewal of the village centre and improvement of the public realm as outlined in Volume 2 of this Draft Plan which will contribute to overall economic viability and delivery of high-quality built environment.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Out
Opportunity Sites – 5 sites have been identified as providing potential for renewal and regeneration in the village and will contribute to an improved quality of life in the village.	<p><b>Opportunity sites are further assessed in Section 6.4. Development at these sites could lead to fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality, which may impact European Sites.</b></p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone. L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
Economic Activity - Ensuring the availability of suitable lands to support employment generating activities in Adare which complement and expand on the existing economic	A – General statement policy / general aspiration	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
base.	<p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	
<p>Tourism Potential – Adare has a well-established tourist product and is the premier destination in the County. Potential exists with the Ryder Cup to showcase the village internationally and provides scope for further development. Potential also exists for a Greenway connection to the village which will build on the tourism offering in Adare.</p>	<p>This objective outlines the benefits associated with the Greenway and Ryder Cup which the preparation of each will lead to increased development and activities. Any development within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
<p>Integration of Land Use and Transport - Co-ordination of transport and land use planning plays a pivotal role in the sustainable development of the local economy. Where and how we build our residential and work environments and supporting transport infrastructure including roads, footpaths, cycle ways, buses and rail infrastructure impacts, is fundamental for sustainable communities, climate action and quality of life considerations. The delivery of the Adare Bypass will make a fundamental change to the quality of life of all in Adare as will any potential re-opening of the rail line for commuters.</p>	<p>The Adare Bypass is subject to Appropriate Assessment and an NIS has been carried out for this project.</p> <p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<p>Flooding - Flood risk issues are an important consideration in the preparation of the LAP, particularly in zoning lands for appropriate uses in flood risk areas.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<p>Environment and Climate Change - Delivery of sustainable growth and preserving the environmental assets of the surrounding area is a key consideration of the LAP, which includes delivering positive environmental outcome.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone</p>	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	or in combination	
<b>Chapter 3: Development Strategy Objectives a</b>		
1. Seek the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the existing built environment, in accordance with the objectives for compact growth in higher-level spatial plans, through appropriate infill, brownfield and greenfield development, supported by the necessary physical and community infrastructure.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
2. Promote sustainable economic development, enterprise and employment opportunities and prioritising the village centre, as the primary location for retail and services.		
3. Promote and facilitate sustainable modes of transport, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, whilst protecting and improving existing road infrastructure in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments.	<p>Although positive in sustainability, this objective could lead to increased development of infrastructure in Adare. Any development of infrastructure within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone. L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
4. Protect, conserve and enhance the built environment, through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation and ensuring quality urban design principles are applied to all new developments, respecting historic and architectural heritage.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
5. Protect, enhance and connect areas of natural heritage, blue green infrastructure and open space for the benefits of quality of life and biodiversity, capitalising on climate action and flood risk measures and in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.	Although positive in sustainability and connectivity, this objective could lead to increased development of Blue/Green infrastructure in Adare particularly to the River Maigue. Any development of infrastructure within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and	IN

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	<p>quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
<p>6. Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles apply to all new developments having regard to the proposed Public Realm Plan set out in Volume 2 of this Plan and in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.</p>	<p>Public Realm Plan (Volume 2) is assessed in Section 6.6 in this document.</p> <p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p>	OUT
<p>7. Ensure all development proposals shall have regard to the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, and superseding Strategies, together with the associated SEA and NIS environmental reports, mitigation or climate action strategies in the formulation of any plans and when assessing planning application for future developments.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<p>8. Guide the future development of Adare, in accordance with the Town Centre First policy approach seeking to bring people and appropriate business/services back into the heart of Adare through place-making, good quality urban design, and sustainable mobility as promoted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and the Heritage and the Department of Rural and Community Development.</p>		
<p>9. Ensure the future development of Adare supports the transition to a low carbon society and economy, implementing national policy to reduce gas emissions, improve environmental quality and contribute to national targets for climate change.</p>		
<p>10. Seek opportunities with relevant stakeholders for inward investment to the village, including national funding schemes and other initiatives, as they arise.</p>		
<p><b>Policy DS 1 Core Strategy: It is a policy of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Ensure compliance with the population projections of the Core Strategy (or any revision thereof). The Planning Authority will monitor the type of developments permitted in Adare, including the number of residential units constructed on an annual basis.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<p><b>Policy DS2 Development Strategy: It is policy of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>(a) Deliver new residential development, in accordance with the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, supporting a choice of quality housing, mixed tenure and unit</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p>	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
size/type universally designed for ease of adaption to the lifecycle and universally accessible.	B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	
b) Ensure the sequential development of the serviced residential lands identified to cater for envisaged population growth		
c) Ensure that at least 30% of all new housing development is delivered within existing built-up areas and on infill, brownfield and backland sites.		
d) Consolidate existing development and increase existing residential density, through a range of measures, including re-use of existing buildings and infill development schemes subject to screening and in line with appropriate bat, ecological and environmental/appropriate assessments to promote the restoration or protection from removal of buildings to prevent potential loss of roosts.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	OUT
<b>Chapter 4: Development Strategy</b>		
<b>Objective H1 Residential Development: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Require the use of Design Briefs, Masterplans, Sustainability Statements, Social Infrastructure Assessments, and any other supporting documents deemed necessary to ensure the coherent planning of residential development. Masterplans will be required for large scale development of residentially zoned lands and shall be submitted at planning application stage. Early engagement with all utility's providers including Uisce Eireann is strongly advised.	Masterplans allow for high level design for a site or project which generally determines the requirement for environmental assessment at an early stage. This will lead protection of the environment at pre-design level and more robust European Site protection and earlier analysis of in-combination effects, as requirement for Appropriate Assessment is ascertained at an earlier stage in design.  A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	OUT
b) No one proposal for residential development shall increase the existing housing stock by more than 10 – 15% within the lifetime of the Plan, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the settlement has adequate capacity, in terms of both physical and social infrastructure to support additional growth	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
c) Ensure all new residential layouts prioritise walking and cycling and are fully permeable for pedestrians and cyclists to access a range of local services and enable the efficient provision of public transport services.		
d) Ensure new residential development provides high quality public open space and play lots proportional to the number of residential units, having cognisance to accessibility, safety, permeability and public realm. Proposals shall have regard to the Public Realm		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
Plan included in Volume 2 of this Draft Plan.		
<p>e) Ensure that in any proposed alterations to the streetscape of the village centre, adequate consideration is given to conservation, restoration and reconstruction, where it would affect the settings of protected structures, or the integrity of the nineteenth century streetscapes and be subject to screening and in line with appropriate bat, ecological and environmental/appropriate assessments to promote the restoration or protection from removal of buildings to prevent potential loss of roosts. .</p> <p>f) Ensure that any proposed alterations to the thatched structures shall require the maintenance of their essential architectural character, retention of features of special interest and respect of the structures fabric, form and setting.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<b>Objective H2 Density and New Residential Development: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
<p>Ensure that all residential development complies with the residential density requirements set out in Table 3 and encourage a range of densities on New Residential and other suitably zoned lands in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Cities, Towns and Villages (2009) and any subsequent documents. A statement demonstrating an appropriate mix of units has been included in new residential schemes shall be submitted as a requirement with all residential planning applications.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<b>Objective H3 Serviced Sites: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
<p>Permit serviced sites on adequately zoned lands within the settlement boundary of Adare in line with the requirements outlined in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. The Council requires a minimum net density of 10 dwelling units per hectare on lands zoned Serviced Sites.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<b>Objective H4 Social and Affordable Housing: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
<p>Promote the provision of social and affordable housing in accordance with Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended), Objective HO013 of the Limerick Development Plan, the Limerick Housing Strategy, the Housing Needs Demand Assessment, and the government housing policy 'Housing for All' (2021), Limerick City and County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 and any subsequent replacements thereof.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<b>Chapter 4 Town Centre First Approach</b>		



Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<b>Policy TCF 1 Town Centre First: It is a policy of the Council to:</b>		
a) Support the implementation of the Town Centre First policy in Adare in creating a viable, vibrant and attractive village centre to live, work and visit while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community through the enhancement of the village's rich architectural heritage and enhancement of the public realm in line with the Public Realm Plan includes as Volume 2 in this Draft Plan.	Public Realm Plan (Volume 2) is assessed in Section 6.6 in this document. A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
b) Capitalise on the infrastructural investments in the village that support the Town Centre First programme within the lifetime of this Plan and seek further opportunities to promote Adare as a viable, vibrant and attractive village centre to live, work and visit fulfilling its role as the service, social, cultural, economic and recreational hub for the local community and hinterland sensitive to the village's rich architectural heritage and improved public realm		
c) Promote high quality place-making and public realm, in accordance with the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, including the Development Management Standards, any replacement thereof and any relevant Section28 Guidance. All development shall demonstrate climate resilience measure to climate proof critical infrastructure.		
d) Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles are applied in the village centre, and the opportunity areas are identified in this Plan.		
e) Ensure development proposal are designed in such a manner as to enhance the village centre and should give due consideration to: Site context, surrounding built heritage, climate resilience, connectivity/permeability, public realm improvements, adaptability, privacy, amenity, parking provision.		
<b>Policy RL 3 Retail Strategic Policy: It is the policy of the Council to:</b>		
To support the sustainable long-term retail growth of Adare as a Tier 3 Town Centres Level 2, in accordance with the Limerick Development Plan and the Retail Strategy for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022 – 2028.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
<b>Objective RL 01 Retail Development: It is an objective of the Council to Enhance the vitality and viability of Adare as a retail service centre and to improve the quantity and quality of retail provision in the village by:</b>		
a) Emphasising the village centre as the primary shopping location.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals	OUT
b) Encouraging the upgrade and expansion of existing retail units and the development of new units in the village centre.		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>c) Ensuring that proposals with retail development elements comply with the provision of the Retail Strategy for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022 – 2028 in relation to site suitability and the sequential approach and ensure proposals which would undermine the vitality and viability of Adare village centre will not be permitted.</p> <p>d) Encourage proposals at ground floor level within the village core for commercial uses.</p> <p>e) Prohibit the proliferation of uses in the village centre which would detract from the amenities, or the vitality and viability of the area such as fast-food outlets, amusement arcades, off-licences, bookmakers and other non-retail uses. Storage use is not permitted as the primary use of ground floor units.</p> <p>f) Encourage the use of upper floors in retail premises for commercial or residential uses.</p> <p>g) Enhance the physical environment of the village centre as a location for shopping and business through measures aimed at improving conditions for pedestrians.</p> <p>h) Encourage the upgrade and refurbishment of existing retail units and the maintenance of original shopfronts, or the reinstatement of traditional shopfronts, where poor replacements have been installed, and discourage the use of external roller shutters, internally illuminated signs or inappropriate projecting signs.</p>	<p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	
<p><b>Objective TCF1: Opportunity Sites: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Encourage and support the appropriate and sustainable development or redevelopment where appropriate of lands/buildings identified as opportunity sites in line with the principles set out in Table 3.</p>	<p>Opportunity sites are assessed in Section 6.5 Zoning of this report. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network) through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p>b) Ensure that new development in the village centre and in particular the opportunity buildings and areas comprises the highest of qualitative and design standards, complimenting the existing historical built fabric, or national heritage, sustaining Adare, as a village in which to live, work, visit, invest in and do business. Developers will be required to prepare urban design frameworks/masterplan for the Opportunity Sites in the</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	<p>OUT</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
Village Centre to inform future development proposals. These may require screening for SEA /AA and Ecological Impact Assessment as appropriate.		
<b>Chapter 5 Sustainable Communities</b>		
<b>Policy C1 Community Infrastructure, Recreation and Open Space Strategic Policy: It is a policy of the Council to:</b>		
Support the provision of a broad range of high quality social/community, educational, healthcare and recreational facilities and infrastructure in Adare.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
<b>Objective C1 Community and Educational Facilities: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Ensure that there are sufficient educational and community facilities to meet the needs generated by proposed developments, by requiring the completion of a Sustainability Statement and Social Infrastructure Assessment in line with the requirements of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
b) Ensure that childcare and education facilities are provided in tandem with new residential areas, at accessible locations, which maximise opportunities for walking, cycling and use of public transport and comply with all relevant standards.	<p><b>This objective could lead to increased development. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Site network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</b></p> <p><b>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</b> <b>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination.</b></p>	IN
c) Facilitate the development of lifelong learning facilities and digital capacity for distance learning.		
d) Ensure that the existing school sites are protected for educational use and that lands adjacent to the schools are also protected for future expansion of the schools, if required, subject to site suitability.		
e) Support and facilitate the development and expansion of health service infrastructure by the Health Services Executive and other statutory and voluntary agencies and private healthcare providers in the provision of appropriate healthcare facilities and the provision of community-based care facilities at appropriate locations, subject to proper planning consideration and the principles of sustainable development.		
f) Require future development of new community facilities to generally meet the following criteria of the 10 Minute Town Concept: Generally located within 800m walking distance of the village centre. Located centrally with respect to the community it serves, taking into account limitations of topography and the road and footpath network. Clustered with complementary community facilities, local retail services etc. and integrated with housing; and	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>Located where a substantial proportion of the population reside, in particular older and less mobile/mobility compromised members of the community.</p>		
<p>g) Support and facilitate sports clubs, schools, cultural groups and community organisations in the provision, improvement and expansion of community services, sports and recreation amenities, multi-purpose spaces at appropriate locations that are universally accessible. The Council promotes opportunities for multi and co-use active and passive recreational amenities including sports and recreational facilities, playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment within existing areas of open space.</p>	<p>This objective could lead to increased development. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the Natura 2000 network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination.</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p>h) Support the upgrade of the Heritage centre and seek appropriate funding in conjunction with relevant community groups</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>i) Support the reuse of the former Monastery/Fever hospital for community related uses in line with all relevant standards.</p>	<p>This objective to reuse this site could lead to increased development. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone. L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p>j) Identify a suitable site for a graveyard within the lifetime of this Plan subject to proper planning consideration and the principles of sustainable development.</p>	<p>New site of graveyard can lead could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and</p>	<p>IN</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	<p>quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
<b>Objective C2 New Amenity Areas Walkways and Cycleways: It is an objective of the Council to</b>		
<p>a) Continue to facilitate the development of walkways and cycleways as indicated on the Amenity and Sustainable Transport Map and the Public Realm Strategy (Appendix 1, Map 3 and Volume 2) in co-operation with local interested parties, including the private, voluntary and public sector subject to funding. Any proposed development adjacent to walkways must incorporate connecting pathways into the designated walkway in their design. Developments shall be designed to overlook proposed walkways and shall link existing and proposed residential areas to each other, to amenity areas and to provide connections to the village centre and shall be in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..</p>	<p>Any new development of infrastructure around Adare, particularly near or connected to the River Maigue, could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
<p>b) Encourage walking and cycling as more convenient, popular and safe methods of movement in Adare, and facilitate the provision of an attractive and coherent network of off-road footpaths and cycle facilities which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.</p>		
<p>c) Support the provision of a new Greenway linking Adare with Rathkeale and the wider Greenway \ Active Travel network which is in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.</p>		
<p>d) Providing secure cycle parking facilities at appropriate locations as opportunities arise.</p>		
<p>e) Encouraging combined footpath and cycleway links along the proposed Active Travel route through lands at Blackabbey and along the N21 southwards to the Ballingarry junction, northward to the Adare Castle and to the GAA field through the village.</p>		
<p>f) Support proposals to provide better connection between the Town Park and the Main Street of the village.</p>		
<p>g) Explore options for amenity and access to the River Maigue as part of the Flood Relief Scheme subject to relevant environmental and appropriate assessment reports.</p>		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<b>Objective C3 Parks, Open Space and Recreation: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
<p>a) Examine the feasibility of blue-way opportunities/potential along the River Maigue in Adare and support an assessment of Blueways as they relate to Adare for potential to develop Blueway trails on the River Maigue subject to appropriate environmental and ecological assessments as required.</p>	<p>Increased use of River Maigue will could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone. L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
<p>b) Protect existing open space by not permitting development, which encroaches on such open space, and protect semi-natural open space from inappropriate development and facilitate/support the provision of allotments or community gardens at appropriate locations.</p>	<p>D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	OUT
<p>c) Ensure new residential development provides high quality public open space and play-lots proportional to the number of residential units, having cognisance to accessibility, safety, permeability, place-making and requirements set out in Table 6 above.</p>	<p>Increased development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p>	IN
<p>d) Support the expansion of further community facilities at the Manor Fields</p>		
<p>e) Support the provisions for public realm improvements in Adare subject to funding and in line with the Public Realm Strategy.</p>	<p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination.</p>	
<p>f) Consider the effect of lighting associated with open space provision and where deemed essential shall be designed and installed to minimise adverse effects on wildlife including Lesser Horseshoe Bats and Otters. There shall be a presumption against lighting in Natura 2000 Designated Sites.</p>	<p>This proposal further projects Annex II species from increased light pollution, which is threat to these species, and protects European Sites. D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	OUT
<b>Chapter 6: Economic Development and Tourism</b>		
<b>Policy ED 1 Strategic Economic Development: It is a policy of the Council to</b>		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>Promote, facilitate and enable economic development and employment Promote, facilitate and enable economic development and employment generating activities in Adare on appropriately zoned lands, in a sustainable manner, in accordance with the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and its associated environmental assessment reports.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective ED 1 Enterprise and Employment Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Encourage the reuse and redevelopment of vacant units, brownfield, derelict and infill sites for employment creation, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and be subject to screening and in line with appropriate bat, ecological and environmental/appropriate assessments to promote the restoration or protection from removal of buildings to prevent potential loss of roosts.</p> <p>b) Ensure any proposals for the lands zoned for Enterprise and Employment include a Traffic and Transport Assessment, to ensure that the local road network and associated junctions with the National road have sufficient capacity to facilitate the extent of the development planned. The costs of implementing mitigation measures arising from the assessment shall be borne by the developer. Any proposals at this site shall ensure the provision of a minimum 20m landscaped buffer zone between proposed development and existing residential developments and be informed by ecological expertise.</p> <p>c) Ensure any proposal for part of the lands zoned Enterprise and Employment does not preclude the development of the remaining zoning lands. Any proposal submitted on site shall include an indicative layout which allows for a coordinated development at this location.</p> <p>d) Retain sufficient lands around the site boundaries where industrial, enterprise or distribution activities are proposed to accommodate landscaping to soften the visual impact and reduce the biodiversity loss of the development and is sympathetic to the natural environment</p> <p>e) Early engagement with all utilities providers including Uisce Eireann is strongly advised.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective ED 2 Tourism related development in Adare Manor: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>That no new residential developments on greenfield sites shall be permitted on land zoned tourism related development. Ancillary leisure/tourism development and the repurposing of existing buildings for uses which complement the use and sustain the operations of Adare Manor and the hosting of the Ryder Cup may be permitted. Any such proposals shall only be considered where they can satisfactorily demonstrated that there will be no impact on the integrity of this area or on the natural habitat of the River</p>	<p>D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects</p>	<p>OUT</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>and its designation as part of Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation. Applications on this zoning shall justify how they satisfy this criteria. Ecological enhancement measures as part of habitat management plans should be required to support the overall ecological integrity of the lands and should be informed by surveys and ecological impact assessments and Appropriate Assessment Screening undertaken by appropriate qualified ecologists..</p>		
<p><b>Objective ED 3 Tourism Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Support growth in the tourism sector in Adare by facilitating vital connections between complementary sites and attractions and ensuring visitors can easily avail of services in Adare village centre. The possibility of adding the Franciscan Church to the tourism trail shall be explored. Tourism projects will be required to adhere to appropriate environmental and ecological assessment and to mitigate any adverse environmental, biodiversity and ecological impacts.</p>	<p><b>This objective to increase tourism could lead to increased development and pressures. Any development within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</b></p> <p><b>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</b></p> <p><b>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</b></p>	<p><b>IN</b></p>
<p>b) Support the provision of a new Greenway linking Adare with the wider Greenway \ Active Travel network.</p>		
<p>c) Support Brand Adare in building a recognisable brand for the village and support the development of a wayfinding strategy for the village which links in with existing digital tourist information systems and apps and considers locations for art work/installation in the village. This shall also include an element of awareness in relation to the natural, cultural and landscape heritage.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p><b>OUT</b></p>
<p>d) Support Adare’s role in the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019 - 2023 and any subsequent replacement document.</p>		
<p>e) Require new tourism and amenity projects located within the village to foster synergy with the services and retail business located in the village and support community engagement.</p>		
<p>f) Support the use of community facilities to widen the arts and cultural heritage offering of the area.</p>		
<p><b>Chapter 7: Sustainable Mobility</b></p>		
<p><b>Policy SM P1 Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies - It is a policy of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Support and facilitate the integration of land use and transportation policies for Adare, as a means of reducing the impact on climate change. The Council will ensure the delivery of a sustainable compact settlement, which can be served by various modes of</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p>	<p><b>OUT</b></p>



Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
transport with a focus on reducing the need to travel and which shall be in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..	D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices	
<b>Policy SM P2 Transport and Movement - Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use: It is a policy of the Council to:</b>		
Seek to implement in a positive manner, in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders and agencies, the policies of the NPF, RSES, the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022) and the Department of Transport's Active Travel publications, to encourage more sustainable patterns of travel and greater use of sustainable forms of transport in Adare, including public transport, cycling and walking.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
<b>Objective SM 1 Movement and Accessibility: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Enhance the walking and cycling networks through the village within the lifetime of the Plan and seek to improve direct pedestrian linkages, cycle networks and infrastructure throughout the village and improve connectivity to the village centre and existing services which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.	Expansion of transport infrastructure can lead to further development. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.	IN
b) Deliver a Traffic Management Plan for the village within the lifetime of the Plan, which will consider traffic flow and parking around the village and improved pedestrian and cyclist provision. High quality public realm will be required as part of any village centre redevelopment in line with the Public Realm Plan and shall be in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..	I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination.	
c) Facilitate and implement school streets and school zones, including slow zones around the school, and promote/facilitate active travel options for school children to reduce the health and safety risks associated with traffic congestion, pollution and inactive lifestyles. This includes the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme in partnership with the NTA and Green schools.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
d) Incorporate Sustainable Travel measures in all new developments in the village and along the full length of the proposed indicative link road from the Rathkeale Road to Station Road and along the L1422-314 to the GAA grounds and along the N21 southwards to the Ballingarry junction and northwards to Adare Castle which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.	Expansion of transport infrastructure can lead to further development. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network)through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.  I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone. L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-	IN

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	combination	
<p>e) Protect the existing rail route against encroachment from inappropriate uses that could compromise the long-term development of the rail facility and support appropriate upgrades which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<p>f) Support the provisions set out in the 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response and the Treatment of Transition Zones to Towns and Villages on National Roads and S.I. No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..</p>	<p>DMURS Interim Advice Note includes widening of footpaths, additional facilities for cyclists. Expansion of transport infrastructure can lead to further development. Any development within Adare could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network) through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p><b>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</b>  <b>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination.</b></p>	IN
<p><b>Objective SM 2 Overflow Car Park: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Explore the possibility of the provision of an overflow car park on lands to the rear of the Heritage Centre car park indicated as a P on the land use zoning map subject to compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment contained in Volume 3 of this Plan and a Flood Management Plan detailing procedures including closure of the car park in predicted times of tidal inundation. Any development of a car park at this location shall demonstrate appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..</p>	<p>Development of an overflow car park could have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites (Natura 2000 network) through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p><b>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</b>  <b>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination.</b></p>	IN
<p><b>Objective SM 3 Modal Shift and Behavioural Change: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Encourage, promote and facilitate a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport in Adare.</p> <p>b) Support and facilitate implementation of an integrated, multi-modal and accessible public transport network catering for all members of society across Adare and its</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone</p>	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>hinterland, including any investment in the public transport by service providers in Adare</p> <p>c) Collaborate with transport providers to improve connectivity to adjacent settlements and Limerick City.</p>	<p>or in combination</p>	
<p><b>Policy SM P3: Rural Mobility: It is a policy of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Continue to support the implementation of the National Transport Authority's 'Connecting Ireland: Rural Mobility Plan' and the 'Local Link' rural transport service and to encourage operators to improve the service to meet the social and economic needs of Adare which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective SM 4: Public Transport Provision: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Support and facilitate implementation of an integrated, multi-modal and accessible public transport network in Adare and its hinterland, including any investment in the public transport by service providers in Adare which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective SM 5 Roads: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Safeguard the capacity of the national road network and ensure any future development requiring access onto the N21 shall be in accordance with objective TR 039 and objective TR 048 of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and ensure development does not compromise the performance of the network or future improvements to the network. Road Safety Audits and Traffic Impact Assessments will be required to demonstrate implications of development proposals on the national and regional road network which are in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required. .</p>	<p>Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass) has been subject to all appropriate environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment (NIS) and EIAR with mitigation measures proposed to protected Natura 2000 Network.</p> <p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>b) Support the delivery of the Foynes to Limerick (including Adare Bypass) Road, subject to all appropriate environmental and planning assessments.</p>		
<p>c) Protect the capacity of the regional road network from inappropriate development, having regard to all relevant Government guidance and Objective TR 041 Strategic Regional Roads of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and ensure development does not compromise the performance of the network or future improvements to network.</p>		
<p>d) Prohibit advertising signage adjacent to the national and regional road networks.</p>		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
e) Ensure all developments protect and safeguard the capacity and efficiency of the drainage regimes of the road network.		
<b>Chapter 8: Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</b>		
<b>Policy CH 1 Climate Change: It is a policy of the Council to:</b>		
Protect and enhance environmental quality and implement the climate action measures through the planning process to help address climate change.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals	OUT
<b>Objective CH 01 Climate Change: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Ensure climate-proofing measures are incorporated into the design, planning and construction of all developments, including utilities and their networks. The use of green infrastructure as a mechanism for carbon offsetting and surface water management is encouraged.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals	OUT
b) Ensure that all residential and commercial developments are designed to take account of the impacts of climate change, including the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, and that energy efficiency and renewable energy measures are incorporated. In the case of large industrial, commercial or newly constructed public buildings, the incorporation of renewable technologies, such as solar energy in the design will be encouraged, subject to compliance with all relevant planning criteria.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
c) Support and promote climate smart and the NZEB standard of building or equivalent for all new developments.		
d) Promote and support development of renewable energy sources, which will achieve low carbon outputs and promote Adare as a low carbon area.	<p>This objective could lead to increased development of energy infrastructure. Any development within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality. The focus on drainage regimes of the road could be impactful on the banks of the River Maigne, which could be used as suitable wintering grounds for QI birds of the screened-in European Sites.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p>	IN

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	<p><b>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</b></p>	
<p>e) Support the development of low carbon and green technological businesses and industries.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>f) Promote responsible development and management of land, drainage systems and natural habitats and to encourage development at appropriate locations, which minimise the use of fossil fuels and maximises the use of local or renewable resources.</p>	<p><b>This objective could lead to increased development. Any development within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality. The focus on drainage regimes of the road could be impactful on the banks of the River Maigne, which could be used as suitable wintering grounds for QI birds of the screened-in European Sites.</b></p> <p><b>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</b> <b>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</b></p>	<p>IN</p>
<p>g) Promote the appropriate adaption of built heritage to respond to the effects of climate change which are sympathetic to the existing built fabric with no adverse impact on historic character or appearance and include screening and appropriate bat surveys/ecological assessments to include potential effects on bats..</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 02: Compliance with Environmental Assessments: It is an objective of the council to</b></p>		
<p>Require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment and other environmental assessments as appropriate in the Plan area.</p>	<p>D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 03 Tree Protection and Nature Conservation: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>Seek to protect natural stone boundary walls, ponds/wetlands, other natural features of local importance and mature trees, where possible. Development that requires the felling or harming of such trees will not generally be permitted, unless supported by a tree survey establishing that the subject trees are of no ecological or amenity value. Such report shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified and competent person with an appropriate ecological qualification and experience.</p> <p>Continue to actively support the aims and objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021 – 2025, by encouraging measures to protect and increase the population of bees and other pollinating insects in Adare.</p> <p>Increase tree planting and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan throughout Adare and in open spaces in new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management in partnership with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Support the aims of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and succeeding plans, in emphasising the importance of ecological issues in planning.</p>	<p>D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 04 Proposed Natural Heritage Area: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Maintain the conservation value of the proposed Natural Heritage Area within the LAP boundary.</p>	<p>D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 05 Designated Sites and Nature Conservation: It is an objective of the council to</b></p>		
<p>a) Protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation site, through the establishment of buffer zones along the river informed by ecological assessment and consultation with relevant bodies including Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife Service as appropriate.</p>	<p>D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>b) Ensure that appropriate waste water infrastructure is available to support new developments to safeguard water quality and biodiversity.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>c) No projects which will be reasonably likely to give rise to significant adverse direct or indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites, having regard to their conservation objectives arising from reduction in species diversity, shall be</p>	<p>D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to</p>	<p>OUT</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects). In terms of general nature conservation, the Council will protect undesignated habitats such as notable trees and hedgerows, riparian corridors, ponds/wetlands and other natural features of local importance.	protect European sites from adverse effects	
<b>Objective CH 06 Lesser Horseshoe Bat: It is an objective of the Council to</b>		
Require all developments in areas where there may be Lesser Horseshoe Bats, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the species. The assessment shall also include measures to ensure that building and landscape features are retained and the development itself will not cause a barrier or deterrent effect on the species. In this regard the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2023 shall be referenced.	D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	OUT
<b>Objective CH 07 Ecological Impact Assessment: It is an objective of the Council to</b>		
Require all developments where there are species of conservation concern, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the site and nearby designated sites, suggesting appropriate mitigation measures and establishing, in particular, the presence or absence of the following species: Otter, badger, bats, lamprey and protected plant species such as the Triangular Club Rush, Opposite Leaved Pond Weed and Flora Protection Order Species generally.	D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	OUT
<b>Objective CH 08 Creation of New Habitats It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Seek the creation of new habitats by encouraging wild green areas and new water features such as, pools and ponds in new developments.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
b) Encourage management plans for green areas to use the minimum of pesticides and herbicides.		
c) The creation of areas that are not subject to public access in order to promote wildlife use is strongly encouraged		
<b>Objective CH 09 New Infrastructure Projects It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) As a first principle, design of new infrastructure, particularly linear infrastructure should follow avoidance of areas of greatest environmental and ecological importance and sensitivity. Where its has been demonstrated that no other reasonable option exists, detailed mitigation measures based on robust ecological surveys and best practice must be included throughout to avoid loss of significant habitats, wildlife corridors and stepping stones.	D- General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold polices E - Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	OUT
b) Require new infrastructure and linear developments in particular, to demonstrate	A – General statement policy / general aspiration	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>at design stage sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species and to demonstrate a high degree of permeability for wildlife, to allow the movement of species and to prevent the creation of barriers to wildlife and aquatic life in the wider countryside which shall be in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..</p>	<p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	
<p><b>Objective CH 10 Semi Natural Open Space: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Limit development on lands zoned as Semi Natural Open Space. Necessary works designed under the Adare Flood Scheme and the Adare Public Realm Plan may be permitted subject to appropriate environmental assessment and approval of the National Monuments Service where relevant.</p>	<p>A General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>b) Protect and maintain the integrity of the Semi Natural Open Space and protect the watercourses in Adare by providing a buffer zone, in accordance with the Semi Natural Open Space zoning designation on the Land Use Zoning Map.</p>		
<p><b>Objective CH 11 Special Control Area: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Protect and maintain the integrity of the Special Control Area. This zoning recognises the archaeological importance of the 13th-14th century town of Adare, in particular the layout of burgage plots on either side of the N21 and the town defences extending North/South and returning West through the grounds of the Manor. All town defences, either above or below ground or their expected circuit are considered to be National Monuments (2008) and subject to the highest level of protection including their character, setting &amp; amenity.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p>b) Limit development in the Special Control Area. Necessary works designed under the Adare Flood Scheme and the Adare Public Realm Scheme may be permitted subject to appropriate environmental assessment and approval of the National Monuments Service and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage where relevant.</p>		
<p>c) Protect and maintain the integrity of the Special Control Areas and protect the watercourses in Adare by providing a buffer zone, in accordance with the Special Control Area zoning designation on the Land Use Zoning Map</p>		
<p><b>Objective CH 12 Blue Green Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Develop and enhance blue and green infrastructure opportunities throughout Adare and in line with the detail set out in Table 6: LAP Climate Action Opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Blue and Green infrastructure do not inherently protect European Sites, and could potentially have direct and/or</b></p>	<p><b>IN</b></p>



Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	<p>indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
<p>b) Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites where possible. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species which shall be in line with the appropriate and necessary environmental and ecological assessments as required..</p> <p>c) Where possible remove barriers to species movement, such as the removal of in-stream barriers to fish passage.</p>	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals	OUT
<b>Policy CH 2 Water Framework Directive Policy: It is a policy of the Council to:</b>		
Implement changes to the management of water bodies, taking account of all aspects of the Water Cycle in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and the principal objective of the WFD to achieve good status in all waters and to ensure that status does not deteriorate in any waters.	D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals	OUT
<b>Objective CH 13 Protected Structures: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
<p>a) Protect structures entered onto the Record of Protected Structures or listed to be entered onto the Record and to encourage their appropriate re-use and restoration, where possible.</p> <p>b) Resist the demolition of Protected Structures, in whole or in part, the removal or modification of features of architectural importance, and design element that would adversely affect the character or setting of a Protected Structure, unless exceptional circumstances can be clearly demonstrated by a suitably qualified professional.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<b>Objective CH 14 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's): It is the objective of the Council to:</b>		

