DAERA Environmental Farming Branch

Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment

Nutrients Action Programme 2027-2030

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Contents

1.0 Introduction 1
1.1 Background 1
1.2 Outcome of the HRA Screening Appraisal 1
1.3 Overlap with Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NAP for Northern Ireland 2027-2030 2
1.4 Appropriate Assessment 2
2.0 Methodology 4
2.1 Guidance on Appropriate Assessment 4
2.2 Approach 4
2.2.1 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment Process 4
2.2.2 Likely Significant Effect 5
2.2.3 Consideration of *ex-situ* effects 7
2.2.4 Mitigation Measures at Screening Stage 7
2.2.5 UK Departure from the EU 8
2.2.6 In-Combination Effects 8
2.2.7 Plan Level Appropriate Assessment 8
2.3 Information Sources Consulted 9
2.4 Consultation 10
3.0 The Proposed Nutrients Actions Programme for Northern Ireland 2027-2030 12
3.1 Legislative Background: The Nitrates Directive and Nitrates Action Programme 12
3.2 The Nutrients Action Programme 12
3.3 Nitrates Derogation 13
3.4 Scope of the draft NAP 2027-2030 for Northern Ireland 14
3.4.1 Geographic Extent of the draft NAP 2027-2030 14
3.4.2 Temporal Extent of the draft NAP 2027-2030 14
3.5 Description of the draft NAP 2027-2030 Measures 14
3.5.1 Existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 14
3.5.2 Proposed new measures and amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 18
3.5.3 Related measure being progressed through separate legislation 44
3.5.3.1 Fertiliser Database 45
3.5.4 Governance, Monitoring and Review 45
3.5.5 Support through Advice and Funding 48
3.6 Aspects of the draft NAP 2027-2030 to be Assessed 48
4.0 Overview of the Receiving Environment 51
4.1 Identification of European Sites and Zone of Influence 51

4.2 Conservation Objectives 53
4.3 Conservation Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species 54
4.4 Existing Threats and Pressures to EU Protected Habitats and Species 57
5.0 Appraisal for Appropriate Assessment 60
5.1 Summary of Screening Appraisal 60
5.2 Approach to Assessment 60
5.3 Impact Prediction 61
5.3.1 Context for Impact Prediction 61
5.3.2 Impact Identification 61
5.3.3 Impact Prediction 63
5.3.4 Key Existing Mechanisms of Relevance for the NAP 75
5.3.4.1 Water Quality Policy 75
5.3.4.2 Current Agricultural Policies 76
5.4 European Sites 77
5.4.1 Impacts Associated with Agricultural Runoff 77
5.4.2 Impacts Associated with Airborne Nutrient Deposition 92
5.5 Assessment of Existing and Proposed NAP Regulations 97
5.5.1 Assessment of existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 99
5.5.2 Assessment of recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 116
5.6 In-Combination Effects 147
6.0 Mitigation and Monitoring 180
6.1 Iterative Development of the Draft NAP 2027-2030 and the SEA 180
6.2 HRA Mitigation 180
6.2.1 Improved implementation and enforcement of NAP measures 183
6.2.2 Pathway to Compliance 184
6.2.3 Recommended amendments to existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 189
6.2.4 Recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 199
7.0 Conclusions 207
Appendix A 213
European Sites Assessed for Adverse Effects in this RIAA 213
Appendix B 277
Qualifying Interests of Special Conservation Interests of Screened European Sites, their Conservation Status and their Sensitivity to NAP Effects 277

Tables

Table 2-1 Summary of consultee responses relevant to the Appropriate Assessment received during the consultation period for the NAP SEA Scoping Report 10

Table 3-1 Summary description of existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 14

Table 3-2 Proposed new measures and amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 18

Table 3-3 Elements of the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 assessed in the Stage 2 appraisal for Appropriate Assessment 48

Table 3-4 Elements of the Proposed new measures and amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 assessed in the Stage 2 appraisal for Appropriate Assessment 49

Table 4-1 European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the NAP in NI and RoI 52

Table 4-2 Threat/Pressure Categories, Notes and Terrestrial Examples (based on Article 17 2025 report in RoI and Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024, 2026 report in NI) 58

Table 5-1 Principal Ecological Impact Pathways that could potentially arise from the existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 64

Table 5-2 Main Ecological Impacts that could arise from the recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 71

Table 5-3 Water Dependent Qis and European Sites 83

Table 5-4 European Sites with Nitrogen Deposition above Critical Loads and Proportion Attributable to NI Agriculture 94

Table 5-5 Assessment of Existing NAP Regulations 100

Table 5-6 Assessment of recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 117

Table 5-7 Assessment of In-Combination Effects 148

Table 6-1 Recommended amendments to existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 190

Table 6-2 Recommendations of the OEP following its review of Review of implementation of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (2019) in Northern Ireland 197

Table 6-3 Recommended amendments to the draft NAP (2027-2030) 199

Figures

Figure 2-1 Step-wise procedure of Appropriate Assessment (from EC, 2021) 6

Figure 4-1 Distribution of SACs relevant to the NAP HRA 52

Figure 4-2 Distribution of SPAs relevant to the NAP HRA 53

Figure 6-1 Recommended focused risk-based approach 188

Figure 6-2 Decision Tree illustrating the recommended focused risk approach 189

Figure 6-3 Illustration of the Twelve OEP Recommendations (© OEP, 2026) 199

Acronyms/Abbreviations

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment
AFBI	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
APIS	Air Pollution Information System
AQMA	Air Quality Management System
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
ASSAP	Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEH	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
CH_4	Methane
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
COGAP	Code of Good Agricultural Practice
CORINE	Co-ordinated Information on the Environment
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DfC	Department for Communities
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DIN	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
DWI	Drinking Water Inspectorate
DWPA	Drinking Water Protected Area
EFS	Environmental Farming Scheme

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPOs	Environmental Protection Objectives
EQS	Environmental Quality Standards
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GAEC	Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GES	Good Environmental Status
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GSNI	Geological Survey Northern Ireland
GVA	Gross Value Added
GWDTE	Groundwater-dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem
HOST	Hydrology of Soil Types
HRA	Habitats Regulation Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
LCA	Landscape Character Areas
LDP	Local Development Plan
LESSE	Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zones
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NAEI	National Atmosphere Emission Inventory

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
NALCO	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order
NAP	Nutrients Action Programme
NBRBD	Neagh Bann River Basin District
NBPT	N-(n-Butyl) thiophosphoric triamide
NEC	National Emission Ceilings
NERBD	North-Eastern River Basin District
NH_3	Ammonia
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NILCA	Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment
NIRLCA	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NMVOCs	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_3	Nitrate
NVZs	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
NWRBD	North-Western River Basin District
O_3	Ozone
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PfG	Programme for Government
PM	Particulate Matter
PMF	Priority Marine Feature
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Public Private Partnership

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
pSPA	Proposed Special Protection Area
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RCA	Regional Character Area
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSCA	Regional Seascape Character Area
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SALMS	Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SLNCI	Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SMR	Statutory Management Requirements
SO_2	Sulphur Dioxide
SOER	State of the Environment Report
SPA	Special Protection Area
SRP	Soluble Reactive Phosphorous
SWPA	Shellfish Water Protected Area
TFP	Total Factor Productivity
TOMPS	Toxic Organic Micro Pollutants
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
uPBT	ubiquitous Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic
UWWTD	Urban Waste-Water Treatment Directive
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTW	Water Treatment Works

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
WWTWs	Wastewater Treatment Works

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) appraisal is a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) and has been prepared by Tetra Tech on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division, Environmental Farming Branch. It examines the proposed Nutrient Action Programme for Northern Ireland 2027-2030 (the 'NAP'), and makes an appraisal of the implications of the NAP on European Sites (SPAs and SACs) within the UK network of sites in Northern Ireland and also relevant European sites in the Natura 2000 network in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) for which an impact pathway has been established).

The report has been prepared to assist DAERA in their role as a Competent Authority in fulfilling their duties in accordance with Regulation 43 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations') in deciding whether or not to adopt the proposed NAP.

These regulations transpose *inter alia* Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, and remain relevant following the UK's departure from the EU. This approach is in line with The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026. Terminology used in this report is in line with guidance published by DAERA in light of changes to the status of European Sites following the UK's departure from the EU (DAERA 2020).

This plan level RIAA identifies the measures within the NAP for their potential to give rise to adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites and to identify where further measures are required at implementation stage, to address any potential effects upon the integrity of sites as required as required under Article 6(3). The requirement of Government to also fulfil its obligations under Article 6(2) to take appropriate steps to avoid habitat deterioration and significant species disturbance is discussed also, as Article 6(3) is primarily concerned with avoiding adverse effects from adoption of new plans and consenting new projects (looking forwards) whereas Article 6(2) is inherently backward-looking.