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>a) Protect, conserve and where appropriate, enhance the ACAs as identified in Map 4.</p> <p>b) Proposals for development within the ACA's shall:            Reflect and respect the scale and form of existing structures within the ACAs in proportioning, overall scale and use of materials and finishes, particularly with reference to the street frontages and seek to contribute to and harmonise or enhance the character and streetscape of the ACA's;            Seek to retain/incorporate/replicate exterior features which contribute or enhance the character and streetscape of the ACA's such as shop fronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, decorative plasterwork, timberwork and avoid the use of inappropriate paint and colour etc;</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 15: Thatched Structures: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>Protect and retain the thatched structures while recognising that such an objective may require the adaptation and modifications of the thatched structures, including the construction of extensions. The Planning Authority will require the maintenance of their essential architectural character, retention of features of special interest and respect for the structure's fabric, plan, form and setting. Any development to the thatched structures which would have a significant adverse impact upon their character will not be permitted.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 16 Archaeological Heritage: It is the objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Seek the preservation (in situ, or at a minimum, preservation by record) of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, including wreck, sites and objects underwater. This is to include all the sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. In securing such preservation, the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the National Museum of Ireland and the Local Authority Archaeologist.</p> <p>b) Protect and preserve (in situ, or at a minimum, preservation by record) all sites and features of historical interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p> <p>c) Ensure that any proposed development shall not have a negative impact on the character or setting of an archaeological monument. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the Archaeological potential of rivers and other waterways.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>d) Ensure that the area of a monument and the associated buffer area shall not be included as part of the open space requirement demanded of a specific development, but should be additional to the required open spaces, and if appropriate, where such a monument lies within a development, a conservation and/or management plan for that monument shall be submitted as part of the landscape plan for that development.</p>		
<p>e) Protect and preserve the industrial, military, maritime, riverine and post-medieval archaeological heritage of the plan area. Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment of these sites should be subject to a full architectural and archaeological assessment, including where appropriate underwater archaeological impact assessment.</p>		
<p><b>Objective CH 17 Heritage Plan: It is the objective of the Council to</b></p>		
<p>Place ecological and environmental issues at the centre of planning policies and decisions and in so doing, adhere to the objectives set out in Limerick's Heritage Plan 2017-2030</p>	<p>A - General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>
<p><b>Objective CH 18 Invasive Species: It is the objective of the Council to</b></p>		
<p>Ensure that where the presence of invasive species is identified at the site of any proposed development or where the proposed activity has an elevated risk of resulting in the presence of these species, details of how these species will be appropriately managed and controlled will be required.</p> <p>Work with and facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), by implementing biosecurity measures, selected control measures and surveys, where appropriate.</p> <p>Address the presence of invasive alien species on derelict sites under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act through the preparation of a management and eradication plan for these species.</p> <p>Require the submission of a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process, if developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are present.</p> <p>Employ biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of invasive alien species and disease and to insist that all such measures are employed on all development sites.</p>	<p>A - General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<b>Chapter 9: Infrastructure and Utilities</b>		
<b>Policy IU P1 Infrastructure and Utilities: It is the policy of the Council to:</b>		
Ensure the provision of adequate infrastructure capacity to accommodate future development and the timely provision of infrastructure needed for the sustainable growth of Adare.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
<b>Objective IU 01 Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
Ensure compliance for infrastructure led-growth in accordance with the DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
<b>Objective IU 02 Water Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Ensure compliance for infrastructure lead growth in accordance with the DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
b) Facilitate improvements to the existing water supply system to cater for the needs of an expanding population c) Ensure that development proposal provide adequate water infrastructure to facilities proposed developments. Evidence of consultation by developers with Uisce Eireann prior to submit a planning application will be required. d) Ensure future development protects existing wayleave and buffer zones around public water services infrastructure.	<p style="color: red;">This objective could lead to increased water abstraction to the River Maigue and groundwater bodies/local aquifers, which could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p style="color: red;">I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p>	IN

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	
e) Promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users and to support Uisce Eireann in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements, including innovative solutions in specific situations	A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals	OUT
f) Proposal for abstraction of water will be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive.		
<b>Objective IU 03 Wastewater Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Support the implementation of the Irish Water Investment Plans, in accordance with the settlement strategy of the RSES and Limerick Development Plan.	A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	OUT
b) Ensure adequate waste water infrastructure is available to cater for existing and proposed development, in collaboration with Irish Water, avoiding any deterioration in the quality of receiving waters and ensuring discharge meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This includes the separation of foul and surface water through the provision of sewerage networks and nature-based rainwater management measures. Applications for development under the Draft Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments. Evidence of consultation by developers with Uisce Éireann, prior to submitting a planning application will be required.		
(c) Ensure compliance for infrastructure led-growth in accordance with the DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities.		
(d) Facilitate improvements to the existing wastewater system to cater for the needs of an expanding population.		
(e) Ensure future development protects existing wayleave and buffer zones around public water services infrastructure		
<b>Objective IU 04 Surface Water Management and SuDS: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or	A – General statement policy / general aspiration	OUT

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
<p>contaminants to waters in accordance with the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (DHPLG) and associated Programme of Measures.</p> <p>b) Require all planning applications to include surface water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point;</p> <p>c) Require all new developments to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to control surface water outfall and protect water quality. Proposals shall have regard to the Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Run-off in Urban Areas – Best Practice Interim Guidance’ document.</p> <p>d) Require applicants to investigate the potential for the provision of porous surfaces, where car parking and hard landscaping is proposed.</p> <p>e) Protect the surface water resources of the plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps, and pollution control measures, where deemed necessary.</p>	<p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	
<p><b>Objective IU 05 Flood Risk Management: It is an objective of the Council to:</b></p>		
<p>a) Manage flood risk in accordance with the requirements of “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities”, DECLG and OPW (2009) and any revisions thereof and consider the potential impacts of climate change in the application of these guidelines.</p> <p>b) Ensure development proposals within the areas outlined as being at risk of flooding are subject to Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment as outlined in “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines”, DECLG and OPW (2009). These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events. Reference shall be made to Section 5.8 requirements of the Flood Risk Assessment in the SFRA of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>c) Support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Adare Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>d) Ensure that future developments in flood prone areas is generally limited to minor developments in line with the Circular PL 2/2014 and the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p> <p>e) Developments on lands benefitting from Arterial Drainage Schemes shall preserve the maintenance and access to these drainage channels. Land identified as benefitting from these systems may be prone to flooding, as such site-specific flood risk assessments will be required as appropriate, at planning application stage.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration</p> <p>B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>OUT</p>

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
f) Ensure future development of lands within Flood Risk Zone A/B is in accordance with the plan-making Justification Tests in the SFRA.		
<b>Objective IU O6: Flood Risk and Blue Green Infrastructure - It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
Promote integration and delivery of blue green infrastructure in new developments, public realm and community projects as a means of managing flood risk and enhancing the natural environment.	<p>Any blue green infrastructure around River Maigue could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone. L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
<b>Objective IU 07 Energy Generation: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
a) Support the providers of national gas and electricity grid infrastructure by safeguarding existing infrastructure from encroachment by development that might compromise the efficiency of the networks.	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
b) Facilitate cooperation between utility and service providers to ensure their networks are resilient to the impacts of climate change, both in terms of design and ongoing maintenance.	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
c) Facilitate improvement of telecommunications, broadband, electricity (including renewables) and gas networks infrastructure on an open access basis subject to safety requirements and proper planning and sustainable development	<p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	
d) Seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables.	<p>This objective could lead to increased infrastructure, which could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p>	IN

Adare LAP Policies and Objectives	Screening category	Screening Outcome
	<p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone.</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
<p>e) Facilitate delivery of E-Charge Points for electric vehicles at suitable locations and in new developments in line with the Limerick Development Plan.</p> <p>f) Promote and encourage the use of renewable energy technologies and sources in existing and proposed developments subject to consideration of environmental, conservation, residential and visual amenity.</p> <p>g) Support the development of Smart Homes and Smart Buildings and facilitate the foundation for Smart Limerick in accordance with the Limerick Digital Strategy 2017 – 2020 and any replacement thereof.</p> <p>h) Support and promote the NZEB standard of building or equivalent for all new developments</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT
<b>Objective IU 08 Waste Management: It is an objective of the Council to:</b>		
<p>a) Support the Regional Waste Management Office in implementation of the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy – Closing the Loop, to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production.</p> <p>b) Require all commercial and residential development to provide an adequate internal and external space for the correct storage of waste and recyclable materials.</p>	<p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	OUT



## 6.5 Adare Land-Use Zoning

Land use zonings have been reviewed as part of this LAP and are shown in the Figure below.

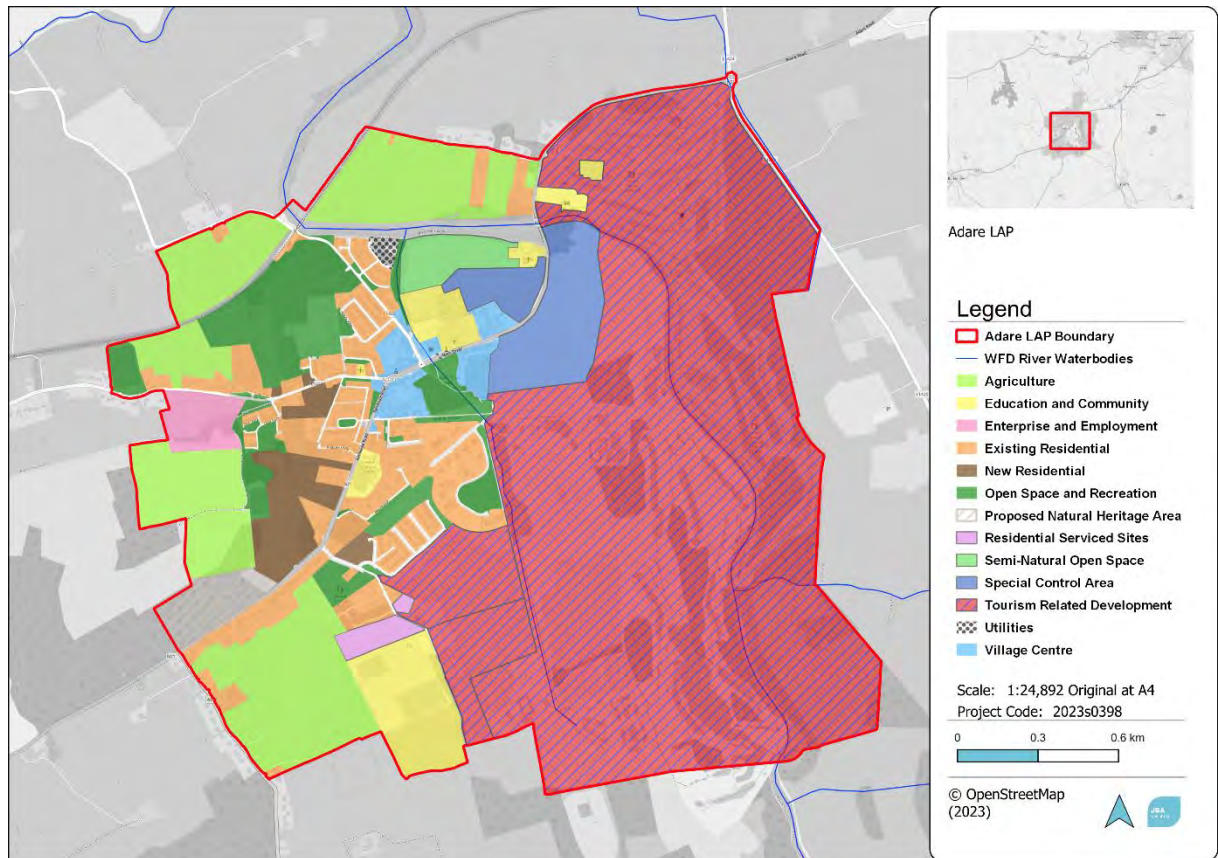


Figure 6-1: Land use zonings as part of Adare LAP.

There have been very few changes in zoning from the previous LAP to this LAP. These include:

Consolidation of zoning to enhance connectivity

Rationalisation of zoning to reflect existing uses

Environmental enhancements proposed in terms of blue-green infrastructure

Framework for Public Realm works.

A brief review of the existing zoning and the changes in zoning is provided here – it should be noted that project level assessments will still be required as appropriate. Five opportunity sites are also discussed.

6.5.1 Education and Community

No changes in Education and Community have occurred as part of this plan, as such no impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

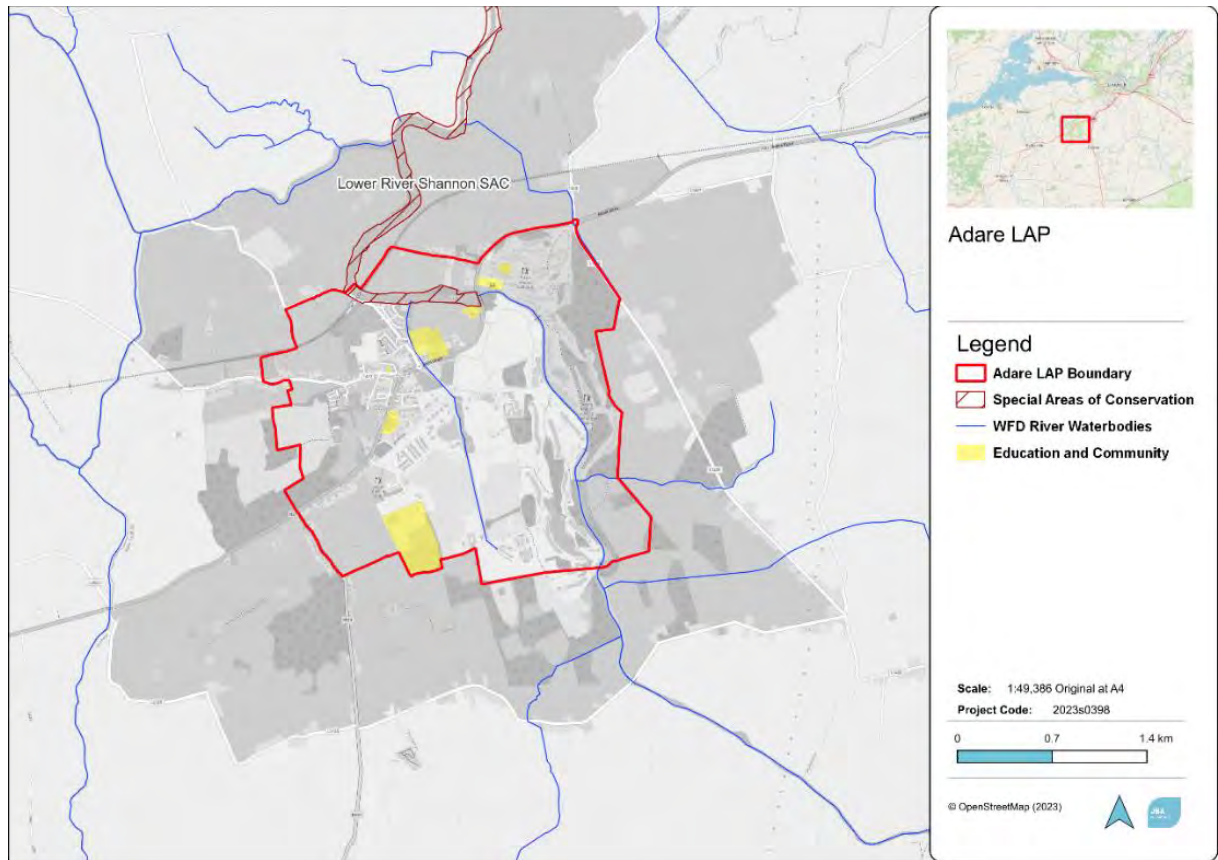


Figure 6-2: Education and Community Zoning

### 6.5.2 Enterprise and Employment

Enterprise and Employment lands have been relocated from its location previously. The distance of the Enterprise and Employment zones from the European Sites, as well as the lack of a hydrological pathway means that impacts on the European Sites are unlikely. No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

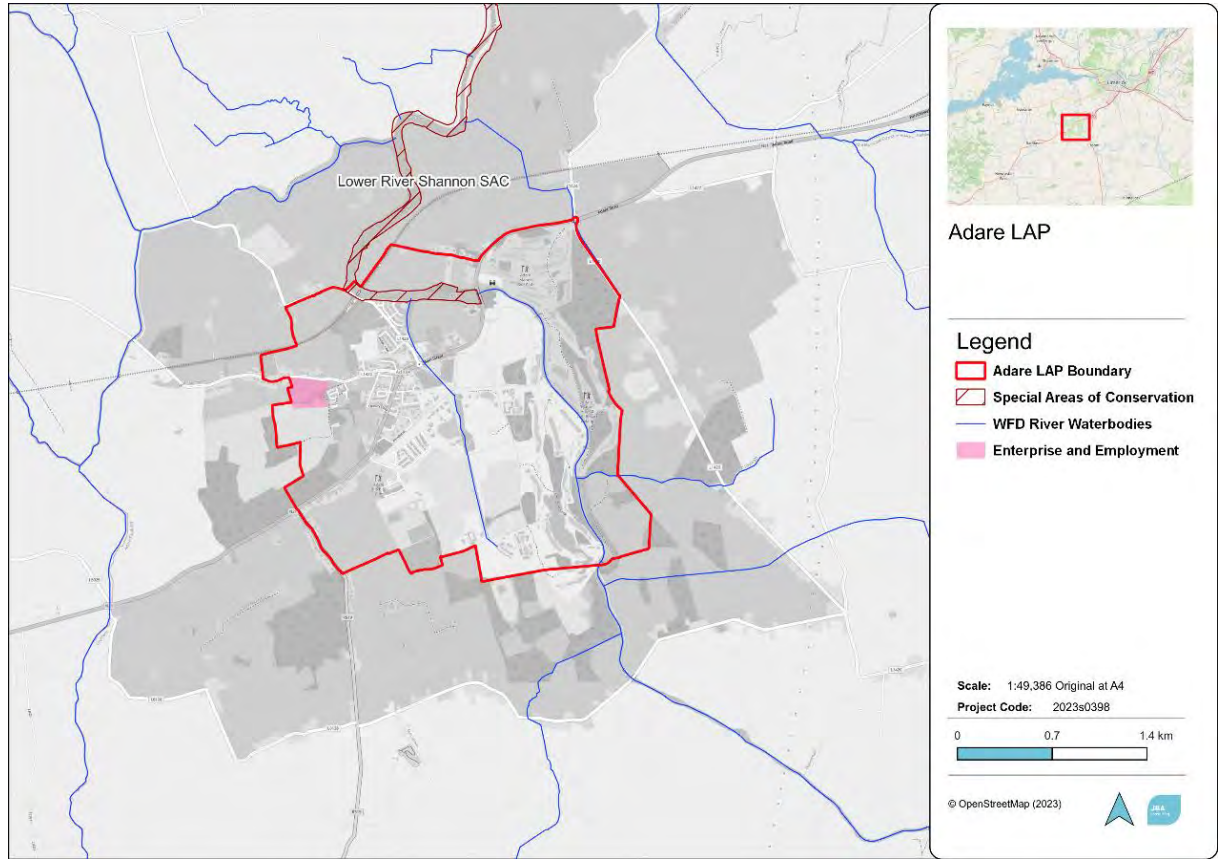


Figure 6-3: Enterprise and Employment Zoning

### 6.5.3 Infrastructure and Utilities

No changes in Infrastructure and Utilities have occurred as part of this plan. No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