Engaging with obligations under Article 6(2) is essential at the same time as proceeding to move forwards with a new set of NAP cycle Regulations, because mitigation measures adopted as part of NAP 2027-2030 cannot deal with legacy enrichment of Northern Ireland's freshwater systems and habitats. It is not disputed that significant deterioration of water quality and freshwater systems have occurred in Northern Ireland. For example, the Ministers foreword to the NAP consultation document states that our water quality has been impacted by excess nutrients in recent years. In its Review of implementation of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (2019) in Northern Ireland (OEP, 2026), the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) states that pollution by nutrients from agriculture and wastewater is a longstanding, severe and chronic problem that affects the economy, society and environment of Northern Ireland; and in its Nutrients Action Programme Implementation Report for 2020–2023 (DAERA, 2024), DAERA states that nutrient enrichment of the aquatic environment, known as eutrophication, has been a long recognised problem.

1.2 Outcome of the HRA Screening Appraisal

This RIAA has been prepared following the completion of a HRA screening appraisal of the proposed NAP, which identified the potential for the programme to give rise to likely significant effects upon a range of SACs and SPAs in both Northern Ireland and in RoI.

Likely significant effects upon the identified SACs and SPAs could not be excluded at the screening stage as follows:

- The possibility of likely significant Water Quality and Habitat Deterioration effects could not be excluded for the identified European Sites.
- The possibility of likely significant Habitat Deterioration arising through aerial emission effects could not be excluded for the identified European Sites.

The proposed measures contained in the draft NAP 2027-2030 have been developed following significant policy, technical and stakeholder consideration, including the need to address the limitations of previous proposals which did not secure political or sectoral acceptance. Tetra Tech is advised that the NAP development process followed clearly defined Terms of Reference, and measures are now proposed following consideration and agreement of proposals by the NAP Stakeholder Task and Finish Group, which included membership from organisations across farming, agri-food, the environment and DAERA officials.

1.3 Overlap with Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NAP for Northern Ireland 2027-2030

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the NAP 2027-2030 is being carried out concurrently with the HRA and preparation of this RIAA. The purpose of SEA is to identify and evaluate a range of environmental consequences of adopting the programme, that may occur as a result of the implementation of the NAP and to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the perceived or actual environmental effects. There is some degree of overlap between the requirements of the SEA and HRA and in accordance with best practice, an integrated process of data sharing has been carried out, such as sharing of baseline data and mapping of European Sites, sharing of the potential ecological effects of the NAP.

It is also noted that there are issues relevant to the Habitats Regulations that are not strictly related to an Article 6(3) assessment (HRA) but can be addressed to some degree under SEA, including Article 6(2) obligations to take appropriate steps to avoid habitat deterioration and significant species disturbance; the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species (Article 10 of the Habitats Directive; Regulation 32 of the Habitats Regulations), and the regime of strict protection for Annex IV species (European Protected Species) under Article 12 of the Habitats Directive (Regulations 33-38 of the Habitats Regulations).

EC (2021) advises that there are several advantages to streamlining SEA and appropriate assessments in that they can, for instance, help to better understand the relationships between different environmental factors, avoid duplication of assessments, contribute to making more efficient use of resources needed to carry out the assessments, and enable better coordination in permitting procedures.

Key elements for effective streamlining of appropriate assessment and SEA include:

- Close cooperation between responsible authorities;
- Adequate scoping, which is a common practice in the SEA procedure;
- Close cooperation and proper information exchange between the experts preparing the SEA and the experts conducting the appropriate assessment (e.g. information about noise, air, water, soil issues by the respective expert to the expert in biodiversity);
- Quality control by the competent authority; and
- Clear and distinct conclusions for each of the streamlined assessment procedures.

1.4 Appropriate Assessment

Regulation 43 of the Habitats Regulations states:

> "(1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—
>
> (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Northern Ireland (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
>
> (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.
>
> (2) A person applying for any such consent, permission or other authorisation shall provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment.
>
> (3) The competent authority shall for the purposes of the assessment consult the Department and have regard to any representations made by it within such reasonable time as the authority may specify.
>
> (4) The competent authority shall, if it considers it appropriate, take such steps as it considers necessary to obtain the opinion of the general public.
>
> (5) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 44, the authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.

In simple terms, a plan must be screened for appropriate assessment to ascertain whether or not likely significant effects on European Sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites; can be excluded. If not, the plan must be subject to appropriate assessment.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Guidance on Appropriate Assessment

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an Executive Agency of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). It has published guidance notes on Habitat Regulations Assessment for Competent Authorities (EHS, 2002 and DAERA, 2020).

These guidelines have been followed in the preparation of this report. The following list identifies these and other pertinent guidance documents:

- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2000a);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2000b);
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Brussels (EC, 2001);
- Habitats Regulations Guidance Notes for Competent Authorities. Environment and Heritage Service. Belfast (EHS, 2002);
- 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, opinion of the commission (EC, 2007);
- The Appropriate Assessment of Plans in Northern Ireland. RSPB, Belfast (RSPB, 2008);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission (EC, 2013);
- European Commission Notice C (2018) 7621 'Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC', Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2019);
- Institute of Air Quality Management 'A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites (Version 1.1)' (IAQM, 2020);
- Guidance explaining The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (DAERA, 2020); and
- European Commission Notice C (2021) 6913 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2021).

2.2 Approach

2.2.1 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment Process

An appropriate assessment is a three-stage process:

- The first stage involves a screening for appropriate assessment;
- The second stage arises where, having screened the proposed plan, the competent authority determines that an appropriate assessment is required, in which case it must then carry out that appropriate assessment; and

- The third stage is a derogation procedure where adverse effects upon the integrity of a site remain, but the project must nonetheless proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

According to European Commission guidance documents 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites' (EC, 2001) and the 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2019), the obligations arising under Article 6 establish a stepwise procedure for Habitats Regulations Appraisal as follows, and as illustrated in Box 1 in Figure 2-1[1].

The first part of this procedure consists of a pre-assessment stage ('screening') to determine whether, firstly, a plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, and secondly, whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the site; it is governed by the first sentence of Article 6(3).

The second part of the procedure, governed by the second sentence of Article 6(3), relates to the appropriate assessment and the decision of the competent national authorities.

A third part of the procedure (governed by Article 6(4) comes into play if, despite a negative assessment, it is proposed not to reject a plan or project but to give it further consideration. In this case Article 6(4) allows for derogations from Article 6(3) under certain conditions.

The extent to which the sequential steps of Article 6(3) apply to a given plan or project depends on several factors, and in the sequence of steps, each step is influenced by the previous step. The order in which the steps are followed is therefore essential for the correct application of Article 6(3).

Each step determines whether a further step in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusion at the end of a Stage 1 screening appraisal is that significant effects on European sites can be excluded, there is no requirement to proceed to the next step. The steps are illustrated in Figure 2-1, extracted from EC (2021).

2.2.2 Likely Significant Effect

The Commission's 2018 Notice (EC, 2019) advises that the appropriate assessment procedure under Article 6(3) is triggered not by the certainty but by the likelihood of significant effects, arising from plans or projects regardless of their location inside or outside a protected site. Such likelihood exists if significant effects on the site cannot be excluded. The significance of effects should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives and ecological characteristics.

The threshold for a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) is treated in the screening exercise as being above a de minimis level. A de minimis effect is a level of risk that is too small to be concerned with when considering ecological requirements of an Annex I habitat or a population of Annex II species present on a European Site necessary to ensure their favourable conservation condition. If low level effects on habitats or individuals of species are judged to be in this order of magnitude and that judgment has been made in the absence of reasonable scientific doubt, then those effects are not considered to be LSEs.

Case law of the CJEU has confirmed that a significant effect is triggered when:

- There is a probability or a risk of a plan or project having a significant effect on a European Site;
- The plan is likely to undermine the site's conservation objectives; and
- A significant effect cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information.

[1] The flowchart illustrated in Figure 2.1 is taken from Figure 1 of EC (2021). It is noted that while this flowchart states in the 'Appropriate Assessment' stage (the dark blue step) "Is it ascertained that [having applied the necessary mitigation measures and consulted the public] the plan or project will not have significant effect [with other plans or projects] on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives?", the applicable test at the Appropriate Assessment stage, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and the Planning and Development Act 2000, is whether or not the plan or project will have an adverse effect the integrity of a European site.

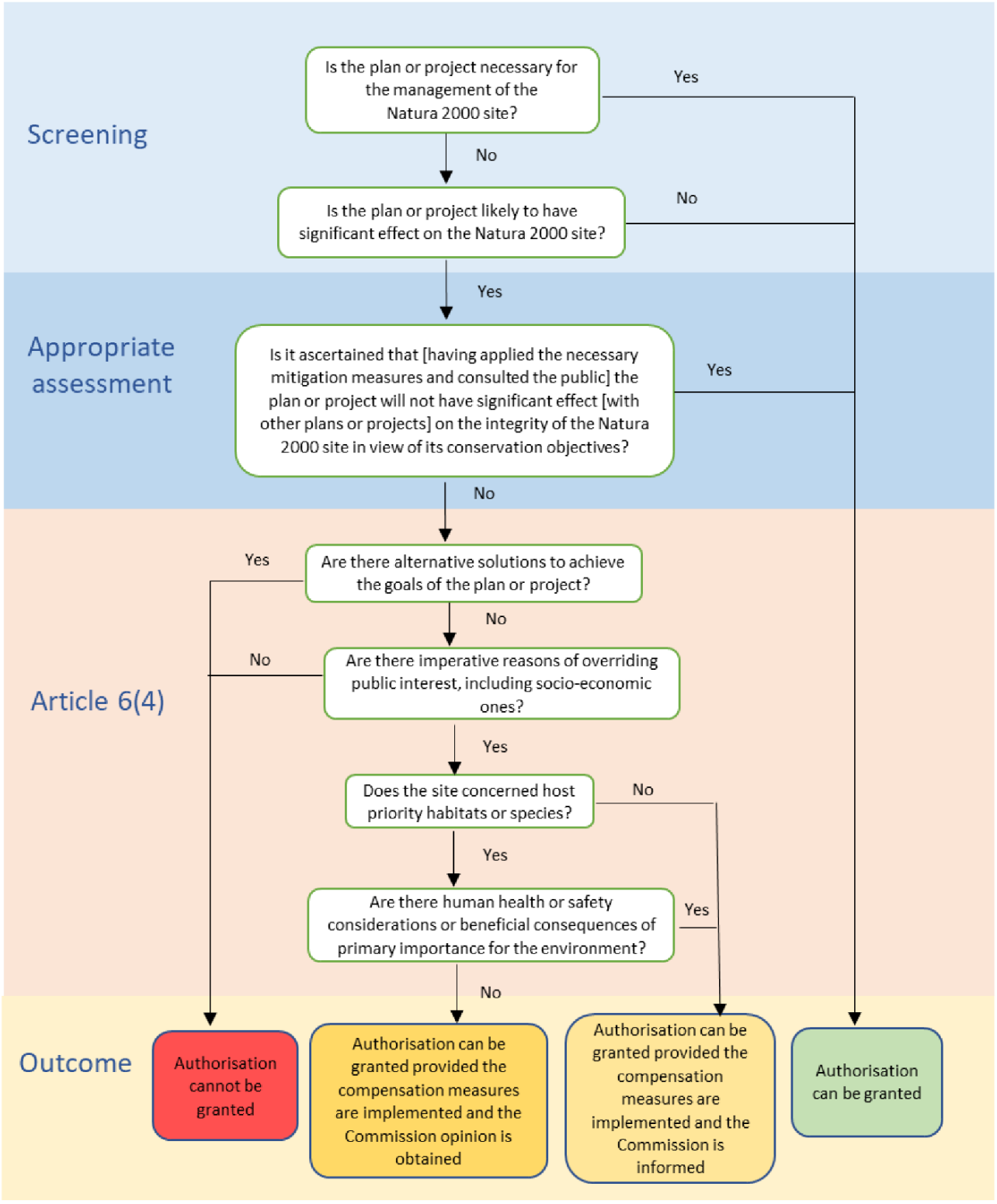


Figure 2-1 Step-wise procedure of Appropriate Assessment (from EC, 2021)

EC (2021) defines a LSE as being “any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that would negatively and significantly affect the conservation objectives established for the habitats and species significantly present on the Natura 2000 site. This can result from either on-site or off-site activities, or through combinations with other plans or projects”. The requirement that the effect in

question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a *de minimis* threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European Site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill.

2.2.3 Consideration of *ex-situ* effects

EC (2019) advises that Member States, both in their legislation and in their practice, allow for the Article 6(3) safeguards to be applied to any development pressures, including those which are external to European Sites but which are likely to have significant effects on any of them.

The CJEU developed this point when it issued a ruling in case C-461/17 ("Brian Holohan and Others v An Bord Pleanála") that determined inter alia that Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC must be interpreted as meaning that an appropriate assessment must on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

In that regard, consideration has been given in this assessment to implications for habitats and species located both inside and outside of the European Sites considered in the screening appraisal with reference to those sites' Conservation Objectives where effects upon those habitats and/or species are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the sites concerned.

2.2.4 Mitigation Measures at Screening Stage

In determining whether or not likely significant effects will occur or can be excluded in the Stage 1 appraisal, measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the proposed development on European Sites, (i.e. "mitigation measures") or best practice measures were not taken into account. This approach is consistent with up-to-date EU guidance (EC, 2019; EC, 2021) and the case law of the CJEU.

In April 2018, the Court of Justice (CJEU) of the European Union issued a ruling in case C-323/17 People Over Wind & Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta ("People Over Wind") that Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site. The CJEU found that taking account of mitigation measures at the screening stage could compromise the practical effect of the Habitats Directive in general, and the assessment stage in particular (since the assessment stage would be deprived of its purpose and there would be a risk of circumvention of that stage). In its judgment in Eco-Advocacy, the CJEU recently found that this does not preclude standard features, which are inherent to a project, and are incorporated into a project's design, not with the aim of reducing its negative effects.

The judgment in People Over Wind is further emphasised in EC (2019) which refers to CJEU Case C-323/17, and also EC (2021) states specifically in Table 1 on p12 thereof that that mitigation measures cannot be considered at the screening stage of appropriate assessment, citing CJEU case C-323/17.

More recently, in June 2023, the CJEU issued a ruling in case C-721/21 Eco Advocacy CLG vs. An Bord Pleanála that Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications of a plan or project for a site, account may be taken of the features of that plan or project which involve the removal of contaminants and which therefore may have the effect of reducing the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site, where those features have been incorporated into that plan or project as standard features, inherent in such a plan or project, irrespective of any effect on the site.

This appraisal does not attempt to formulate any measures which involve the removal of contaminants in light of the emerging case law from the CJEU by now describing them as features that have been incorporated into the Proposed Project as 'standard features'.

2.2.5 UK Departure from the EU

It is recognised that following the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, SACs and SPAs in the UK are no longer considered "Natura 2000 sites" for the purpose of an assessment pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. However, pursuant to the UK's Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, those sites still retain the same protection under UK law as they did prior to the UK's exit from the EU.

In the circumstances, and consistent with the UK's obligations as a signatory to the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, to which the Birds and Habitats Directives give effect, and in order to ensure the highest level of protection for the species and habitats protected by those Directives, the following assessment includes a full assessment of relevant RoI sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network of sites protected under those Directives.

This will enable the competent authority to ensure that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of those RoI sites in the Natura 2000 network and the UK national site network.

2.2.6 In-Combination Effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Article 43 of the Habitats Regulations requires that in-combination effects with other plans or projects are also considered. As set out in the Commission's 2018 Notice (EC, 2019), significance will vary depending on factors such as magnitude of impact, type, extent, duration, intensity, timing, probability, cumulative effects and the vulnerability of the habitats and species concerned. Whilst the Directive does not explicitly define which other plans and projects are within the scope of the in-combination provision of Article 6(3), it is important to note that the underlying intention of this provision is to take account of cumulative impacts, and these will often only occur over time.

In that context, one can consider plans or projects which are completed, approved but uncompleted, or proposed. EC (2019) specifically advises that "as regards other proposed plans or projects, on grounds of legal certainty it would seem appropriate to restrict the in-combination provision to those which have been actually proposed, i.e. for which an application for approval or consent has been introduced".

EC (2021) additionally advises that –

- An in-combination assessment is often less detailed at the screening stage than in the appropriate assessment;
- There is still a need to identify all other plans or projects that could give rise to cumulative impacts with the plan or project in question; and
- If this analysis cannot reach definitive conclusions, it should at least identify any other relevant plans and projects that should be scrutinised in more detail during the appropriate assessment.

2.2.7 Plan Level Appropriate Assessment

Recent guidance published by the European Commission (EC 2021), sets out a number of pertinent points in respect of the undertaking of Appropriate Assessment of high-level plans, and states the following,

"…there are also certain particularities in the assessment of plans…. These particularities pertain to possible limitations and constraints and suitable approaches that can be used to overcome the difficulties and uncertainties linked with a lack of detailed information or insufficient definition of all the elements, components and actions of the plan.

The level of detail of the plan itself will determine the scope and extent of the appropriate assessment, but in all cases the assessment must aim to identify sensitive or vulnerable areas or other potential risks or conflicts with Natura 2000 sites so that these can be taken into account at later stages in the planning process.

The assessment should be proportionate to the geographical scope, to the plan's level of detail and to the nature and extent of the likely effects. In some cases, it may not be possible to analyse in detail all the possible impacts on individual sites at this stage."

It is further stated that the requirements of a plan-level appropriate assessment are as follows:

- The main potential impacts to the European Site network;
- Possible broad mitigation measures;
- Possible alternatives; and
- Potential cumulative impacts.

It is further stated that:

"For strategic plans where it is not possible to identify effects on individual sites, the analysis should as a minimum focus on potential impacts and major risks; site-specific effects will then need to be analysed at project level. In such cases, the appropriate assessment should focus at least on determining the Natura 2000 sites that could be adversely affected as well as any EU protected habitats and species that could be affected (also outside Natura 2000), effects on connectivity, fragmentation and other effects at the network scale. This should serve to orientate the scope and focus of the assessment of individual projects."