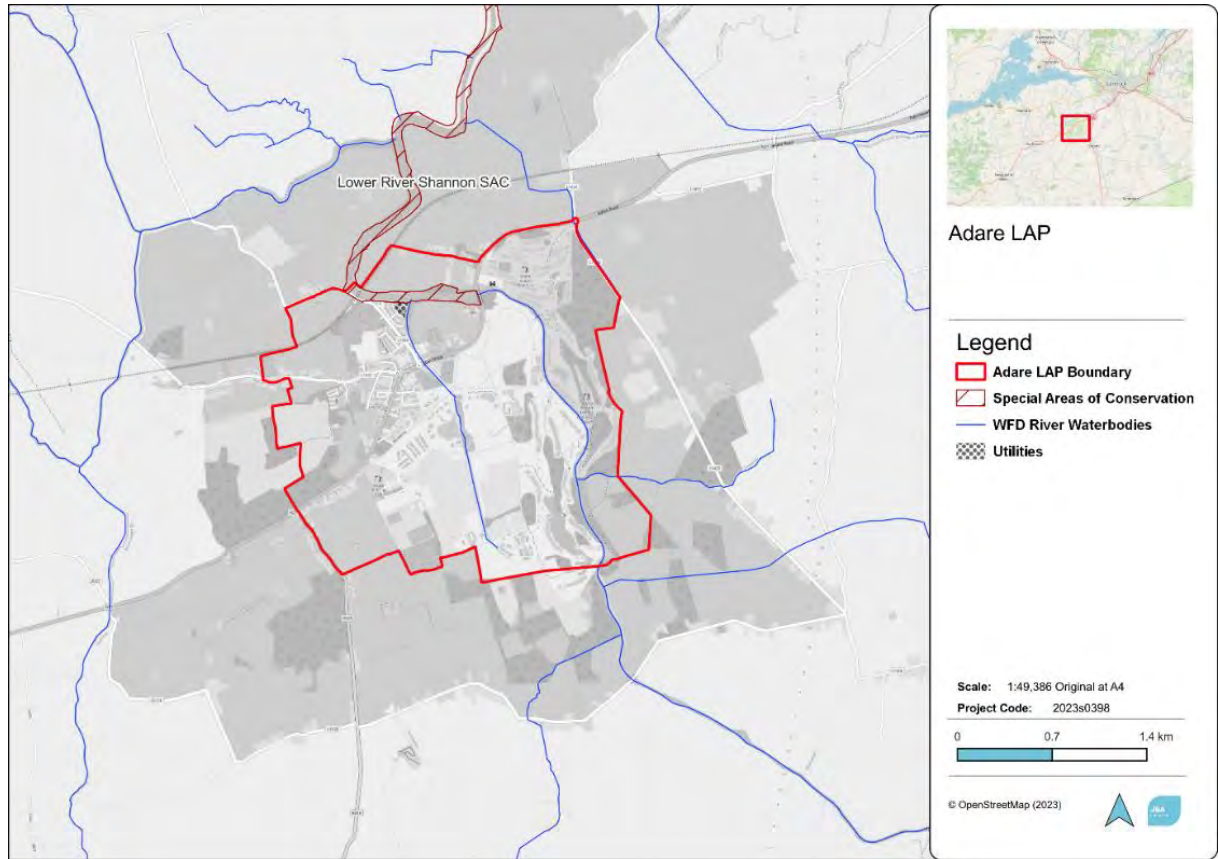


Figure 6-4: Utilities Zoning

### 6.5.4 Tourism

This is one of the main zoning types within the plan boundary (Figure 6-6). The tourism zoning largely covers the east of the plan area, and encompasses Adare Manor, the golf course and some areas to the west of those, currently utilised for agricultural purposes. The zoning has reduced slightly since the previous LAP. Impacts associated with tourism can include increased pressure on services (such as waste-water treatment) especially at peak event times, littering and other sources of pollution, increased pressure/disturbance at environmentally sensitive sites through recreational activities such as fishing and walking. The area zoned as “Tourism” encompasses a long stretch of the River Maigue and tributaries, with a direct hydrological link to the SAC. Water quality in the Maigue upstream of the Adare LAP is Moderate (3-4) so efforts are required to ensure that degradation of quality through tourism related activities does not occur. This will help to protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon SAC, and particularly it’s QI otter.

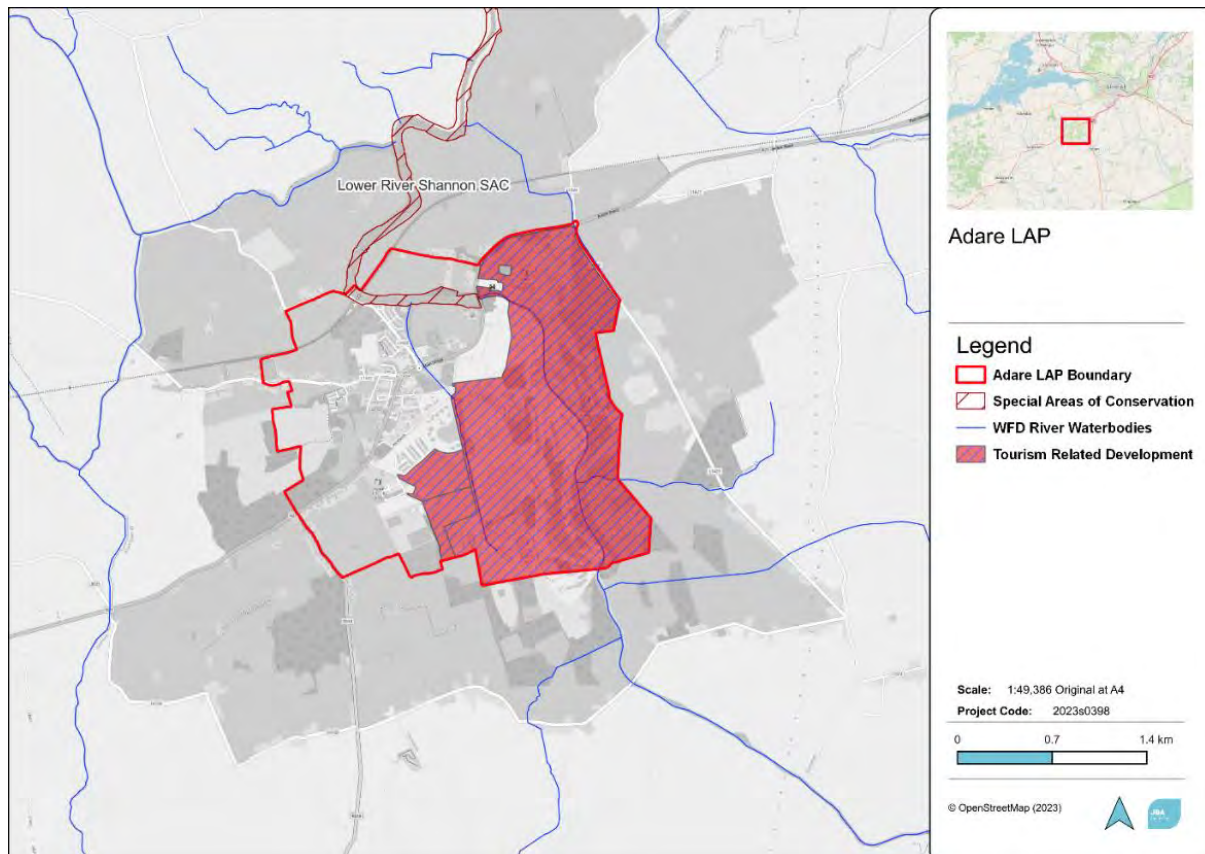


Figure 6-5: Tourism Related Development

### 6.5.5 Residential Serviced Sites and New Residential

Some New Residential areas are zoned (brown) as well as already serviced but undeveloped residential areas (pink) (Figure 6-6). Existing Residential Zoning is not shown on this map, given that those sites are already developed.

Both the New Residential (brown on map) and the Residential Serviced sites (pink on map) would have construction related impacts associated with development. Increased permanent population will increase pressure on WWTP and have increased traffic and air pollution impacts. Some disturbance and habitat loss may also be anticipated. However, no clear pathway for impact has been identified between the sites and the QIs of the SAC. Project level mitigation may still be appropriate, dependent on the specifics of the projects. No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning, but assessment at the project level may still be required/appropriate.

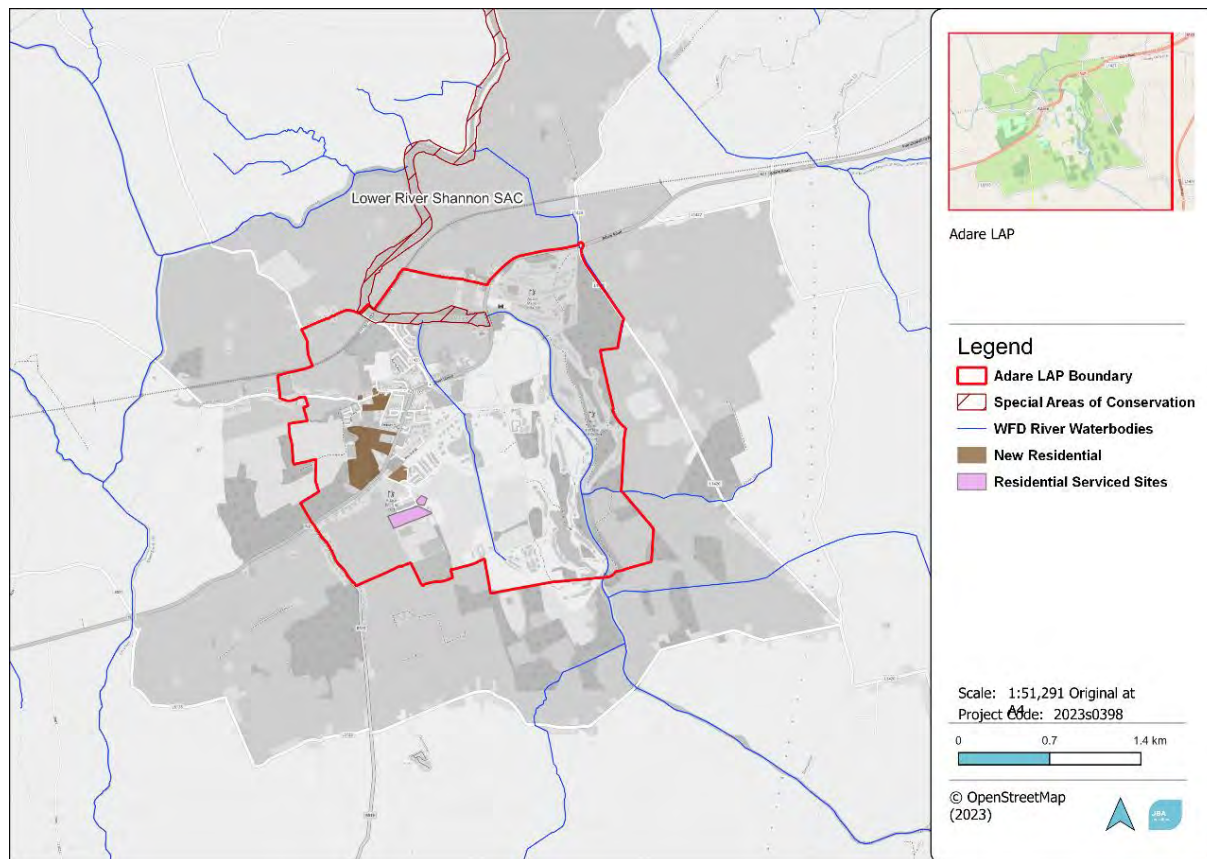


Figure 6-6: New Residential Zones within Plan boundary

### 6.5.6 Open Space and Recreation

No changes in Open Space and Recreation have occurred as part of this plan.

Open spaces and recreation used by the public may have potential for impact through increased disturbance to wildlife and fragmentation of intact habitat area. Construction impacts may also occur (new pathways/cycleways). At present, the proximity of the open space and recreation to the SAC is limited, so potential for disturbance is limited. No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

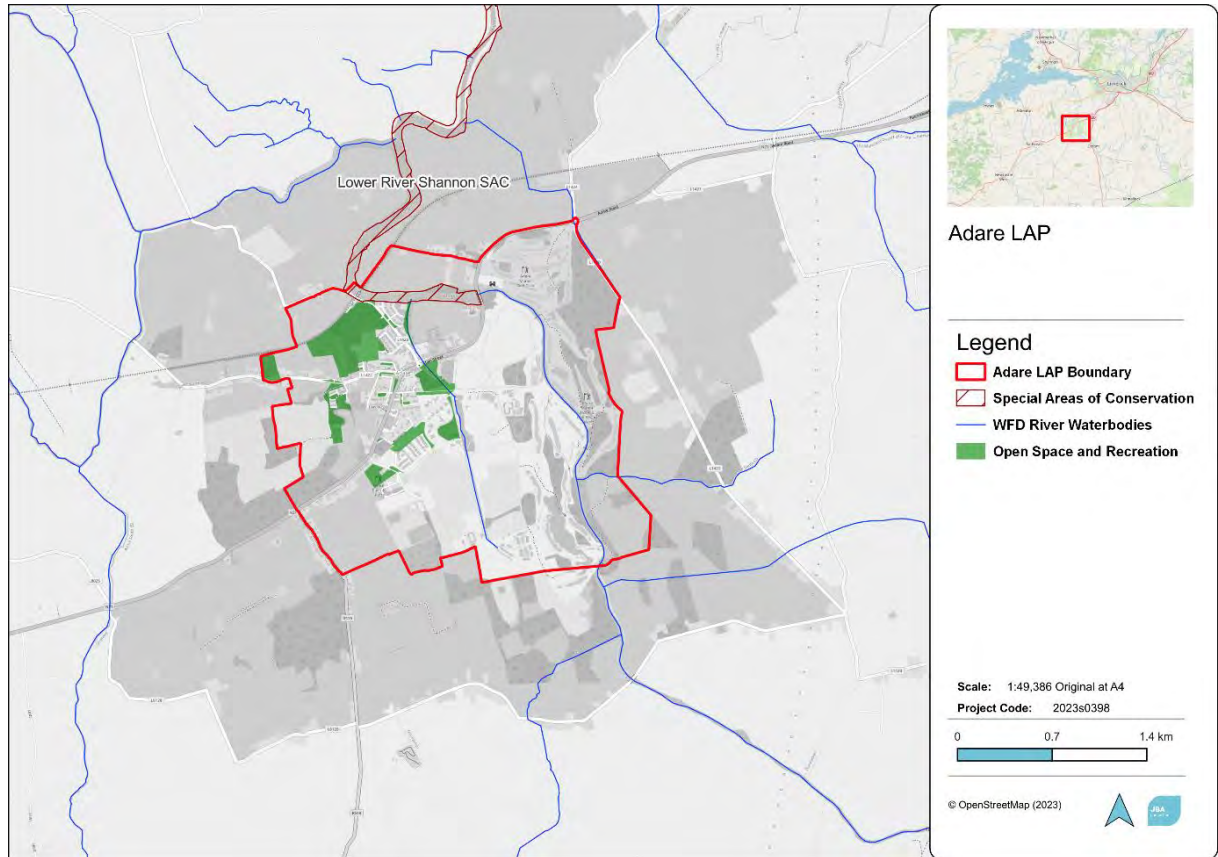


Figure 6-7: Open Space and Recreation within Plan boundary

### 6.5.7 Semi Natural Open Space

A small loss in zoning for Semi-natural Open Space has occurred as part of this LAP. The location along the river of this is positive, providing a buffer for the river in a sensitive location. Infrastructure in this location should be limited to help prevent disturbance.