2.3 Information Sources Consulted

The following general sources of information have been consulted for background environmental information:

- Information provided by DAERA on the draft NAP 2027-2030;
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency – online European Site information www.daera-ni.gov.uk;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European site information www.npws.ie;
- UK Article 17 Reports and Article 12 Reports, JNCC – Article 12 and 17 reports | Advisor to Government on Nature Conservation | JNCC
- Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024 – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/habitats-regulations
- Ireland's most recent Article 17 Reports, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2025
- Ireland's Article 12 submission to the EU Commission on the *Status and Trends of Bird Species (2008-2012)*, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting;
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) – Geology, soils and hydrology www.gsi.ie
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – EPA Maps https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/;
- CORINE (Co-Ordinated Information on the Environment) data series was published by the European Community (EC) - https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/;
- Information on river basin districts/catchments – https://www.catchments.ie/; and
- Air Pollution Information System – https://www.apis.ac.uk/

2.4 Consultation

The consultation period for an SEA Scoping Report took place between July and August 2024. During this period the SEA Scoping Report, which included reference to the parallel and integrated AA process, was provided to the specific environmental authority (statutory consultee) in Northern Ireland, namely the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

As DAERA is responsible for preparation of the NAP, statutory consultees included all relevant units within the Department such as the SEA Team, Natural Environment Division (NED), Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), Climate Change Unit, Marine and Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries), Marine Plan Team, Marine Strategy and Catchments Team and Marine Conservation and Reporting Section. The Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities (DfC), as the government authority on heritage, were also consulted. Additionally, a number of non-statutory consultees in Northern Ireland were contacted within the consultation period, comprising NI Water, Department for Infrastructure (DfI), National Trust and Geological Survey Northern Ireland (GSNI).

In recognition of the potential for transboundary effects, contact was initiated at scoping stage with the relevant statutory consultees in the Republic of Ireland. These included the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) (included response from Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).

A number of responses were received during the SEA Scoping phase, including some that had direct bearing upon the AA process. These responses, where relevant to Appropriate Assessment, are set out below in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1 Summary of consultee responses relevant to the Appropriate Assessment received during the consultation period for the NAP SEA Scoping Report

Consultee	Consultee Response
DAERA - Natural Environment Division (NED)	NED notes from Section 1.7 of the Scoping Report that a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be carried out in parallel with the SEA process. NED would welcome the opportunity to review the HRA screening when completed and also the Appropriate Assessment should it be deemed required.
	It may be worth including in your considerations the following: The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended); Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011; The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended); The Environment (NI) Order 2002; The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017; The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland; Planning Policy Statements (PPS – in particular PPS2 and PPS18). It should be noted that the PPS's will be superseded by Local Development Plans when they are adopted; Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020; Draft Environment Strategy; The Draft NI peatland policy; The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland; and the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050.
	A number of useful information sources that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level and which could be referenced are: Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports; Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports; Designated Scientific Sites; Regional Landscape Character Map

Consultee	Consultee Response
	viewer; DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat; and DAERA natural environment datasets.
	Appropriate Assessments should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report for the Habitats Directive https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directive-report-2019/ and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive https://jncc.gov.uk/ourwork/european-reporting/#birds-directive-reporting.
	Appropriate Assessments should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report for the Habitats Directive https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directive-report-2019/ and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive https://jncc.gov.uk/ourwork/european-reporting/#birds-directive-reporting.
	Please note following the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, the collective term of “Natura 2000” sites the network of European protected sites are now known as “National Site Network” sites within the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	All recommendations from the SEA and AA processes, including mitigation measures and monitoring proposals, should be integrated into the Programme. We recommend that the Programme include summary tables outlining the key findings of the SEA and linking the significant environmental effects identified to the proposed mitigation measures, monitoring programme and Programme actions/measures.
	Within the border region of the Republic of Ireland (RoI), in Cavan and Monaghan, there are approximately 168 EPA licensed installations and an additional 5 licence applications being processed in the pig and poultry sector. The potential for cumulative impacts of ammonia from these and other installations/operations on nearby Natura 2000 sites could also be considered, in preparing SEA, AA and the Programme. This is important in the context of ensuring environmental sustainability in both jurisdictions.
	EPA Appropriate Assessment GeoTool Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to a select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area.

The proposed measures contained in the draft NAP 2027-2030 have been developed following significant policy, technical and stakeholder consideration, including the need to address the limitations of previous proposals which did not secure political or sectoral acceptance. Tetra Tech is advised that the NAP development process followed clearly defined Terms of Reference, and measures are now proposed following consideration and agreement of proposals by the NAP Stakeholder Task and Finish Group, which included membership from organisations across farming, agri-food, the environment and DAERA officials.

3.0 The Proposed Nutrients Actions Programme for Northern Ireland 2027-2030

3.1 Legislative Background: The Nitrates Directive and Nitrates Action Programme

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC), introduced in 1991, aims to protect the water quality of EU Member States from pollution by agricultural sources, and to promote the use of good agricultural practice, applicable to all farmers. The Nitrates Directive requires that Member States either designate discrete areas of land termed 'Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)' to which they must apply action programmes or, alternatively, to establish an action programme that must be applied to the whole territory. The whole territory of Northern Ireland has been established as the area to which an action programme must be applied, in recognition of the significant issue of surface water eutrophication in Northern Ireland, much of which has been attributed to agriculture.

The first Nitrates Action Programme for Northern Ireland was introduced in 2007 and was given legal effect through the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (NI), 2006. As required by the Nitrates Directive, the Nitrates Action Programme included:

- A limit on the quantity of livestock manure to be applied to agricultural land annually;
- Set periods during which land spreading was prohibited owing to pollution risk; and
- Set capacity levels for livestock manure storage.

The Programme was applicable to all agricultural land (as defined in the Agriculture Act (NI), 1949) and, as such, affected all farms in Northern Ireland that produced livestock manure, or stored or applied organic manure and / or chemical nitrogen fertiliser to their land.

3.2 The Nutrients Action Programme

The Nitrates Directive requires that Member States review and, where necessary, revise their action programmes at least every four years. The Nitrates Action Programme for Northern Ireland was reviewed in 2010, 2014 and 2018. A joint DAERA/Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Scientific Working Group reviewed the effectiveness of the 2014-2018 Nitrates Action Programme. This included engagement on the review process with the EU Commission and the EU Nitrates Committee (comprising representatives of EU Member States). The outcome of the review was a revised *Nutrient* Action Programme (NAP) for the period 2019-2022. The recommended actions of the revised NAP for 2019-2022 were implemented by means of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019), which came into operation in April 2019. The NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 revoked the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and the Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, incorporating these provisions into the NAP Regulations 2019. The NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 will remain in place until new Regulations arising from the draft NAP 2027-2030 are implemented.

The draft NAP 2027-2030 proposes to carry forward all existing measures included within the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and, on the basis of scientific evidence and/or technical, regulatory and policy developments, to introduce a number of new measures and amendments. The existing measures included within the current NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 are described in **Table 3-1** of **Section 3.4**. New measures and amendments proposed for the draft NAP 2027-2030 aim to improve the

implementation and enforcement of existing measures and to target legacy soil phosphorus accumulations. These measures are detailed in **Table 3-2** of **Section 3.4** and, in summary**,** include the following:

- ***Increased mandatory use of Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment*** (LESSE) moving to increased mandatory use of LESSE through a tiered approach based on livestock units;
- ***Changes in nitrogen fertiliser use***, including a ban on urea fertiliser that does not include an inhibitor within a certain seasonal window, and whole farm limits on chemical nitrogen fertiliser based on grass production;
- ***Additional phosphorus controls***, including further advisory restrictions on the use of chemical phosphorus fertiliser, with the need for valid soil analysis and nutrient management plans to demonstrate the need for phosphorus before application. This will help to ***decrease the national average phosphorus surplus***;
- An enhanced online IT system for recording ***imports and exports of slurry and manure*** movements, as well as processed/separated slurry solids from farms and digestate to farms;
- Amendments to ***storage requirements*** with pre-notification of new slurry and silage storage facilities required before construction, and details of requirements for covering of new above ground stores;
- Proposed changes to the ***NAP derogation to a Nutrient Stewardship Programme***, including a tiered system; and
- Additional requirements relating to the use of ***anaerobic digestate***, including recording of movements and nutrient content.

3.3 Nitrates Derogation

The Nitrates Directive, and implementing Regulations, set a limit on the quantity of grazing livestock manure to be applied to land annually as 170kg N/ha/year. However, Member States can apply for a derogation from this limit, and Northern Ireland has operated under the terms of an EU approved Commission Decision to permit a higher nitrogen application limit since 2007. The derogation impacts on grassland farms that have higher stocking rates, enabling them to better utilise the nutrients within grazing livestock manures, with the aim of operating more efficiently with reduced requirements for chemical fertiliser additions. In 2019, Northern Ireland was successful in applying to the European Commission to renew the derogation from the Nitrates Directive, permitting the land application of up to 250kg N/ha/year from grazing livestock manure under certain conditions. The NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, which came into operation in April 2019, were subsequently amended to incorporate the Derogation Decision, as the Nutrient Action Programme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (hereafter referred to as the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019), which came into operation in October 2019. From 2019 to 2024, between 418 to 441 farms were approved for a Nitrates Derogation; these consist of holdings within which at least 80% of the agricultural acreage for manure application is grass.

An annual application for a derogation is made to DAERA, who is also responsible for ensuring that landholders agree with, and comply with, the derogation terms. When a farmer applies for a derogation from the 170kg N/ha/year nitrogen limit, the regulations provide that an application is allowed if the applicant has not been notified within 28 days that it has been refused. This means that a farmer does not need to receive any active approval from DAERA to increase their operation from the normal limit of 170kg N/ha/year up to 250kg N/ha/year. This applies in all cases except where a farm was in breach of derogation conditions in the previous year and, as such, is not eligible to apply for a derogation.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, Northern Ireland is no longer required to apply to the European Commission for a decision on granting derogation beyond the limit of 170kg N/ha/year, and the decision now falls under control of DAERA. An increased limit of 250kg N/ha/year is still in force for derogated grassland

farms that meet certain management and environmental criteria. The NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 require derogated farms to meet conditions that aim to minimise the environmental impact of increased slurry application rates. These existing measures which are included within the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, and the proposed amendments for the draft NAP 2027-2030 regarding derogation (now proposed to be referred to as a Nutrient Stewardship Programme), are detailed in **Section 3.4**.

3.4 Scope of the draft NAP 2027-2030 for Northern Ireland

3.4.1 Geographic Extent of the draft NAP 2027-2030

The draft NAP 2027-2030 is a national level programme for the protection of Northern Ireland's water resources from nutrient pollution by agricultural sources. As such, the assessment will primarily focus on activities occurring at a national to regional scale, while having careful regard to any likely significant environmental effects of a transboundary nature to receptors in the Republic of Ireland, including in the marine area.

3.4.2 Temporal Extent of the draft NAP 2027-2030

The draft NAP will be in force for four years and cover the period from 2027 to 2030. The statutory review period for the NAP is at least every four years.

3.5 Description of the draft NAP 2027-2030 Measures

3.5.1 Existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

The draft NAP 2027-2030 proposes to carry forward all existing measures included within the previous iteration of the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. These measures are summarised in **Table 3-1** and comprise a suite of measures within 10 Parts.

Table 3-1 Summary description of existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
Part 2 - General	
Duty of the controller to prevent water pollution	Farmers, land holders, or those otherwise involved in the management of land shall not cause or allow, either directly or indirectly, the entry of fertiliser into waterways or into any underground water sources
Part 3 – Prevention of water pollution from the application of fertilisers	
Closed spreading periods	Closed spreading periods prevent the application of chemical nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser on grassland from 15 September to 31 January. All forms of chemical fertiliser must not be applied to arable land within these dates unless there is a demonstrable crop requirement. Farmyard manure and other organic manures e.g., slurry, digestate, poultry litter, sewage sludge and abattoir waste must not be applied from 15 October to 31 January.
Land application restrictions	Any chemical or organic fertilisers or dirty water must not be applied to; waterlogged soils, flooded or liable to flood land, on frozen or snow-covered ground, on steep slopes (average incline of 20% for grasslands and 15% for other land), or areas of land where an elevated risk of water pollution exists and when heavy rain is occurring or forecasted within the next 48 hours.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	Chemical fertiliser must not be applied within 2m of any waterway and organic manures must not be spread within certain distances of specific waterway features. Restrictions apply on the volume, amounts and timing of applications for organic manures and dirty water at any one time. From 30 September to 15 October and during February, buffer zones for slurry spreading near waterways are increased from 10m to 15m and from 20m to 30m for lakes, with a reduction in the maximum slurry application rate from $50m^3$ to $30m^3$. Slurry applications must occur via the following methods only; inverted splashplate, bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection. Dirty water application must follow the same methods as slurry or by irrigation and sludgigators must be used. LESSE (Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment) (including bandspreading, dribble bar, trailing shoe, soil incorporation or injection methods) must be used from 1 February 2020 for anaerobic digestate application, from 1 February 2021 by slurry contractors and from 1 February 2022 on cattle farms of over 200 livestock units and on pig farms with total annual livestock manure production of 20,000kg or more.
Livestock manure nitrogen limits and excretion rates for nitrogen and phosphorus	Loading limited to 170kg nitrogen/ha/year, calculated in accordance with defined animal excretion rates and nitrogen and phosphorus contents of fertilisers. Note that an exception to this limit is farms with at least 80% grassland that may apply annually for a derogation to permit application of up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year from grazing livestock manure subject to specific additional criteria and conditions. From 11 April 2019, revised nitrogen and phosphorus excretion rates for poultry production systems must be used, and from 1 January 2020 revised nitrogen and phosphorus excretion rates for cattle must be used.
Overall nitrogen fertiliser limits	The total amount of nitrogen should be in proportion to the crop requirement for nitrogen. For dairy farms there is a maximum of 272kg nitrogen/ha/year on grassland and for other farms 222kg nitrogen/ha/year on grassland (apart from nitrogen in livestock manure). For non-grassland crops the maximum nitrogen applied (for all fertiliser types including livestock manure) must not exceed the crop requirement and for certain arable crops a maximum nitrogen limit will apply to the total crop area.
Application of anaerobic digestate	Where anaerobic digestate is being applied to land, a nutrient content analysis is required from 1 January 2020, and a fertilisation plan is also required. Application should not exceed fertilisation standards for crop phosphorus requirements.
High phosphorus manures	From 1 January 2020, a fertilisation plan must be prepared and available on the holding.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	Organic manure of more than 0.25kg of total phosphorus per 1kg of total nitrogen can only be applied where soil analysis has indicated a crop requirement.
Phosphate fertiliser application limits	From 1 January 2020, there are maximum phosphate fertiliser application rates for extensively managed grassland, which are dependent on the soil phosphorus index status.
Supplementary feeding and drinking points	From 1 January 2020 supplementary feeding sites must be a minimum of 20m, and supplementary livestock drinking points must be a minimum of 10m from any waterway where there could be a significant risk of pollution occurring from their use.
Part 4 – Storage Requirements	
Storage requirements for manure, slurry, silage and dirty water	Livestock manure storage capacity must be 26 weeks for pig and poultry farms and 22 weeks for other farms; allowances can be considered for out-wintering, bedded animals, separated cattle slurry, renting additional tanks, poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre stored in a midden or field heap and exporting manure to approved outlets. Livestock manure and silage effluent storage must be properly maintained and managed to prevent runoff or seepage. Silage and slurry stores constructed or substantially modified after 1 December 2003 must comply with certain construction standards, with notification to NIEA at least 28 days prior to being brought into use. Silage bales must be stored at least 10m away from a waterway and stored and managed to prevent seepage into waterways. Farmyard manure, poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre heaps must not be stored in the same location annually in fields, within certain distances from specific features or on land that is liable to flood, flooded or waterlogged. Farmyard manure field heaps must not be stored within 20m of any waterway or 50m of any lakes. Poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre field heaps must not be stored within 100m of any lakes and 40m of any waterways and must be covered with an impermeable membrane within 24 hours of placement within the field. Storage must be provided for dirty water during periods of unsuitable conditions for land application. From 1 January 2020, new above ground slurry stores must be sited at least 50m from any waterway and fitted with a cover.
Part 5 – Measures relating to land management	
Land management	Where grass leys are grown in rotation with arable crops the first crop shall be sown as soon as possible after the grass has been ploughed.
Part 6 – Record keeping and compliance monitoring	

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
Record keeping	The following records must be kept: Agricultural area, field size and location. Cropping regimes and areas, Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) index for crops other than grassland. Livestock numbers, type, species and time kept. Organic and chemical fertiliser details including imports and exports. Evidence of a crop phosphate requirement from soil analysis if chemical phosphate fertiliser is applied. From 1 January 2017, evidence of crop phosphorus requirement from soil analysis if organic manure with over 0.25kg total phosphorus per 1kg total nitrogen is applied. From 1 January 2020 a fertilisation plan must be prepared and kept up to date by all grassland farms using chemical phosphorus fertiliser, and all farms using phosphorus rich manure e.g., some poultry manures, pig farmyard manures and anaerobic digestate. A soil analysis is required. From 1 January 2020 farms importing anaerobic digestate will require a nutrient content analysis. Storage capacity and, where applicable, details of rental agreements, authorisation to store poultry litter and/or anaerobic digestate in field heaps and associated evidence to support allowances to reduce capacity. Records relating to export of organic manure to be submitted annually by 31 January of the following year and by 1 March for derogated holdings. Records must be available for inspection by 30 June of the following calendar year and must be retained for a period of five years. NAP Records must not be false or misleading, nor should any NAP information in a notice or document provided to DAERA.
Part 7 – Enforcement	
Compliance with a notice	DAERA and its executive agency NIEA, or those authorised by DAERA are responsible for implementing the NAP Regulations. They may use any of their functions to ensure compliance with these Regulations and may consider the COGAP as well as guidance on these Regulations. Enforcement Notices issued under the NAP Regulations must be complied with, subject to the right to appeal. It is considered an offence not to comply with the NAP Regulations.
Part 8 – Powers, duties and functions of the Department	
Implementation report	DAERA must prepare an implementation report on the NAP at four-yearly intervals detailing the steps taken to promote good agricultural practice, a summary of the monitoring results, and a summary of the most recent review of the NAP.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
Reviewing the Action Programme	DAERA must review the NAP at four-yearly intervals in consultation with the public and if required published a revised action programme with suitable consultation periods provided for the proposed action programme.
Part 9 – Miscellaneous	
Transitioning legislation and required amendments to other legislation	Notices and records required under the previous Nitrates Action Programme Regulations or Phosphorus Regulations are also required under the NAP Regulations. Previous legislation is revoked, and other relevant legislation is amended to make reference to the updated NAP Regulations.
Part 10 – Derogation from measures governing the limits on land application of livestock manure	
Livestock manure nitrogen loading	Farms with at least 80% grassland may apply annually to DAERA's executive agency NIEA for a derogation allowing land application to increase the limit of 170kg nitrogen/ha/year farm to up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year from grazing livestock manure, subject to additional conditions and Cross-Compliance verifiable standards.