No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

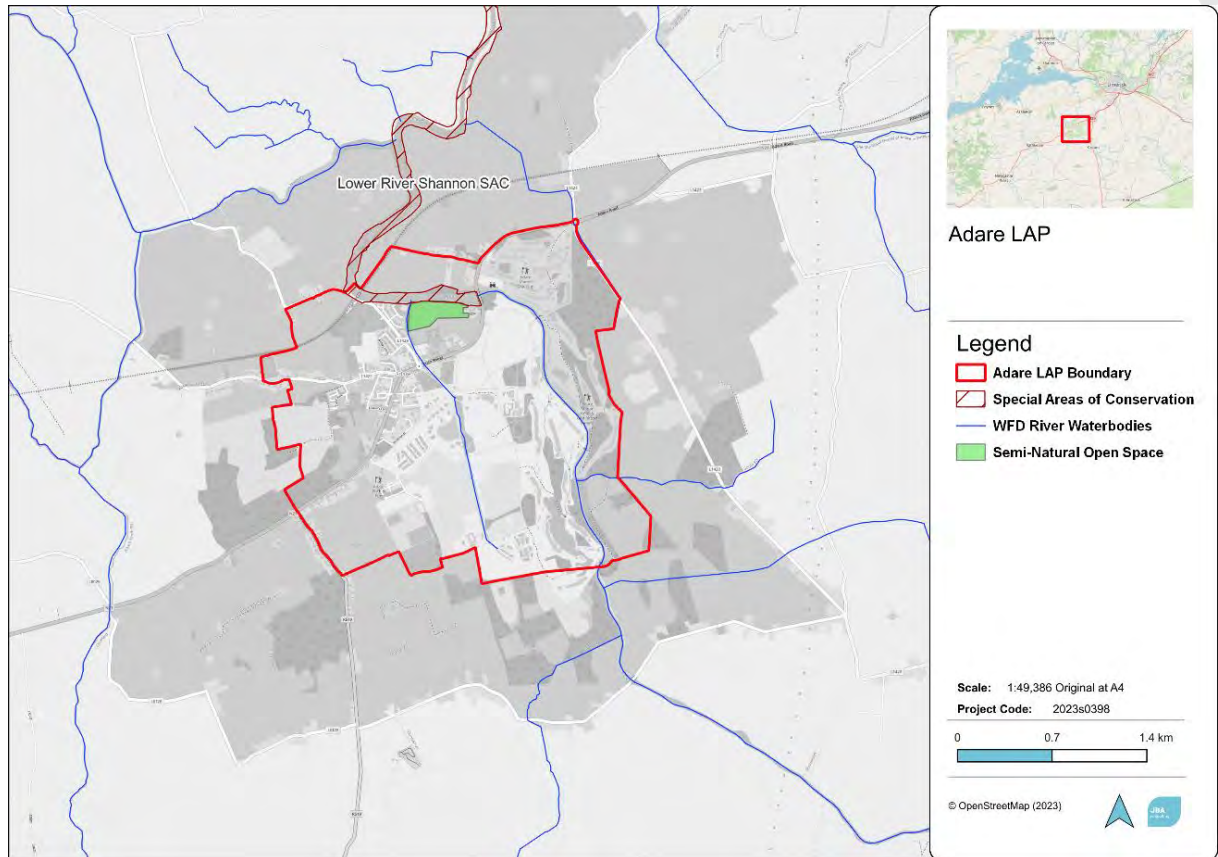


Figure 6-8: Semi-natural open space Zoning



### 6.5.8 Special Control Area

The land between the Augustinian Abbey and the village centre has a dual zoning – Special Control Area in recognition of the archaeological remains at this location and semi-natural open space. This area forms part of the open character of Adare on the approach road from Limerick. Its designation as a Special Control Area and a semi natural open space area will be protected from development in order to maintain the open character, visual amenity and for flood protection along the River Maigue. The zonings in this area all recognise the importance of the natural habitat of the River Maigue and its designation as part of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation. A small increase in the area zoned as Special Control Area has occurred in the LAP. No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

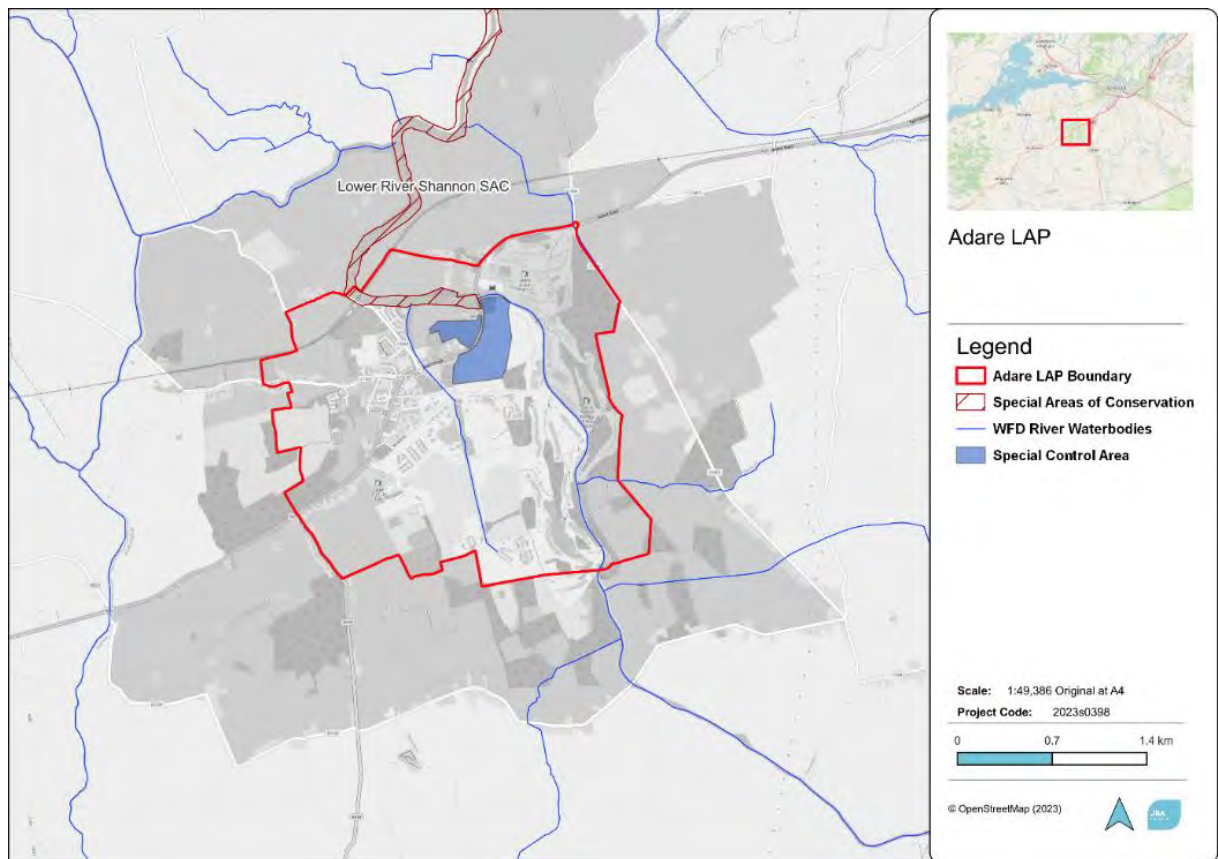


Figure 6-9 Special Control Area

### 6.5.9 Village Centre

The zoning will strengthen retail provision in accordance with the Retail Strategy for Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022, emphasise urban conservation, ensure priority for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists, while minimising the impact of private car-based traffic and enhancing the existing urban fabric. No impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

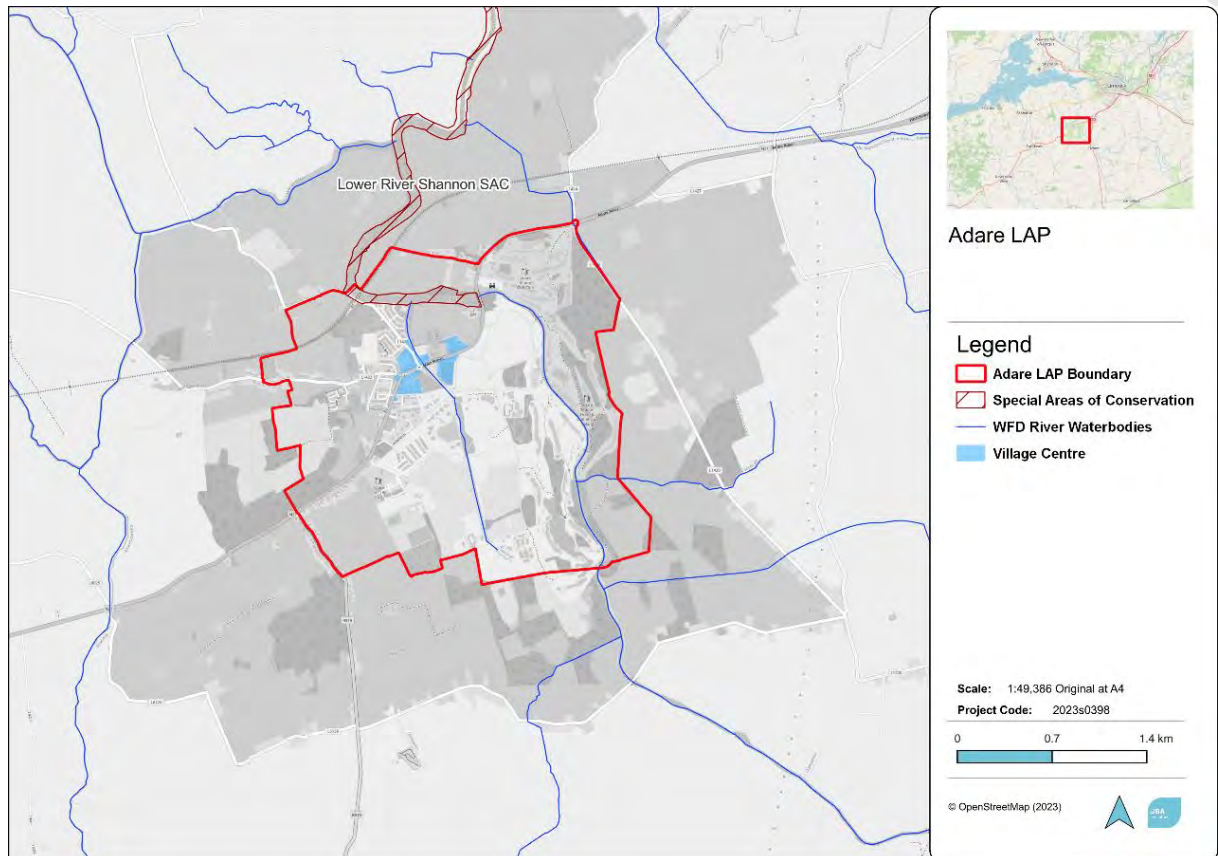


Figure 6-10: Village Centre Zoning

### 6.5.10 Agriculture

A small addition to the area zoned agricultural land has been added as part of this LAP, which now includes an area to the north of the Maigue. This zoning is reflective of the existing environment, and as such no impacts on the European Sites are foreseen as a result of this zoning.

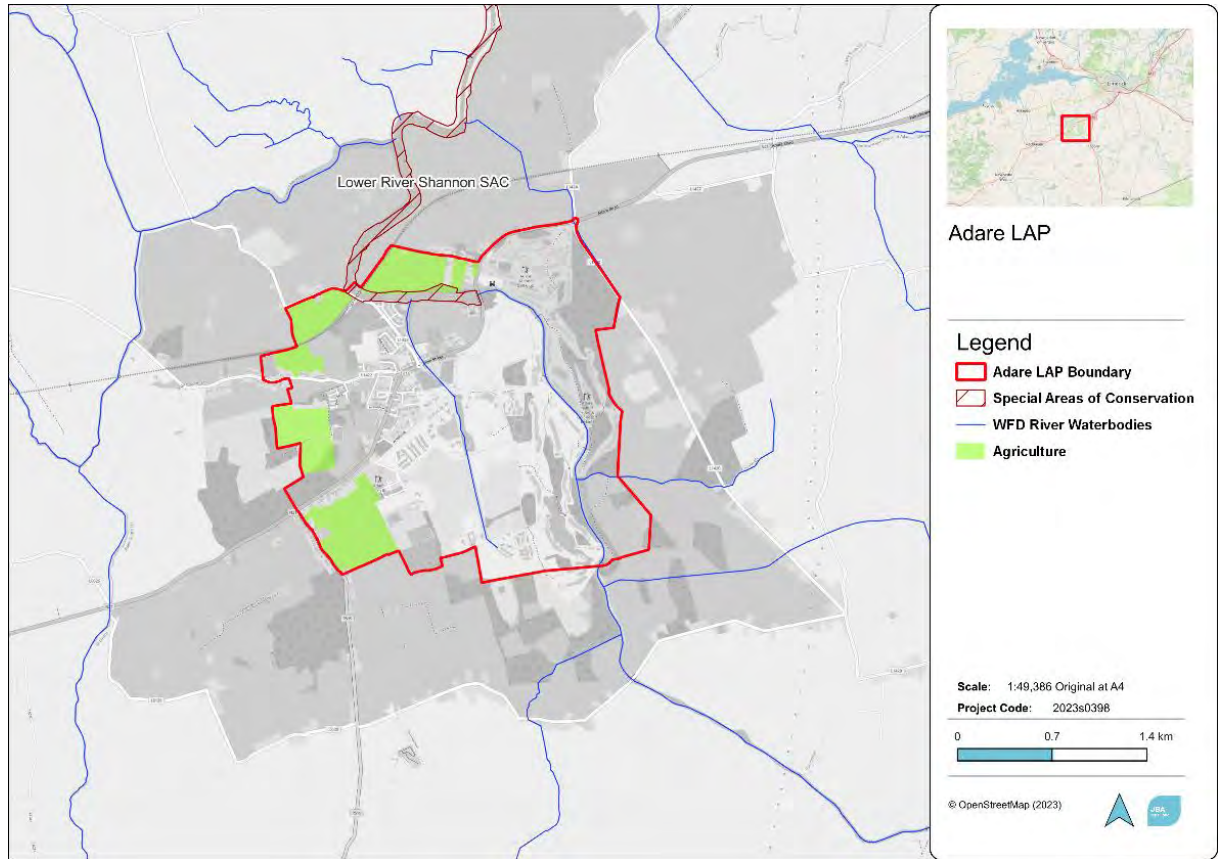


Figure 6-11: Agricultural Zoning

### 6.5.11 Opportunity Sites

The opportunity sites shown on Figure 6-12 are confined to the built-up area in the village centre, and are more infill developments. These may have the standard construction and development type impacts associated with them.



Figure 6-12: Opportunity Sites

Site 1: The Heritage Centre and car park with recycling centre to rear.

The site is 0.9ha in an area located in the centre of the village and is zoned for Village Centre and Community and Education Use. The site is zoned up to the edge of the Gortaganiff watercourse, which is directly connected to the Lower River Shannon SAC just 300m downstream. All developments at this site should leave a riparian buffer to the watercourse to help prevent disturbance to any otter which may use the watercourse. All developments should ensure that run-off is suitably managed to protect the quality of the Lower River Shannon. If the proposals for the carpark (subject to Appropriate Assessment) are permitted, environmental control measures (e.g. hydrocarbon interceptors, SUDS measures) should also take into account the potential for flooding at this site and release of pollutants.

Site 2: Village Hall and adjoining green area

Presently the hall is under utilised, but potential exists to enhance its use and that of the adjoining green for the whole community. The Village Centre zoning designation on this site permits in principle commercial, retail, residential, education and community type uses subject to a grant of planning permission. The site is at distance from the SAC, and no direct pathway for impact on the Qualifying Interests of the SAC has been identified. Impacts on the SAC are unlikely from developments at this already serviced site.

#### Site 3: Former Monastery/Fever Hospital

The site has a Community and Education zoning. The site is at distance from the SAC, and no direct pathway for impact on the Qualifying Interests of the SAC has been identified. Impacts on the SAC are unlikely from developments at this brownfield site.

#### Site 4: Public Realm upgrades Main Street.

Detailed design to be developed to widening the pedestrian areas in the core of the village and develop pedestrian friendly zones. The potential exists to provide parking and a loading space on the south side of the road, and replace parking on the north side in areas identified, and incorporate where possible cycle lanes. Consideration to be given to sensitive tree and shrub planting and appropriate lighting.

The site is at distance from the SAC – it is unlikely to have an increase in disturbance associated with it. Any construction works associated with the upgrades to the street have the potential for impact through contaminated surface water run-off to the stormwater network, which likely links to the river. At a minimum, standard environmental controls/procedures should be applied during construction to prevent impact on the SAC through run-off of water containing pollutants. This is likely to be enough to break the source-pathway-receptor link to the SAC.

#### Site 5: Lands to rear of Main Street adjoining Centra Car Park and Adare Ironworks.

The potential exists to provide an extended public car park at this location, subject to appropriate environmental assessment, which should include proposals for the maintenance of existing trees on site. Potential also exists for mixed use development in line with the Village Centre zoning designation subject to all environmental considerations, potentially overhead ground floor car parking.

The site is at distance from the SAC, and the likelihood of increased disturbance associated with any development at this site is low. Any construction has some potential for impact, but standard environmental controls/procedures are likely to be sufficient to prevent impact on the SAC.

## 6.6 Adare Public Realm

The Adare Public Realm Plan (Volume 2) proposals have been screened following the methodology set out in DTA Publications Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA 2021). Each policy is allocated one or more screening categories, shown in Table 6-1. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table 6-4 below. Where a number of categories to screen out a policy are applicable, the most relevant categories are listed in the table. The screening outcome includes any relevant in-combination assessment outcomes.