3.5.2 Proposed new measures and amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030

The draft NAP 2027-2030 also proposes new measures and/or amendments to existing measures. The draft new measures and/or amendments are provided in **Table 3-2**, the bold text provides the proposed measure wording with additional supporting text to describe the measure from the consultation document for informing the assessment also included.

Table 3-2 Proposed new measures and amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
Nutrient Management - Balanced Nutrient Use, Fertiliser and Manure Controls	
Limit chemical phosphorus fertiliser availability through an advisory approach	**Proposed measure** It is proposed to introduce new additional approach to managing the use of chemical phosphorus (P) fertiliser on grassland. This approach builds on the existing NAP requirement and combines limits on the availability of phosphorus fertiliser products with strengthened advice and support. The aim is to ensure that phosphorus fertiliser is only used where there is a clear need based on soil nutrient levels and crop requirements.
	Rationale and/or additional detail The proposed measure introduces a set of linked measures to manage how chemical fertiliser containing phosphorus is supplied and used on grassland. The existing NAP requirements for the use of chemical fertiliser containing phosphorus on arable land remain unchanged.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment

	Limiting chemical phosphorus fertiliser use on grassland
	
	The use of chemical phosphorus fertiliser will be linked to recent soil test results and based on crop requirement, as already in place through the 2019 NAP Regulations. In addition, the availability of chemical phosphorus fertiliser products with a lower phosphorus content will be limited to a small number of products:
	
	• Where there is no crop requirement for phosphorus, only fertiliser products with no phosphorus content can be used.
	• Where there is a crop requirement for phosphorus a limited number of low phosphorus fertiliser products can be used if required.
	  • Higher phosphorus fertilisers will still be available and can be used where there is a clear crop requirement.
	  • Chemical phosphorus fertilisers can only be applied where the crop need cannot reasonably be met through the use of organic manures.
	
	The updated NAP Regulations will specify which chemical phosphorus fertiliser products can be used on grassland. These will be a limited number of low Phosphorus fertiliser products (P content 4% or lower) and higher Phosphorus fertiliser products (P content 15% or higher).
	
	Soil testing and nutrient management planning
	
	As is currently the requirement, farmers will be required to:
	
	• Have a valid soil analysis obtained within the last 4 years; and
	• Prepare a Nutrient Management Plan showing the need for phosphorus
	
	This will ensure that fertiliser is applied only where it is required.
	
	Controls at the point of sale
	
	Fertiliser merchants will play an important role in implementing the measures.
	
	At the point of sale:
	
	• Farmers will be asked to confirm that they have a soil test and a Nutrient Management Plan; and
	• Chemical fertiliser products containing phosphorus will include clear labelling such as - “Apply phosphate only as needed to meet crop requirements in accordance with the NAP Regulations. Excess phosphate may be lost to waterways and could cause damage to aquatic environments.”
	
	Training and industry responsibilities
	
	Fertiliser merchants will be required to complete basic training on nutrient management and water quality.
	
	Furthermore, detailed technical training will be introduced over time for those selling chemical phosphorus fertiliser products, who wish to enhance their

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	knowledge and expertise. This training will be based on recognised industry standards. Manufacturers, suppliers and merchants will be expected to take shared responsibility for supporting improved phosphorus management at both industry and farm level. The uptake of the more detailed technical training will be an indicator of industry support that will be reviewed. Responsible Phosphorus Management campaign The Responsible Phosphorus Management (RPM) campaign will be developed to support the proposed changes and encourage more responsible use of phosphorus. This will include: • Guidance materials for farmers • Information available through fertiliser merchants • Support from farming organisations, agri-food businesses and environmental groups/ Review of the measure This measure is of critical importance to reducing the overall phosphorus surplus and its effectiveness will be reviewed after two years, and again as part of the wider NAP review as set out in the governance section. This will assess whether the approach is reducing the use of chemical phosphorus fertiliser and contributing to improved water quality. If the review concludes that the approach is not effective, then a more restrictive regulatory system will be required.
Reducing the Northern Ireland average phosphorus surplus	**Proposed measure** It is proposed to reduce the national average phosphorus surplus by 30%, from the 2024 level of 8729 tonnes over the 4 year duration of the next NAP.
	Rationale and/or additional detail This 30% reduction was carefully evaluated and collectively agreed upon as a realistic target that aligns with national objectives whilst being feasible for farms that need to implement change. It is recognised that delivering the 30% reduction target is dependent on the further development of manure processing facilities/end of pipe solutions to process and manage nutrients off farm and export them from the NI agricultural system. This reduction would be achieved through a combination of measures, including: All farms with livestock manure nitrogen (N) production levels at or above 170 kg N/ha per year must comply with proposals relevant to their sector, and must do one of the following

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• Ruminant livestock farms above the 170 kg N/ha threshold may join the Nutrient Stewardship Programme (NSP) and maintain a limit of no more than 10 kg P per hectare per year (Tier 1), or if that is not possible, reduce it by at least 10% over four years or demonstrate sustainable P management under the Soil P Protocol. (Tier 2) (see proposal 4.3.1 Nutrient Stewardship Programme) • Stay out of NSP and reduce both their N loading below 170 kg N/ha and their P balance by 15%. • Stay out of NSP and reduce their N loading below 170 kg N/ha and work under the Soil P Protocol relevant to their farm type. • Under the Soil P Protocol farms must demonstrate that weighted average soil phosphorus levels are stable or decreasing by the end of the 4 year period. • Protocols for Pig and Poultry farms to demonstrate sustainable management of P have also been developed. Reductions in P balance can be achieved by a range of actions, depending on individual farm circumstances. Key actions may include • Improvements in animal feed phosphorus efficiency. • Increased use of slurry and manure processing technologies to better manage and redistribute phosphorus. • Limit or eliminate chemical phosphorus fertiliser use. • Exporting slurry. • Farming additional land. The Soil P Protocol is for instances where a farm cannot demonstrate compliance with the applicable P Balance requirement, but, may use the Protocol as a complimentary means of demonstrating effective soil P management. Protocols for pig and poultry farms to demonstrate sustainable management of P as a complementary means to a farmgate P Balance have also been developed. Pig and Poultry farms which operate under IPPC licence will not be subject to the P Balance requirements as they already are required to demonstrate sustainable management of manure through Nutrient Management Plans. This approach focuses on overall national reduction, rather than relying on a single measure, recognising that different farms will contribute in different ways. It is important to note that improvements in water quality will not be immediate. Because phosphorus stored in soils is released slowly, meaningful changes are likely to occur over many years. However, this measure sets a clear and achievable direction of travel towards improved environmental outcomes. Progress of this measure will be reviewed after two years and again as part of the wider NAP review, as outlined in the governance section. If progress towards the 30% reduction is not on track, further measures will be considered.

<table>
<tr><th>NAP Measure</th><th>Description of Action for Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Dairy cow nutrient excretion values – based on milk yield</td><td>
Proposed Measure

Proposed to reform the standard nutrient excretion values for dairy cows under the NAP by replacing the single values for Nitrogen and Phosphorus by values determined by milk yield.

Rationale and/or additional detail

Milk yield values proposed are set out in the table below:
<table>
<tr><th>Milk yield bands (litres)</th><th>N excretion per cow (kg/year)</th><th>P excretion per cow (kg/year)</th></tr>
<tr><td>< 5,000</td><td>77</td><td>11</td></tr>
<tr><td>5,000 – 7,000</td><td>90</td><td>13</td></tr>
<tr><td>7,001 – 8,000</td><td>103</td><td>15</td></tr>
<tr><td>8,001 – 9,000</td><td>112</td><td>17</td></tr>
<tr><td>9,001 – 10,000</td><td>121</td><td>18</td></tr>
<tr><td>10,001 – 12,000</td><td>135</td><td>20</td></tr>
<tr><td>>12,000</td><td>149</td><td>22</td></tr>
</table>
The aim is to make these values more accurate and fairer by better reflecting actual excretion rates, milk yield and dietary management, while avoiding disproportionate impacts on farms close to regulatory thresholds.

This will also be replicated for Phosphorus (P) excretion values for dairy cows, and those values are also set out in the above table. Values will be determined using a DAERA online system and calculators, with farmers entering the relevant milk yield or dietary data for their herd.

There will be four different ways to determine the nutrient excretion values for a herd. Farmers should select one of these options:

Milk yield banding: This involves applying the standard nitrogen value specified for each milk yield band, with supporting records of farm milk yield.
Farm-specific calculation (milk yield based): Farms may use their own milk yield data to calculate a tailored nitrogen value, rather than the standard values provided for in the fixed band average.
Farm-specific calculations (diet based): Farms may choose this option where they are using specific feeding practices (such as lower protein diets). Nitrogen excretion can be calculated by using diet information. This option must be supported by independent verification. It is only relevant for herds with higher milk yields and concentrate feed inputs Improving N efficiency in diets will reduce N excretion rates.

</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>NAP Measure</th><th>Description of Action for Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>

- **Default value**: Farms who do not submit any data, the higher default excretion values will apply.

Data relating to milk yield should be taken from either the most recent year's average or a rolling average of the most recent three-years. This data is to be submitted to DAERA annually via an online system.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Updated poultry nutrient excretion figures</td><td>

Proposed Measure

It is proposed that the standard values for poultry figures are amended as outlined in the tables below.

Rationale and/or additional detail

As part of this review, the following amendments are recommended to the existing poultry production systems. These amendments will also improve the ease of use and read-across between regulations, guidance documents and online calculators. Changes are also proposed to the lay-out of the table in the regulations.

The amendments to the standard values for poultry figures are outlined in the following tables:

Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) excretion rates for poultry (NAP Regulations 2019 Sch 2 Table 1c)

<table>
<tr><th>Livestock type</th><th>Dry matter (%)*</th><th>Nitrogen (N) produced per 1,000 birds per crop (kg/N)</th><th>Phosphorus (P) produced per 1,000 birds per crop (kg/P)</th><th>Crop length (weeks)</th><th>Litter output per 1,000 birds per crop (t)</th><th>Litter output per 1,000 birds per week (t)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Broilers – indirect heating systems</td><td>72</td><td>30.3</td><td>5.0*</td><td>6</td><td>1.0</td><td>0.170</td></tr>
<tr><td>Free range broilers (0d – finish)</td><td>57</td><td>44.9</td><td>11.4</td><td>8</td><td>1.7</td><td>0.213</td></tr>
<tr><td>Free range broilers (0 – 28d)</td><td>65</td><td>18.6</td><td>4.4</td><td>4</td><td>0.53</td><td>0.133</td></tr>
<tr><td>Free range</td><td>56</td><td>44.9</td><td>11.4</td><td>4</td><td>1.6</td><td>0.395</td></tr>
</table>

</td></tr>
</table>

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment

broilers (28d - finish						
Turkeys 0 – 6 weeks	62	103.9	30.3	6	3.9	0.650
Turkeys 6 weeks – kill	59	305	73.8	8	12.3	1.538
Turkeys 0 – kill	61	408.9	104.4	14	16.2	1.157
Fattening Ducks	25	139	65	5	21.4	3.567

Livestock type	Dry matter (%)*	Nitrogen (N) produced per 1,000 birds per week (kg/N)	Phosphorus (P) produced per 1,000 birds per week (kg/P)	Crop length (weeks)	Litter output per 1,000 birds per crop (t)	Litter output per 1,000 birds per week (t)
Broiler breeders 0 – 18 weeks	55	2.9	2.0	18	3.0	0.167
Broiler breeders 18 – 60 weeks	60	7.2	3.9	42	14.7	0.350
Broiler breeders 0 – 60 weeks	58	5.9	3.3	60	17.7	0.295
Pullets	72	4.7	1.7	16	2.3	0.144
Free range laying hens – single tier	46	5.8	2.2	60	17.3	0.288
Free range	32	6.6	2.1	60	25.3	0.422

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment

laying hens – multi tier						
Housed hens	31	7.4	2.3	60	29.0	0.483

*Dry matter may vary depending on litter/manure drying systems. Adjust litter/manure output and nutrient profile accordingly. As DM increases, total weight of litter manure will decrease, and nutrient content / kg will increase.

Total Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) content of fertilisers and proportion of total phosphorus to total nitrogen (all on a fresh weight basis) (Update to NAP Regulations 2019 Sch 2, Table 2, in so far as is relevant to poultry only)

Solid manure type	Dry matter content (%)*	Total nitrogen content by weight (kg N/t)	Total phosphorus content by weight (kg P/t)	Proportion of total phosphorus to total nitrogen
Poultry manures				
Broiler – indirect heating systems	72	30.3	5.0	0.16
Free range broilers 0d-finish	57	26.4	6.7	0.25
Free range broilers 0-28d	65	34.5	8.2	0.24
Free range broilers 28d-finish	56	28.5	7.0	0.25
Broiler breeders 0 – 18 weeks	55	17.5	11.8	0.67
Broiler breeders 18 – 60 weeks	60	20.7	11.0	0.53
Broiler breeders 0 – 60 weeks	58	19.1	11.4	0.60
Turkeys 0 – 6 weeks	62	26.6	7.7	0.29
Turkeys 6 – kill	59	24.8	6.0	0.24
Turkeys 0 – kill	61	25.7	6.9	0.27
Pullets	72	32.7	12.0	0.37

<table>
<tr><th>NAP Measure</th><th>Description of Action for Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Free range laying hens – single tier</td><td>46</td><td>18.8</td><td>7.5</td><td>0.40</td></tr>
<tr><td>Free range laying hens – multi tier</td><td>32</td><td>15.6</td><td>5.0</td><td>0.32</td></tr>
<tr><td>Housed hens</td><td>31</td><td>15.4</td><td>4.7</td><td>0.31</td></tr>
</table>
*Dry matter may vary depending on litter/manure drying systems. Adjust litter/manure output and nutrient profile accordingly. As DM increases, total weight of litter manure will decrease, and nutrient content/kg will increase
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Standard values for separated manures and slurries</td><td>
Proposed Measure

It is proposed to update the regulations to include a standard value for screw press separated slurry fractions as outlined in the tables below (Tables 6 and 7 of the consultation document).

Rationale and/or additional detail

AFBI have provided the following data on separated liquid and solids respectively. DAERA proposes to include in the Regulations the mean as a standard value for screw press separated slurry fractions.

Separated liquid from screw press separation of cattle slurry
<table>
<tr><th>Separated liquid source</th><th>Dry matter content</th><th>Total Nitrogen (N) (kg N/m^3)</th><th>Total Phosphorus (P) (kg P/m^3)</th><th>P:N ratio</th><th>Source</th></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 8% DM dairy slurry</td><td>6</td><td>3.5</td><td>0.6</td><td>0.17</td><td>AFBI data</td></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 7.8% DM dairy slurry</td><td>5.2</td><td>3.8</td><td>0.6</td><td>0.16</td><td>Fournel et al. 2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 6.3% DM dairy slurry</td><td>5</td><td>3.5</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.17</td><td>Fournel et al. 2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 8.6% DM cattle slurry</td><td>4.3</td><td>3.75</td><td>0.34</td><td>0.09</td><td>Fangueiro et al. 2008</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mean values</td><td>5.1</td><td>3.64</td><td>0.53</td><td>0.15</td><td>Calculation</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>NAP Measure</th><th>Description of Action for Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
Separated solids from screw press separation of cattle slurry
<table>
<tr><th>Separated solid source</th><th>Dry matter content</th><th>Total Nitrogen (N) (kg N/m^3)</th><th>Total Phosphorus (P) (kg P/m^3)</th><th>P:N ratio</th><th>Source</th></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 8% DM dairy slurry</td><td>23.7</td><td>4.8</td><td>1.21</td><td>0.25</td><td>AFBI data</td></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 7.8% DM dairy slurry</td><td>24.3</td><td>4.85</td><td>1.27</td><td>0.26</td><td>Fournel et al. 2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Separated liquid from 6.3% DM dairy slurry</td><td>26.2</td><td>4.81</td><td>1.36</td><td>0.28</td><td>Fournel et al. 2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mean values</td><td>24.7</td><td>4.82</td><td>1.28</td><td>0.27</td><td>Calculation</td></tr>
</table>
DAERA intends to retain the values for strainer box and weeping wall standard values as these may still be in use on some farms.

Due to the variety of feedstocks for Anaerobic Digestate (AD) and consequent variability of digestate, no standard values are proposed. A specific nutrient content analysis should be used and provided as required by the existing regulations.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Updated chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland</td><td>
Proposed Measure

It is proposed to introduce whole-farm limits on chemical nitrogen fertiliser use, based on how much grass a farm produces. As detailed in the table below (Table 8 of the consultation document).

Rationale and/or additional detail
<table>
<tr><th>Nitrogen application limits for Grassland Crops Grass Production Level</th><th>Balance of grassland nitrogen requirement (from chemical fertiliser or organic nitrogen supply other than livestock manure)

Whole farm limits – kg/N/ha/year</th></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum – Target yield

12-15 (t DM/ha)</td><td>243 - 272</td></tr>
<tr><td>Moderate to High – Target yield</td><td>223 - 242</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment

10-12 (t DM/ha)	
Low to Moderate – Target yield 5-10 (t DM/ha)	0 - 222

DAERA has reviewed the existing values in the regulations for effective nutrient management to ensure the correct amount of nitrogen is applied at the correct time.

The revised values seek to introduce whole-farm limits on chemical nitrogen fertiliser use, based on how much grass a farm produces. The table in the existing regulations will be replaced with the values above, based on grassland production. Values are based on the latest available data, including local research and the UK Fertiliser standards (RB209, 2026)[1].