Table 6-3: Screening table of Adare Public Realm proposals

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
Chapter 3 of the APPR outlines the Key Public Realm Opportunities			
They include:			
1.	Sustainable Green Infrastructure		
2.	Maigue Riverpark		
3.	Main Street area		
Sustainable Green Infrastructure			
Public Realm Walking Routes			
1	A pedestrian route from Main Street to the GAA club	At distance from European sites, limited pathways for connection. K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Out
2	A pedestrian route from Main Street to Adare Castle and onto Adare Golf Course		
3	A pedestrian route from the Village Park to the Avenue		
4	Enhancement of pedestrian route on Station Road		
5	A pedestrian route connecting Blackabbey Road to N21 via the Deerpark housing scheme		
6	Delivery of pedestrian routes and associated utility infrastructure along the Rathkeale Road to Murphy's Cross via the Adare Western Approach Improvement scheme .		
7	A walking route/trail around the grounds of the Manor Fields		
8	Explore the extension of existing trails along the River Maigue including the provision new walking routes and trails to Adare Castle, the Franciscan Friary and the Heritage Centre from the River.	This objective could lead to increased development along the riparian area of the River Maigue. Any development within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality. I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	IN

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
9	New walking routes for future residential and other developments as proposed by the Local Area Plan. This will ensure that the village of Adare remains well connected for all its residents.	Screened in LAP section	N/A
<b>Cycle Routes</b> The following cycling proposals are being put forward subject to further analysis under the Traffic Management Plan:			
1	A cycle route along Main street	At distance from European sites, limited pathways for connection. K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Out
2	A segregated and integrated cycle route from Main Street to the GAA club		
3	An integrated cycle route from Pope's Quay to Main Street along Station Road		
4	A cycle route from the Village Park to the Avenue		
5	A cycle route connecting Blackabbey Road to N21 via the Deerpark housing scheme		
6	Delivery of a segregated and integrated cycle route along the Rathkeale Road to Murphy's Cross via the Adare Western Approach Improvement scheme		
7	A cycle route connecting the Manor Fields to Rathkeale Road		
8	Explore the inclusion of a cycle trails along the River Maigue as part of the flood defence proposals.	<b>This objective could lead to increased development along the riparian area of the River Maigue. Any development within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</b> I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	IN
Green strategy			

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
	<p>This Chapter outlines areas of Adare in which tree planting will enhance the village space, as well as connecting to existing habitats such as hedgerows and trees.</p> <p>This green strategy is aligned to a number of objectives from the Limerick Development Plan including:</p> <p>Objective SCS1 O8 - Develop and protect an open space network and hierarchy of quality public and community spaces, to extend close to where people live and which can accommodate a variety of recreational amenities and facilities for the community at large.</p> <p>Objective SCS1 O8 - Incorporate specific facilities and amenities that would promote exercise and movement as well as rest and relaxation in a natural way and in a variety of settings.</p> <p>Objective EH O20 - Protect areas which are considered to be quiet or which offer a sense of tranquillity, through a process of identification and validation followed by formal designation of 'Quiet Areas'.</p>	<p>This policy aims to retain or increase local habitats which will either have no effect on European sites, or positive effect.</p> <p>A – General statement policy / general aspiration            B - Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals            D - General plan-wide environmental protection/ site safeguarding/ threshold proposals            K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	Out
Connection to greenway			
	<p>Preliminary assessment has been completed which supports the provision of a Greenway between Rathkeale and Limerick city. Discussion is also taking place with Irish Rail to examine opportunities that may arise as part of the ongoing rail freight upgrade works. As of July 2023, no route for the Greenway has been scheduled.</p>	<p><b>This objective could lead to increased development along the River Mague which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC. This infrastructure within the plan area could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</b></p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone            L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
Mague River Park			



No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
<p>In collaboration with the Mague Rivers Trust, APPR wish to utilise the river as place for recreation. These plans will be considered with the proposed Adare Flood Relief Scheme, which is currently in Options Phase.</p>			
1.	<p>Consider improvements to the connection of the village to the Mague River and develop the potential of the park as a critical green resource for Adare. Improve walkways to prioritise accessibility and consider sufficient widths for both pedestrians and cyclists (where possible).</p>	<p>Any increased development along the River Mague which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
2.	<p>Consider improvements to the heritage and nature potential of the Mague and increase biodiversity. Protect the habitats along the river routes, preserving their rugged and wild characteristics. Support the all-Ireland Pollinator Plan which aims to help pollinators by improving biodiversity.</p>	<p>This action has positive aims for biodiversity, however this does not inherently protect European Sites and could result in negative effects as this will be within or adjacent to the River Mague. Any works along the River Mague which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
3.	<p>Opportunities should be seized to introduce elements of activity, such as seating, play areas, planting, and art, in designated pockets of space along the walkways as part of</p>	<p>Any increased development along the River Mague which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or</p>	IN

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
	a Blueway feasibility study.	<p>indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
4.	Consider the redevelopment of Popes Quay to provide a new slip way and safe access point to the river for recreational purposes as part of a Blueway feasibility study.		
5.	Develop a heritage trail to connect Adare Castle, the Augustinian and Franciscan Friaries, the Trinitarian Abbey, the medieval walled village and the Heritage Centre into a single experience.		
6.	Develop a nature trail from the library to the Mague River as an educational resource.		
Flooding zone			
	<p>The Adare Flood Relief Scheme is being progressed by the OPW and Limerick City and County Council and works are likely to include raising and improving flood defence walls, installing non-return valves and providing a flood warning for the village.</p> <p>APPR and Adare LAP seek to ensure the river is still connected to the village (LAP includes Objective IU 04 which would include provision of SuDS and Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Run-off)</p>	This project will have Appropriate Assessment carried out by those designing the FRS	N/A
Future of Mague River Park			
1	Improve the connection of the village to the Mague River and develop the potential of the park as a critical green resource for Adare.	<p>Any increased development along the River Mague which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p>	IN

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
		L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination	
2	Develop the heritage and nature potential of the Maigue.	<p>This objectives have positive aims for biodiversity, however this does not inherently protect European Sites and could result in negative effects as this will be within or adjacent to the River Maigue.</p> <p>Any works along the River Maigue which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
3	Develop walking (and if possible, cycling) loops for everyday visitors and tourists to and around the river.	<p>Any increased development along the River Maigue which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
4	Develop a heritage trail to connect Adare Castle, the Augustinian and Franciscan Friaries and the Trinitarian Abbey, the Manor grounds, and the medieval walled village with the heritage centre into a single experience.		
5	Develop a nature trail from the library to the Maigue River as an educational resource.		
6	Activate water amenity potentials along the river.		
7	Develop increased biodiversity in the park.	<p>These objectives have positive aims for biodiversity, however this does not inherently protect European Sites and could result in</p>	IN
8	Connect the Maigue to its environs.		

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
		<p>negative effects as this will be within or adjacent to the River Maigue.</p> <p>Any works along the River Maigue which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
Heritage and eco walking routes			
	<p>These routes are initial ideas for the Maigue River Park and will require thorough assessments, detailed designs, and extensive environmental surveys to ensure feasibility and alignment with ecological and heritage objectives.</p>	<p>Any proposals for new routes through previously undeveloped land, particularly around the River Maigue, which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
<p>Riparian Biodiversity</p> <p>Through development to create the Maigue River Park, APPR aims to be on enhancing the space for wildlife and maximising its habitat value along the river Maigue through the following measures</p>			
1	Safeguard and enhance the riparian zone along the River	These proposals have positive aims for the	IN

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
	Maigue, protecting habitats, providing flood protection, and maintaining water quality.	<p>protection of biodiversity, however this does not inherently protect European Sites as any works that take place will be within or adjacent to the River Maigue which could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>D Environmental Protection / site safeguarding policy.</p> <p>But also</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	
2	Seek opportunities to improve the quality of aquatic and riparian habitats in the waterways areas while controlling invasive species. Develop a riparian corridor & establish connections between fragmented parcels of habitat to enhance their overall value to wildlife through continued vegetation corridors for foraging.		
3	Promote the benefits of wetlands and natural flood management techniques for flood prevention.		
4	Acknowledge and incorporate the unique characteristics of the riparian environment into the embankment edges. Utilise the embankments for the development and maintenance of extensive biodiversity corridor of grass systems and pollinator planting.		
5	Develop an eco-trail with educational and interactive points such as nest boxes & bat boxes		
Blue Route			
	<p>The Blue Route proposal will be to develop the River Maigue at Adare as a Blueway, with the potential to expand from Croom to Ferry Bridge.</p> <p>Additionally there are proposals to create a Pontoon at Popes Quay to restore access to the river, and facilitate mooring of boats and fishing platforms.</p>	<p>Increased development on the River Maigue, which is designated under the Lower River Shannon SAC could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone</p> <p>L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
Main Street Area			
	Main proposals include:	K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a	Out

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
	Reduce speeds	significant effect either alone or in combination	
	Develop off-street parking	Opportunity Sites 1 & 5 have been screened in in the LAP	N/A
	Extend pedestrian area	<p>Increased walking and cycling infrastructure will be mostly within the built environment of Adare village, and on existing roads. However, any infrastructure for walking and cycling proposed, that will be in any un-developed lands, or close/crossing the river Maigue, could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone            L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN
	Develop a cycle network		
	Add trees and planting	K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination	Out
	<p>Rationalise Coach Parking</p> <p>To minimize congestion and optimize the use of space, visiting coaches will be directed to park in specific areas located outside of the village centre. Several sites have been proposed, and will require amenities for the drivers.</p>	<p>Depending on the location of the proposed coach parking sites, increased infrastructure could potentially have direct and/or indirect impacts on the European Sites network through fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality.</p> <p>I - Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone            L - Policy or proposal which might be likely to have significant effect in-combination</p>	IN

No.	APPR proposal	Screening category and rationale	Outcome
	<p>Detailed improvements to Main Street and surroundings Several areas have been selected to demonstrate the modifications for a revitalised public realm. These include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rathkeale Street and Village Green</li> <li>2. Main Street West</li> <li>3. Heritage Centre</li> <li>4. Main Street West (The Cottages)</li> </ol> <p>And further enhancements to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Station Road</li> <li>6. The Park Avenue</li> <li>7. The Avenue</li> <li>8. Former Fever Hospital / Scoil Naomh Iósaf</li> <li>9. Adare Bridge</li> </ol>	<p>These proposals are all minor projects within the built environment of Adare and cannot have an impact on the QI of nearby European sites. K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	<p>Out</p>
	<p>General Streetscape</p>	<p>All proposals are within the built environment of Adare and minimal in scale.</p>	<p>Out</p>
	<p>Celebrating Adare's Uniqueness: Events Art strategy Branding Wayfinding Strategy</p>	<p>K - Policy or proposal not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination</p>	

## 6.7 Screening Statement and Conclusions

The two European sites that were identified which have pathway for potential likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the Plan are:

- Lower River Shannon SAC
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

The Adare LAP Draft could potentially have significant adverse effects alone on the Screened-in European Sites which are further described in this section.

### 6.7.1 Summary of Screening of Policies and Objectives of Draft Adare LAP

The majority of development policies within the Adare LAP Draft have been screened out alone and in combination with other plans or projects.

The exception to this (screened-in) are listed below, due to the level of development, nature of the policy and site allocations proposed. These have been screened in with the potential to impact the Lower River Shannon SAC or the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and their Qualifying Interests via surface water, groundwater or air pathways. These policies and objectives could lead to fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality, which may impact the screened-in European Sites.

The most likely effects of the potential site allocations within the plan on European sites are related to pressures from new development and infrastructure, including recreational impacts, atmospheric pollution, water abstraction/discharge, increased water pollution and flood risk management pressures. Impacts from tourism and opportunity sites.

These screened in policies and objectives include:

- Key opportunity: Tourism Potential
- Opportunities Sites (sites 1 & 5)
- Development Strategy 3
- Objective TCF1: Opportunity Sites a)
- Objective C1 Community and Educational Facilities b), c), d),e) ,g) ,i) ,j)
- Objective C2 New Amenity Areas Walkways and Cycleways a), e), f)
- Objective C3 Parks, Open Space and Recreation a), c), d), e)
- Objective ED 3 Tourism Objectives a), b)
- Objective SM 1 Movement and Accessibility: : a) b) d) f).
- Objective SM 2 Overflow Car Park:
- Objective CH 01 Climate Change d), f)
- Objective CH 12 Blue Green Infrastructure a)
- Objective IU 02 Water Infrastructure b), c), d)
- Objective IU O6: Flood Risk and Blue Green Infrastructure
- Objective IU 07 Energy Generation d)

### 6.7.2 Summary of Zoning of Draft Adare LAP

The majority of the Land-Use Zoning in Adare will not have an impact on any European Sites, due to distance, lack of suitable pathways, or limited change in zoning from existing.

However, the following sites were noted to have potential pathways and therefore will need to be assessed further at project level:

- Tourism is zoned around the River Maigue. There will be pressure from increased population on the WWTP which may impact the water quality in the Maigue. The river upstream of the



Adare LAP has WFD status of Moderate (3-4) so any projects related to increased tourism will require project level Appropriate Assessment, to ensure that degradation of water quality through tourism related activities does not occur. This will help to protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon SAC.

- New residential zoning will have construction phase related impacts. Although some sites are at distance from a direct watercourse connection, any new residential projects will require project level appropriate assessment.
- Opportunity Site 1: The Heritage Centre and car park with recycling centre to rear. This will require AA, and hydrocarbon interceptors/SUDS measures for carpark.
- Opportunity Site 4: Public Realm upgrades Main Street. the main street is likely connected to the river via stormwater drains. At a minimum, standard environmental controls/procedures should be applied during construction to prevent impact on the SAC through run-off of water containing pollutants.
- Opportunity Site 5: Lands to rear of Main Street adjoining Centra Car Park and Adare Ironworks. This site will require project level appropriate assessment.

### 6.7.3 Summary of Screening of Adare Public Realm Plan:

The majority of proposals within the Adare Public Realm have been screened out alone and in combination with other plans or projects.

The exception to this (screened-in) are listed below, due to the level of development, nature of the policy and site allocations proposed:

These have been screened in with the potential to impact the Lower River Shannon SAC or the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and their Qualifying Interests via surface water, groundwater or air pathways. These policies and objectives could lead to fragmentation or loss of habitats, disturbance or fragmentation of species, or changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity, and air quality, which may impact the screened-in European Sites.

- Proposal for Public Realm Walking Routes No. 8:
- Proposal for Connection to greenway
- Proposals for Maigne River Park, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- Proposals for Future of River Maigne Park 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Proposal for Heritage and eco walking routes
  - Proposals for Riparian Biodiversity 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Proposal to develop Blue Route / Blueway on River Maigne
  - Proposals for Main Street Area: Extend pedestrian area, Develop a cycle network, Coach route and parking.

## 7 Natura Impact Report

This NIR aims to determine whether the proposed Plan would result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site with respect to the site's structure, function, and/ or conservation objectives. It also aims to provide supporting information for the competent authority to carry out an AA of the proposed Plan.

The AA Screening identified that the LAP could potentially have significant adverse effects on the following sites:

- Lower River Shannon SAC
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

This section details the AA of the potential effects of the LAP document on the integrity of the identified European sites.

### 7.1 Description of Screened-in Sites

The Adare LAP Draft could potentially have significant adverse effects alone on the Screened-in European Sites which are further described in this section.

#### 7.1.1 Conservation Objectives of the Lower River Shannon SAC

As identified in Sectioned 6.3.1, the following QIs of this European Site have been screened-in:

- [3260] Floating River Vegetation
- [91E0] Alluvial Forests\*
- [1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*)
- [1096] Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)
- [1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)
- [1106] Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

#### Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives for the Lower River Shannon SAC are to maintain or restore favourable conservation condition of the QIs (Annex I Habitats, Annex II or IV species) of the site. The attributes and targets of the QIs are listed below in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1 Conservation objectives for Qualifying Interests of River Shannon Callows SAC, (NPWS, 2012)

Qualifying Interest	Attributes	Measure	Target
Floating River Vegetation [3260]	Habitat area	Kilometres	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes
	Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes
	Hydrological regime: river flow	Metres per second	Maintain appropriate hydrological regimes
	Hydrological regime: tidal influence	Daily water level fluctuations - metres	Maintain natural tidal regime
	Hydrological regime: freshwater seepages	Metres per second	Maintain appropriate freshwater seepage regimes
	Substratum composition: particle size range	Millimetres	The substratum should be dominated by the particle size ranges, appropriate to the habitat sub-type (frequently sands, gravels and cobbles)

Qualifying Interest	Attributes	Measure	Target
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0]	Woodland structure: cover and height	Percentage and metres	Diverse structure with a relatively closed canopy containing mature trees; subcanopy layer with semi- mature trees and shrubs; and well-developed herb layer
	Woodland structure: community diversity and extent	Hectares	Maintain diversity and extent of community types
	Woodland structure: natural regeneration	Seedling: sapling: pole ratio	Seedlings, saplings and pole age-classes occur in adequate proportions to ensure survival of woodland canopy
	Hydrological regime: flooding depth/height of water table	Metres	Appropriate hydrological regime necessary for maintenance of alluvial vegetation
	Woodland structure: dead wood	m <sup>3</sup> per hectare; number per hectare	At least 30m <sup>3</sup> /ha of fallen timber greater than 10cm diameter; 30 snags/ha; both categories should include stems greater than 40cm diameter (greater than 20cm diameter in the case of alder)
	Woodland structure: veteran trees	Number per hectare	No decline
	Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence	No decline
	Vegetation composition: native tree cover	Percentage	No decline. Native tree cover not less than 95%
	Vegetation composition: typical species	Occurrence	A variety of typical native species present, depending on woodland type, including Alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), willows ( <i>Salix spp</i> ) and, locally, Oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ) and Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) and Birch ( <i>Betula pubescens</i> )
	Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Occurrence	Negative indicator species, particularly non-native invasive species, absent or under control
	Distribution	Percentage positive survey sites	No significant decline
	Extent of terrestrial habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. (note no area defined)
	Extent of marine habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. (note no area defined)
Sea Lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095]	Distribution: extent of anadromy	% of river accessible	Greater than 75% of main stem length of rivers accessible from estuary
	Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups present
	Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m <sup>2</sup>	Juvenile density at least 1/m <sup>2</sup>
	Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m <sup>2</sup> and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds
	Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 3rd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive
Brook Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096]	Distribution	% of river accessible	Access to all water courses down to first order streams
	Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups of brook/river lamprey present

Qualifying Interest	Attributes	Measure	Target
	Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m <sup>2</sup>	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m <sup>2</sup>
	Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m <sup>2</sup> and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds
	Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 2nd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive
River Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099]	Distribution	% of river accessible	Access to all water courses down to first order streams
	Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups of brook/river lamprey present
	Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m <sup>2</sup>	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m <sup>2</sup>
	Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m <sup>2</sup> and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds
	Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 2nd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive
Atlantic Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) 1106	Distribution: extent of anadromy	% of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary
	Adult spawning fish	Number	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded
	Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5 min sampling
	Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline
	Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes
	Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Kilometres	No significant decline. (note no area defined)
	Extent of freshwater (lake/lagoon) habitat	Hectares	No significant decline. (note no area defined)
	Couching sites and holts	Number	No significant decline
	Fish biomass available	Kilograms	No significant decline
	Barriers to connectivity	Number	No significant increase.

### Site Vulnerabilities

The negative impacts and activities with high effect on the SAC (NPWS 2014) are listed in Table 7-2

Table 7-2 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the Lower River Shannon SAC

Code	Threats and pressures	Rank	Source
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	Low	inside
J02.11	Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits	Medium	inside
J02.05.02	Modifying structures of inland water courses	Medium	inside
F03.01	Hunting	Low	both

Code	Threats and pressures	Rank	Source
A04.01	Intensive grazing	Medium	inside
C01.03.02	Mechanical removal of peat	Low	inside
J02.01	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general	Low	inside
A03.03	Abandonment / lack of mowing	High	inside
G05.01	Trampling, overuse,	Low	inside
B02.02	Forestry clearance	Medium	inside
D01.01	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks	Low	inside
K03.04	Predation	Medium	both
A04.03	Abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing	High	inside
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	High	inside
A04.02.05	Non intensive mixed animal grazing	Low	inside
A10.01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub	Low	inside
J02.05	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general	Low	inside
J02.04.01	Flooding	High	inside
A08	Fertilisation	Medium	inside
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	Low	inside

### 7.1.2 Conservation objectives of the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

As identified in Sectioned 6.3.2, the following QIs of the SPA have been screened-in:

- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A038]
- Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) [A046]
- Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A048]
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A050]
- Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A052]
- Pintail (*Anas acuta*) [A054]
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) [A056]
- Scaup (*Aythya marila*) [A062]
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A137]
- Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A141]
- Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A142]
- Knot (*Calidris canutus*) [A143]
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) [A149]
- Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A156]
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A157]
- Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A160]
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A162]
- Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) [A164]
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

#### Conservation Objectives

The overall Conservation Objectives for the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Features of Interest for which the SPA has been selected (NPWS 2012b).

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The conservation objectives for non-breeding bird Special Conservation Interests of the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA are summarised in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3 Conservation objectives for Qualifying Interests of River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA

Qualifying Interest	Attributes	Measure	Target
<i>Cormorant</i> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017]	Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline
	Productivity rate	Mean Number	No significant decline
	Distribution: breeding colonies	Number; location; area (hectares)	No significant decline
	Prey biomass available		No significant decline
	Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area (hectares)	No significant increase
	Disturbance at the breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding cormorant population
	Population trend	Percentage change as per population trend assessment using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys	The long-term population trend should be stable or increasing
	Distribution	Range, timing or intensity of use of areas used by waterbirds, as determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the waterbird species of Special Conservation Interest other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.
<i>Whooper Swan</i> <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A038] <i>Light-bellied Brent Goose</i> <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] <i>Shelduck</i> <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048] <i>Wigeon</i> <i>Anas</i>	Population Trend	Percentage change as per population trend assessment using waterbird count data collected through the Irish Wetland Bird Survey and other surveys	The long-term population trend should be stable or increasing.
	Distribution	Range, timing or intensity of use of areas used by waterbirds, as	There should be no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by the

Qualifying Interest	Attributes	Measure	Target
<p><i>penelope</i> [A050] <i>Teal Anas crecca</i> [A052] <i>Pintail Anas acuta</i> [A054] <i>Shoveler Anas clypeata</i> [A056] <i>Scaup Aythya marila</i> [A062] <i>Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] <i>Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140] <i>Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] <i>Lapwing Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142] <i>Knot Calidris canutus</i> [A143] <i>Dunlin Calidris alpina</i> [A149] <i>Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa</i> [A156] <i>Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] <i>Curlew Numenius arquata</i> [A160] <i>Redshank Tringa totanus</i> [A162] <i>Greenshank Tringa nebularia</i> [A164] <i>Black-headed Gull Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179]</p>		determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys	waterbird species of Special Conservation Interest other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.
Wetlands [A999]	Wetland habitat are	Area (Ha)	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 32,261ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation

## 7.2 Potential significant effects on Screened-in European Sites

As outlined in Section 4.4 the potential impacts that could occur through the implementation of the Plan are.

- Loss/ reduction of habitat area
- Disturbance to key species
- Habitat or species population fragmentation
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value, such as changes in water quality and quantity.

### 7.2.1 Loss or reduction of habitat area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is complete removal of a habitat type. Loss of habitat can also occur through the deterioration of habitat quality and therefore a loss of the function of that habitat. This can be due to factors such as land-take requirements, physical alterations and introduction of invasive non-native species as a result of development or works necessary to promote sustainable or any type of development. The outcomes of the objectives, aims, strategies and policies of the Plan, such as development leading to population increase, reduction in vacancy of existing buildings and the support of the economic growth of Adare could potentially cause these impacts.

There is potential that the European sites screened into this assessment may be adversely affected in this manner through the implementation of the proposed Plan, particularly any proposals around the River Maigue (Lower River Shannon SAC). This includes proposed walking and cycling routes, development of the River Maigue Park, the proposals for creation of a Blueway along the River Maigue, and in-combination impacts with other projects such as the Greenway, Flood Relief Scheme, and the Foynes/Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass).

Indirect habitat loss may also occur through disruption of hydrological links to a designated site that supports surface or ground water dependent habitats such freshwater and wetland habitats e.g., implementation of SuDs and diversion of water flows that may occur due to new housing or retail development. There is an acknowledgement to protect these habitats under Objectives CH 04 Designated Sites and Nature Conservation, there is also an acknowledgement to create new habitats under Objective CH 07 Creation of New Habitats, as well as the Biodiversity proposals to enhance or restore natural habitats under the River Maigue Park section in the Adare Public Realm Plan.

The implementation of environmental mitigation measures for development and growth, although primarily beneficial in the provision of refuges for species and the protection and restoration of habitats including bog and wetland habitats, may result in changes of land use within the LAP area. If measures are inappropriately implemented, habitat loss or degradation of habitat quality may occur.

As the objectives of the proposed Plan are set at a high level, loss or reduction of habitat area of the European sites screened into this assessment cannot be ruled out at this stage. Therefore, the significance of potential habitat loss will be assessed at project level and will be dependent on the final locations and detailed design of any development resulting from the proposed objectives.

Mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8 to ensure the potential for habitat loss will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site due to the implementation of the proposed Plan.

### 7.2.2 Disturbance to key species

Key species are those species listed within the annexes of the Habitats Directive for which European sites are designated. Disturbance to species supported by a European site may occur due to physical disturbance of a habitat that may result in direct mortalities or displacement of the species. Sources of disturbance may also take the form of increased noise, visual presence of people, vibration and increased illumination of areas through increased or expanded development without mitigation measures in place. Increased disturbance levels within the sensitivity threshold of a species may cause the displacement or flight of a species from their respective habitat.

In relation to the proposed Plan, activities that may potentially disturb key species are those that will result in physical disturbance due to works being carried out, such as the implementation of the policies and/or objectives of the plan including increased tourism, population growth or development in general. These objectives may pose sources of disturbance during construction of works and their operation.



The works may also cause disturbance to the resting and/ or breeding places and foraging areas of these key species.

The objectives of the proposed Plan have the potential to cause disturbance impacts to key species of the European Sites screened into this assessment. However, as these objectives are set at a high level, the significance of disturbance to key species will be assessed at project level and will be dependent on the final locations and detailed design of any development resulting from the proposed objectives. As an example, disturbance to Otter in the Maigue (Lower River Shannon SAC), may be caused by an increase in development and recreation, (such as from policies Objective DS2 Development Strategy or Objective ED3 related to the development of Tourism in Adare Manor and Adare Village), which could also impact other species using the River Maigue, as well as of other species of nearby sites including QI birds of the River Shannon SPA. This also includes proposed walking and cycling routes, development of the River Maigue Park, the proposals for creation of a Blueway along the River Maigue under the Adare Public Realm Plan, which will increase the use and recreation of the river, from currently a low level of use.

Mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8 to ensure that disturbance to qualifying species will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site due to the implementation of the proposed Plan.

### 7.2.3 Fragmentation

Habitat and species population fragmentation occurs when the connectivity between habitats and species is restricted or lost and impedes the natural movement of a species. This can result in singular habitat units being formed and isolated species communities. Fragmentation can arise as a result of barriers to migratory movements where important corridors exist, e.g., riparian corridors. The inappropriate installation of measures that may act as a barrier to free movement of a species and/ or physically separate a habitat, will result in fragmentation.

The implementation of the policies and/or objectives of the plan including increased tourism, population growth or development in general may pose sources of disturbance during construction of works and their operation that can lead to fragmentation. They may result in the installation of structures that may impede movement of a species. An increase in development and infrastructure can lead to fragmentation of habitat for species such as Otter, Lamprey and Salmon in the River Maigue, fragmenting available habitats, potentially impacting the success and population numbers of these species, resulting in a decrease in species density in the European site in the long term. Additionally, there may be in-combination effects from the increased use of the River at Adare, with the rail line soon to be re-established, the planned new bridge for the Adare Bypass, the construction of Adare Flood Relief Scheme in combination with proposals to increase walkways and cycling infrastructure and use of the River Maigue through proposals such as Blueway, pontoons, fish platforms. This may cause this section of the river at Adare to be unsuitable for QIs listed above to move up and down the river.

However, there is an acknowledgement in both plans that any proposals be undertaken with sensitivity towards the riparian habitats of the Maigue, and include proposals to increase/restore the habitats in the river.

As the objectives of the proposed Plan are not specific regarding location of implementation, fragmentation of the European sites screened into this assessment cannot be ruled out. Also, the significance of potential fragmentation will be required to be assessed at project level and will be dependent on the final locations and detailed design of the resulting projects that arise from this Plan.

Mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8 to ensure that fragmentation will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site due to the implementation of the proposed Plan.

### 7.2.4 Reduction in species density

Reduction in the density of species may arise due to the factors discussed above, habitat loss or degradation, disturbance and fragmentation. As outlined above, the objectives of the proposed Plan have the potential to cause these impacts. The implementation of the objectives for any development along the River Maigue, could result in development where species are sensitive to human activity. In addition, water quality could be impacted upon by development, infrastructure and agricultural activities due to the hydrological pathway to the Lower River Shannon SAC which contains species sensitive to water quality (i.e., lamprey, salmon, otter).

Avoidance/ mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8 to ensure that reduction in species density due to the implementation of the proposed Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

### 7.2.5 Changes in key indicators of conservation value

The key indicators of conservation value for the European sites likely to be affected by the implementation of the proposed Plan include surface water and groundwater quality and quantity. Water bodies are one of the key pathways for impact and are easily affected by impacts themselves. Any deterioration in water quality could potentially result in adverse impacts, either directly or indirectly, to habitats such as Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation [3260], which contains a sub-community for *Schoenoplectus triquetus* and *Groenlandia densa* in the River Mague for the Lower River Shannon SAC, as well as Otter, Salmon and Lamprey of the SAC, or 'Wetlands used by waterbirds' of the River Shannon SPA. Maintaining the hydrological regime, e.g., recharge, flow rates and direction, of these habitats is also very important for the function and structure of the above habitats and the species that they support.

The outcomes of the objectives, aims, strategies and policies of the Plan, such as development leading to population increase, reduction in vacancy of existing buildings and the support of the growth of the town could potentially cause impacts to water quality and quantity. These pressures would mainly arise from the activity of both land-based and in-stream works, where there is the potential for discharge of silt laden runoff and pollutants such as hydrocarbons into the River Mague. Hydrological alterations may also occur through the potential diversion of flows and implementation of SuDs and natural flood risk management measures that are used for sustainable development and growth. Therefore, all projects that arise as a result of the objectives, aims and strategies of this Plan must be appropriately assessed for their suitability at a given location.

As the objectives of the proposed Plan are not specific regarding location of implementation, changes in key indicators of conservation value of the European sites screened into this assessment cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the significance of potential changes in key indicators will be assessed at project level and will be dependent on the final locations and detailed design of the proposed objectives.

Avoidance/Mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8 to ensure that changes in key indicators of conservation value will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site due to the implementation of the proposed Plan.

### 7.2.6 Air Pollution

Developments and population increases can lead to increased use of the road network by vehicles and in turn have an adverse effect on air quality. Of the screened in habitats and species within the River Shannon SAC, none of have been identified as being sensitive to air pollution (NPWS, 2019a).

The LAP expects a 29% population increase over the lifetime of the Plan, and increased use of the road network within and surrounding Adare will likely reduce air quality in the Plan area. However, while there are no habitats within proximity to Adare that are susceptible to air pollution, they will be indirectly susceptible given the short distance from the SAC, and it is likely that pollutants from the air will settle into the water and disrupt the water quality of the River Mague. Currently, the River Shannon SAC is located adjacent to a major road (N83) and vehicle emission levels are known to be greatest within 50-100m from the road (Smithers et al. 2016).

Mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8 to ensure that changes in key indicators of conservation value due to the implementation of the proposed Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

### 7.2.7 In-combination impacts

The lifetime of the Draft Adare LAP and the Adare Public Realm Plan is from 2024-2030. This coincides with the planning windows outlined with the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy 2040, Adare Flood Relief Scheme, National Planning Framework, Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027, Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass), and while none have been confirmed as yet, if any planning results from the preparations for the Ryder Cup 2027, then there will be in-combination effects related to this.

## 8 Avoidance/Mitigation Measures

The Adare LAP and Public Realm Plan will not in itself, cause any adverse impacts to the overall integrity of the European sites within the Zol of the Plan. However, projects that arise as a result of the Plan may have adverse effects.

Projects stemming from the LAP and Public Realm Plan will apply a range of standard processes and measures that will mitigate potential environmental impacts. Whilst the applicability of processes and particular measures will be dependent on the nature and scale of each project, examples of typical processes and measures that will be implemented, where applicable, at the different stages of project implementation are set out in the below sections.

Built into the plan is embedded mitigation to protect the European Sites via the following Objectives: Check objective numbers following final update from Environmental reports.

**Objective CH 02: Compliance with Environmental Assessments:** It is an objective of the council to

Require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment and other environmental assessments as appropriate in the Plan area.

**Objective CH 05 Designated Sites and Nature Conservation:** It is an objective of the Council to

- a) Protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation site, through the establishment of buffer zones along the river informed by ecological assessment and consultation with relevant bodies including Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife Service as appropriate..
- b) Ensure that appropriate waste water infrastructure is available to support new developments to safeguard water quality and biodiversity. ..
- c) No projects which will be reasonably likely to give rise to significant adverse direct or indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives arising from reduction in species diversity, shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects). In terms of general nature conservation the Council will protect undesignated habitats such as notable trees and hedgerows, riparian corridors, ponds/wetlands and other natural features of local importance.

The Adare LAP and Public Realm Plans are underpinned by the existing environmental protection measures in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. Any proposals resulting from these Plans must adhere to:

**Limerick Development Plan Objective EH 01 Designated Sites and Habitats Directive**

It is an objective of the Council to ensure that projects/plans likely to have significant effects on European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) are subject to an appropriate assessment and will not be permitted under the Plan unless they comply with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Council, will through the planning enforcement process where applicable, seek to restore the ecological functions of designated sites, where they have been damaged through inappropriate development.

Other policies in the LAP that protect biodiversity at a local level but will be beneficial to safeguarding the integrity of European sites and their QIs include:

**Objective CH 03 Tree Protection and Nature Conservation:** It is an objective of the Council to Seek to protect natural stone boundary walls, ponds/wetlands, other natural features of local importance and mature trees, where possible. Development that requires the felling or harming of such trees will not generally be permitted, unless supported by a tree survey establishing that the subject trees are of no ecological or amenity value. Such report shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified and competent person with an appropriate ecological qualification and experience.

Continue to actively support the aims and objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021 – 2025, by encouraging measures to protect and increase the population of bees and other pollinating insects in Adare.

Increase tree planting and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan throughout Adare and in open spaces in new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

Support the aims of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and succeeding plans, in emphasising the importance of ecological issues in planning.

**Objective CH 04 Proposed Natural Heritage Area:** It is an objective of the Council to Maintain the conservation value of the proposed Natural Heritage Area within the LAP boundary.

**Objective CH 06 Lesser Horseshoe Bat** Require all developments in areas where there may be Lesser Horseshoe Bats, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the species. The assessment shall also include measures to ensure that building and landscape features are retained and the development itself will not cause a barrier or deterrent effect on the species. In this regard the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2023 shall be referenced.

**Objective CH 07 Ecological Impact Assessment: It is an objective of the Council to** Require all developments where there are species of conservation concern, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the site and nearby designated sites, suggesting appropriate mitigation measures and establishing, in particular, the presence or absence of the following species: Otter, badger, bats, lamprey and protected plant species such as the Triangular Club Rush, Opposite Leaved Pond Weed and Flora Protection Order Species generally.

**Objective CH 08 Creation of New Habitats** It is an objective of the Council to

- a) Seek the creation of new habitats by encouraging wild green areas and new water features such as, pools and ponds in new developments.
- b) Encourage management plans for green areas to use the minimum of pesticides and herbicides.
- c) The creation of areas that are not subject to public access in order to promote wildlife use is strongly encouraged"

**Objective CH 09 New Infrastructure Projects** It is an objective of the Council to:

- a) As a first principle, design of new infrastructure, particularly linear infrastructure should follow avoidance of areas of greatest environmental and ecological importance and sensitivity. Where its has been demonstrated that no other reasonable option exists, detailed mitigation measures based on robust ecological surveys and best practice must be included throughout to avoid loss of significant habitats, wildlife corridors and stepping stones.
- b) Require new infrastructure and linear developments in particular, to demonstrate at design stage sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species and to demonstrate a high degree of permeability for wildlife, to allow the movement of species and to prevent the creation of barriers to wildlife and aquatic life in the wider countryside.

**Objective CH 10 Semi Natural Open Space:** It is an objective of the Council to

- a) Limit development on lands zoned as Semi Natural Open Space. Necessary works designed under the Adare Flood Scheme and the Adare Public Realm Plan may be permitted subject to appropriate environmental assessment and approval of the National Monuments Service where relevant.
- b) Protect and maintain the integrity of the Semi Natural Open Space and protect the watercourses in Adare by providing a buffer zone, in accordance with the Semi Natural Open Space zoning designation on the Land Use Zoning Map.

**Objective CH 12 Blue Green Infrastructure:** It is an objective of the Council to

- b) Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and

designated sites where possible. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species.

**Objective CH 18 Invasive Species:** It is the objective of the Council to Ensure that where the presence of invasive species is identified at the site of any proposed development or where the proposed activity has an elevated risk of resulting in the presence of these species, details of how these species will be appropriately managed and controlled will be required.

Work with and facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), by implementing biosecurity measures, selected control measures and surveys, where appropriate.

Address the presence of invasive alien species on derelict sites under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act through the preparation of a management and eradication plan for these species.

Require the submission of a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process, if developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are present.

Employ biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of invasive alien species and disease and to insist that all such measures are employed on all development sites.

**Objective C3 Parks, Open Space and Recreation:** It is an objective of the Council to  
f) Consider the effect of lighting associated with open space provision and where deemed essential shall be designed and installed to minimise adverse effects on wildlife including Lesser Horseshoe Bats and Otters. There shall be a presumption against lighting in Natura 2000 Designated Sites.

## 8.1 Implementation routes for physical works

Measures or projects arising from the objectives, aims, strategies or policies of the LAP requiring physical works may either require planning consent or confirmation, or will be an exempted development.

Works that will require planning consent or confirmation, will be carried out by either a private developer or the Local Authority. Works may progress to construction stage as one of the following:

- Project led by private developer in line with the aims, policies, objectives or strategies of the Plan.
- Project led by the Local Authority under the Planning and Development Regulations.
- Project led by the Local Authority under the Strategic Infrastructure Act.

Project level assessments that may be required for all types of projects include:

- **Environmental Impact Assessment:** For a project above the thresholds specified under Article 23 of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 as amended or a project likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria specified for under Article 27 of the same EIA Regulations 1989 as amended.
- **Appropriate Assessment:** All projects will be screened for Appropriate Assessment and, where there is a potential for a significant effect on a European (Natura 2000) site, an Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken in accordance the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

**Exempted developments include those of limited scale and scope, that may fall under the category of flood mitigation works or housing protection schemes. Exempted developments may be carried out by Local Authorities under funding by the OPW, will be exempted in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and will comply with all**

**relevant environmental legislation. This could require the undertaking of an EIA or AA screening for physical works. Local Authorities must supply written confirmation of legislative compliance under condition of funding.**

## 8.2 Project Mitigation: Consenting Process

The consenting process for the progression of measures, actions or projects supported, guided or recommended within the Plan involving physical works, will require the applicable environmental assessments. Also, the consenting authorities may set out specific environmental conditions as part of the project approval.

## 8.3 Project Mitigation: Pre-Construction/Detailed Design

For the detailed design of projects that may arise as a result of the Plan, where options are available, the design should use a hierarchy to mitigation measures along the following principles:

- Avoidance: avoid creating the potential impact where feasible.
- Mitigation: minimise the potential impact through mitigating measures
- Enhancement: Enhance the environment to better than pre-project conditions, were reasonably possible

This mitigation hierarchy is standard practice, and is implemented in the planning process via use of guidelines such as *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA 2022) and other standard planning process procedures at project level.

The progression of any projects that may arise as a result of the Plan, through the detailed design phase can entail a series of surveys to inform the design, where the scale of surveys would be proportionate to the complexity and potential impacts of the project. These can include:

- engineering structure surveys,
- topographical surveys,
- habitat and species surveys<sup>1</sup>
- ornithological surveys,
- bat surveys,
- fish surveys,
- water quality surveys,
- archaeological surveys,
- landscape and visual assessments,
- land valuation surveys and
- other surveys as deemed necessary to prepare a project.

This will be implemented through following the standard AA process as project level, as determined by the competent authority; and through use of best practice guidelines via the planning process procedures at a project level.

Where necessary, Wildlife Derogation Licences will be sought from the National Park and Wildlife Service Wildlife Licence Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which will be implemented in tandem with the standard planning process i.e. as the project progresses at demolition/construction stage.

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of ecological mitigation, the habitat and species surveys are conducted as required to assess the various aspects for the project, such as ecological surveys for:  
 Protected or notable habitats and species, including Annex 1 habitats, Annex II and Annex IV species,  
 Species protected under the Wildlife Acts,  
 Species protected under the Flora Protection Order,  
 The resting and breeding places of relevant species and,  
 Invasive species, both plant and animal.

When large volumes of water are to be discharged to the stormwater system as a result of these projects all levels must be supervised; and that appropriate levels of attenuation/storage should be in place in new projects to prevent overload on the combined system during periods of high rainfall. Rainfall runoff is required to be managed, e.g., attenuated and contained on site up to the 1-in-100-year rainfall event which has a statistical 1% chance of occurring in any given year, while also allowing for a 20% climate change factor. Additionally, systems and pipework should be checked for sections of settled wastes following phases of low rainfall or dry spells.

The scope of any necessary Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) will contain a WFD assessment if relevant, which will include a hydro-morphological assessment, to consider and support the WFD objectives more clearly. This WFD assessment will inform the project level AA regarding likely significant effects and adverse impacts on the site integrity of European sites in respect of their conservation objectives and if necessary, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented at project level to ensure adverse effects will not occur. Implementation should follow: Draft Guidelines for the Incorporation of the Water Framework Directive into the Planning System - Volumes 1 and 2 (RPS 2022a), (RPS 2022b) or updates to this Draft Guidelines.

Where a full EIS is not required for a project (i.e., has been screened out), an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) should be considered to demonstrate how a project accords with relevant planning policy and legislation where an EIA is not required. The findings of an EclA can help competent authorities understand ecological issues when determining applications for consent. Unlike EIA, EclA on its own is not a statutory requirement but can be a valuable evaluation process where habitats, species and ecosystems may be impacted from a development/project.

#### 8.4 Impact evaluation of the plan

Table 8-1 below evaluates the screened in European sites and the potential impacts as discussed in Section 7.2 in relation to the potentially adverse impacts that may arise from the Plan, from the screened-in Policy Objectives identified in Table 6-2. Where potentially significant adverse impacts are identified, avoidance and mitigation measures are proposed to offset these impacts.

Table 8-1 Impact Evaluation Table

Qualifying Interest (relevant to Adare)	Potential Source of Impact	Impact on Attribute and Target Prior to Mitigation / Avoidance	Avoidance / Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
<b>Lower River Shannon SAC</b>				
<p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Habitat sub-types present include            Triangular Club-rush  <i>Schoenoplectus triqueteter</i>            and Opposite-leaved            Pondweed <i>Groenlandia densa</i></p>	<p>Habitat loss            Changes in physical regime            Physical damage            Habitat/ community simplification            Competition from invasive non-native species            Changes in water levels or table            Changes in water quality            Changes to surface water flooding            Turbidity and siltation            Pollution</p>	<p>This habitat occurs in the river, margins and connected tributaries/streams/ditches of the River Maigue</p> <p>The target conservation objectives for this QI include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No reduction in Habitat Area, Distribution</li> <li>- To retain appropriate hydrological regime and connection to floodplain</li> <li>- No decline in water quality and species composition, and riparian habitat</li> </ul> <p>The Screened-in Policies and Objectives ( Table 6-2) of this Plan could cause adverse impacts to target conservation objectives of Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] primarily through direct habitat loss, or indirect impacts through surface water pathways, which could cause loss or reduction of habitat area, reduction in species density, and through changes in key indicators of conservation value.</p> <p>For example, the policy Objective CH 12 Blue Green Infrastructure, with the aim to increase recreational use of the River Maigue, could impact this habitat.</p>	<p>In-built into the Plan is embedded mitigation to protect Objective CH 02: Compliance with Environmental Assessments: Require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment and other environmental assessments as appropriate in the Plan area.</p> <p>Additionally Objective CH 05 Designated Sites and Nature Conservation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation site (etc.)</li> <li>Ensure that appropriate waste water infrastructure is available to support new developments to safeguard water quality.</li> <li>No projects which will be reasonably likely to give rise to significant adverse direct or indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites, having regard to their conservation objectives arising from reduction in species diversity, shall be permitted on the basis of this</li> </ol>	<p>No adverse impact anticipated</p>
<p><i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</p>	<p>Habitat loss            Changes in physical regime            Physical damage            Habitat/ community simplification            Competition from invasive non-native species            Changes in water levels or</p>	<p>This habitat occurs downstream of the Plan Area in the river margins of River Maigue</p> <p>The target conservation objectives for this QI include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No reduction in Habitat Area, Distribution, Woodland Size or Structure.</li> <li>- To retain appropriate hydrological regime.</li> <li>- No decline in composition of tree cover and</li> </ul>	<p>a) Protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation site (etc.)</p> <p>b) Ensure that appropriate waste water infrastructure is available to support new developments to safeguard water quality.</p> <p>c) No projects which will be reasonably likely to give rise to significant adverse direct or indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites, having regard to their conservation objectives arising from reduction in species diversity, shall be permitted on the basis of this</p>	



Qualifying Interest (relevant to Adare)	Potential Source of Impact	Impact on Attribute and Target Prior to Mitigation / Avoidance	Avoidance / Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
	<p>table</p> <p>Changes in water quality</p> <p>Changes to surface water flooding</p> <p>Turbidity and siltation</p> <p>Pollution</p>	<p>richness, and no invasive species.</p> <p>The Screened-in Policies and Objectives ( Table 6-2) of this Plan could cause adverse impacts to target conservation objectives of Alluvial Forests primarily through indirect impacts through surface water pathways, which could cause loss or reduction of habitat area, reduction in species density, and through changes in key indicators of conservation value.</p>	<p>plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) Etc.</p> <p>In addition to the above, in relation to Project Implementation promoted by the Plan, further mitigation measures to protect the natural environment, most importantly water quality and water abstraction are outlined in Section 8.</p>	
<p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p>	<p>Habitat loss</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation</p> <p>Changes in physical regime</p> <p>Physical damage</p> <p>Habitat/ community simplification</p> <p>Competition from invasive non-native species</p> <p>Changes in water levels or table</p> <p>Changes in water quality</p> <p>Turbidity and siltation</p> <p>Pollution</p>	<p>These species occur within the main River Maigue</p> <p>The target conservation objectives for these QI species include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No reduction in river accessibility, number of juveniles, extent of spawning habitat, and extent of juvenile habitat</li> <li>- For salmon at least Q4 in water quality.</li> </ul> <p>The Screened-in Policies and Objectives ( Table 6-2) of this Plan could cause adverse impacts to target conservation objectives for aquatic species of the River Maigue, i.e. Lamprey and Salmon primarily through indirect impacts via surface water pathways, which could cause loss or reduction of habitat area, reduction in species density, and through changes in key indicators of conservation value.</p> <p>For example, the policy Objective C3 Parks, Open Space and Recreation, with the aim to increase blue-way potential and opportunities and use of the River Maigue, could impact this habitat. Or Objective C2 New Amenity Areas Walkways and Cycleways: which have objectives to increase walking and cycling infrastructure near the River Maigue. These are also further described in the Public Realm</p>		

Qualifying Interest (relevant to Adare)	Potential Source of Impact	Impact on Attribute and Target Prior to Mitigation / Avoidance	Avoidance / Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
		Plan.		
<i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	Habitat loss Habitat fragmentation Changes in physical regime Physical damage Habitat/ community simplification Disturbance (noise/ visual) Competition from invasive non-native species Changes in water levels or table Changes in water quality Changes to surface water flooding Turbidity and siltation Pollution	<p>Otter is a mobile species and likely to occur in the Plan Boundary, within the River Maigue (Lower River Shannon SAC) and also outside the SAC boundary e.g., along local water courses, ditch and wetlands.</p> <p>The target conservation objectives for this QI include: no significant decline in distribution, habitat, resting sites, and fish availability, and no increase in barriers to connectivity.</p> <p>The Screened-in Policies and Objectives (Table 6-2) of this Plan could cause adverse impacts to Otter's target conservation objectives, through loss or reduction of habitat area, disturbance, fragmentation, reduction in species density, and through changes in key indicators of conservation value.</p>		
<b>River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA</b>				
Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050] Teal (Anas crecca) [A052] Pintail (Anas acuta)	Habitat loss Habitat fragmentation Changes in physical regime Physical damage Habitat/ community simplification Disturbance (noise/ visual) Competition from invasive non-native species Changes in water levels or table Changes in water quality Changes to surface water flooding Turbidity and siltation	<p>Adare does not have significant numbers of wintering or wetland birds in the Plan Boundary.</p> <p>However, using the precautionary principle, some of the Qualifying Interests bird species could be present within the plan area, as these birds may move between different foraging and resting locations.</p> <p>The target conservation objective for these QIs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long term population trend stable or increasing</li> <li>- No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas</li> <li>- The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly</li> </ul>	<p>In-built into the Plan is embedded mitigation to protect Objective CH 02: Compliance with Environmental Assessments: Require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment and other environmental assessments as appropriate in the Plan area. Additionally Objective CH 05</p>	No adverse impact anticipated

Qualifying Interest (relevant to Adare)	Potential Source of Impact	Impact on Attribute and Target Prior to Mitigation / Avoidance	Avoidance / Mitigation Measures	Residual Impact
<p>[A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	Pollution	<p>less</p> <p>The Screened-in Policies and Objectives (Table 6 2) of this Plan could cause a decrease in the range and intensity of use of these birds and their associated ex-situ habitat around the River Maigue, or within wetland areas in the Flood Zone within the Plan Area.</p> <p>These birds could be adversely impacted through loss or reduction of habitat area, disturbance, fragmentation, reduction in species density, and through changes in key indicators of conservation value.</p>	<p>Designated Sites and Nature Conservation:</p> <p>a) Protect the integrity of the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation site (etc.)</p> <p>b) Ensure that appropriate waste water infrastructure is available to support new developments to safeguard water quality.</p> <p>c) No projects which will be reasonably likely to give rise to significant adverse direct or indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites, having regard to their conservation objectives arising from reduction in species diversity, shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) Etc.</p> <p>In addition to the above, in relation to Project Implementation promoted by the Plan, further mitigation measures to protect the natural environment, most importantly water quality and water abstraction are outlined in Section 8.</p>	

## 9 Conclusion

A number of policy objectives have been developed as a result of the Draft Adare Local Area Plan (Volume 1) and the Draft Adare Public Realm Plan (Volume 2) that are designed to promote the sustainable development and growth of Adare. This NIR has determined the potential impacts on European Sites that may occur through the implementation of the Plan and has assessed each one of these potential impacts with the level of detail that is available at this high level. Included in the policies and objectives is Objective CH 04 Designated Sites and Nature Conservation which safeguards the integrity of the Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives of the European sites.

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan is being carried out. Implementation of the Draft Plan to be adopted has the potential to result in effects to the ecological integrity of the two European site, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures into the Draft Plan that will, in addition to the measures already in force through the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known. This is secured through Objective CH 02: *Compliance with Environmental Assessments: It is an objective of the council to Require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP. There shall be a requirement of Ecological Impact Assessment and other environmental assessments as appropriate in the Plan area.*

Mitigation measures that are provided in the NIR will be implemented throughout the entire extent of the execution of projects that may stem from the Plan. This includes mitigation measures to be implemented at the consenting process stage, pre-construction, construction and monitoring for any projects that may arise as a result of the Plan. This will be implemented through following the standard AA process as project level, as determined by the competent authority and use of best practice guidelines via the planning process procedures at a project level.

Additionally, this plan is underpinned by the existing environmental protection measures contained in the Limerick Development Plan 2022 -2028 of which any proposals arising from the Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with LDP Objective *EH O1 Designated Sites and Habitats Directive. This will ensure that any projects/plans likely to have significant effects on European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) are subject to an appropriate assessment and will not be permitted under the Plan unless they comply with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.*

Provided the recommended mitigation measures are implemented, it can be concluded that this Plan will not adversely impact on the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans, projects or policies.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform the development, and be concluded at adoption, of the Plan.

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**LIMERICK** **ADARE**

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& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

Forward Planning  
19th August 2023