- Each production level would have a maximum allowable amount of nitrogen from chemical fertiliser (and from organic nitrogen sources other than livestock manure), expressed as kilograms of nitrogen per hectare per year.
- Higher fertiliser limits would only be available to farms that can demonstrate higher grass production.

These proposed limits are intended to better match nitrogen use with what crops can realistically use and need.

High yields of grass forage

Many farms in NI are generally able to produce multiple crops of grass forage. With efficient grassland management, precision nutrient application and optimal soil pH, very high yields can be produced if sufficient nitrogen fertiliser is applied.

Increased forage production reduces the need for concentrate feeds that contribute to phosphorus surplus both at individual farm and national level.

Nitrogen Requirements

To support higher levels of forage production and use, these farms typically need sufficient nitrogen inputs. Comprehensive local growth trials have demonstrated the proposed limits in Table 8 will enable grass production to the agronomic optimum.

Additional Requirement for High-Production Farms

Farms in the maximum grass production category will have an additional requirement to support the higher nitrogen allowances.

These farms would be required to:

- Carry out soil sampling and analysis at least every four years;
- Sample each homogeneous grassland area (areas with similar soil type and management);
- Test, as a minimum, for:
  - Phosphorus (P),

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	○ Potassium (K), and ○ Soil pH. This soil testing must follow the procedures already set out in Schedule 5 of the 2019 NAP Regulations.
Allowance for processed organic fertilisers	**Proposed Measure** It is proposed to introduce a specific allowance and limit of 100 kg nitrogen per hectare per year for "Processed Organic Fertilisers" derived from agricultural sources.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Under this proposal: • These fertilisers would be classified separately from livestock manure; • They will count towards the limit for chemical fertiliser or organic nitrogen supply other than livestock manure; • The current total N Fertiliser application limit will not be increased, and must continue to be applied to crop need; • Processed is defined as chemical and/or heat treatment and excludes simple mechanical processing such as pelleting or composting; • Only processed organic fertilisers derived from agricultural sources would be allowed within the definition of "Processed Organic Fertilisers".
Manure Storage and Application Requirements – Ammonia Implications	
Reduced slurry application volumes in February and early October	**Proposed Measure** It is proposed that the maximum volume of slurry which can be applied during the month of February and the period of 30th September to 15th October is reduced from the current limit of 30m^3 per hectare per single application to 25m^3 per hectare per single application.
Clearer definition of Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment	**Proposed Measure** It is proposed to update and clarify the definition of LESSE in the regulations. Under the proposed definition, LESSE will be expanded to include: • Any method that reduces ammonia emissions by 30% or more compared with the inverted splash plate method.
	Rationale and/or additional detail What slurry spreading methods would be covered? The best known examples of LESSE currently include: • Trailing hose (also known as dribble bar). • Trailing shoe. • Injection systems.

<table>
<tr><th>NAP Measure</th><th>Description of Action for Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Under the proposed definition, these methods would continue to be recognised. In addition, new or alternative technologies may also qualify if they meet the emissions reduction criteria (of reducing ammonia emissions by 30% or more) and are supported by scientific evidence.

This approach avoids limiting LESSE to a fixed list of equipment types and instead focuses on environmental performance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tiered move to increased use of LESSE</td><td>Proposed Measure

It is proposed to extend the mandatory use of LESSE to more farms over time, using a tiered approach based on farm size, measured in livestock units.

Under the proposal, LESSE would become mandatory as set out in the below table (Table 9 of the consultation document).

Rationale and/or additional detail

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Livestock Unit per farm</th><th>Proposed date of Mandatory LESSE</th></tr>
<tr><td>Tier 1</td><td>All farm businesses over 100 LU</td><td>by February 2028</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tier 2</td><td>All farm businesses over 75 LU</td><td>by February 2029</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>All pig farms over 10,000kg N production from livestock manure per year</td><td>by February 2029</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tier 3</td><td>All farm businesses over 50 LU</td><td>by February 2030</td></tr>
</table>
This will mean a gradual increase in LESSE use across NI, with the largest farms required to change first. The tiered approach is intended to balance environmental benefits with practical considerations for farmers.

DAERA recognises that moving to LESSE is not without challenges. Cost, field access, ground conditions, equipment availability, and reliance on contractors all affect what is practical on different farms. Farming systems and land types vary across NI, and these proposed changes take this into account. It is intended that this measure will be introduced alongside financial support for LESSE under Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme.

Where it is not practical to spread on a field using LESSE due to slope existing exemptions will apply as specified in the 2019 NAP Regulations.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation this measure will be incorporated into the Ammonia Strategy.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pre-Notification of new slurry and silage storage</td><td>Proposed Measure

It is proposed to strengthen the regulatory requirement for pre-notification of slurry or silage stores prior to construction. Controllers must notify DAERA 28 days before construction (including substantial enlargement or substantial reconstruction) begins and provide the registration number of the Chartered</td></tr>
</table>

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	Structural or Civil Engineer supervising and certifying the building works. If no acknowledgement is provided by DAERA within 28 days following notification, construction can proceed.
	Rationale and/or additional detail This amendment aligns NI with England and Wales, where notification is required 14 days before construction begins. However, we propose to retain the 28 days pre-notification period. Construction, substantial enlargement or substantial reconstruction of slurry or silage storage systems must be pre-notified 28 days prior to construction work beginning. Where such a system must comply with British Standard 5502, this must be signed off by a Chartered Structural or Civil Engineer. Welsh and Scottish guidance require certification by an Engineer, so this amendment enhances regulatory assurance as set out in current regulations. Controllers will no longer be required to notify DAERA prior to use.
Clarify cover requirement for new above-ground slurry stores	**Proposed Measure** It is proposed to clarify through guidance and awareness raising that for new above ground slurry storage facilities, the cover must be: • A tensioned fitted cover (for example, a properly fitted membrane designed to remain in place), or • A fixed structure (such as a roof or lid). Other cover types that are loose-fitting or not fixed in place are not considered to meet the existing requirement.
Limit the use of unprotected granular urea fertilisers	**Proposed Measure** It is proposed that the use of urea fertiliser in Northern Ireland would be managed through a seasonal approach, with a requirement to only use protected urea for applications from 01 April each year.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Protected urea: urea fertiliser treated with a urease inhibitor (or equivalent treatment) to reduce ammonia emissions following application. Unprotected urea: urea fertiliser without such treatment. Across Great Britain (GB), an industry-led stewardship approach has been introduced to reduce ammonia emissions from urea fertilisers. This approach is delivered through farm assurance standards and advisory support, and combines: • Seasonal restrictions on the use of untreated (unprotected) urea; and • A requirement to use protected (inhibited) urea during the main growing season. It is proposed that NI adopt a similar approach to the GB stewardship model.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	Restricted use of unprotected granular urea Under this proposal, unprotected (uninhibited) granular urea fertiliser can only be applied during a limited application window: • 1 February to 31 March (inclusive) Outside of this period, the use of unprotected granular urea is prohibited. Requirement to use protected granular urea For the remainder of the year: • 1 April to 15 September, all granular urea-containing fertilisers would be required to be: • Protected (i.e. treated with a urease inhibitor, or equivalent treatment); and • Applied in accordance with good nutrient management practice. Record-keeping and compliance Farmers would be required to maintain records to demonstrate compliance, including: • The type of granular Urea fertiliser used (protected or unprotected); • Date of application; • Application rates and fields where applied. The effectiveness of this measure, including assessment of compliance, will be reviewed after two years and again as part of the wider NAP review, as set out in the governance section, and if necessary further action will be considered. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, this measure will be incorporated into the Ammonia Strategy
Anaerobic Digestate Measures	**Proposed Measure** It is proposed that the NAP rules are updated as follows: Separation of Digestate to reduce Phosphorus content • Where the separated liquid portion of digestate has a low phosphorus to nitrogen ratio (1:10 or lower), it can be spread under the existing rules for cattle slurry. • If the digestate is produced using feedstock sourced from outside NI, it must be applied strictly in line with crop nutrient needs and will require a nutrient management plan completed and retained on farm. Targeted application of Digestate to Land • Where the separated liquid portion has a higher phosphorus to nitrogen ratio than 1:10, then it must be applied strictly in line with crop nutrient needs and a nutrient management plan must be completed and retained on farm, as required by the 2019 NAP Regulations. Record keeping and reporting of nutrient movements

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• The movements of AD must be recorded in the same way that slurry and manure imports and exports are recorded. This includes recording slurry and separated slurry from farms to AD plants, as well as processed digestate returning to farms. All movements must be notified to DAERA to allow oversight just as with manure imports and exports. (Reference is given to further details available in section 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the consultation document. These sections relate to the proposed measures of 'Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports' and 'Extending the system to processed slurry solids and digestate movements', respectively).
Farming Practices to Improve Nutrient Use and Water Quality	
Nutrient Stewardship Programme – a revised approach to Derogation	**Proposed Measure** To replace the current Derogation with a revised approach called the Nutrient Stewardship Programme (NSP). While many of the existing environmental safeguards would remain, several important changes are proposed and set out below.
	Rationale and/or additional detail a) Change of Name • The term "Derogation" would be replaced by "Nutrient Stewardship Programme". • This is intended to better reflect the higher standards of nutrient management required and the environmental benefits delivered as more farms are utilising nutrients more efficiently. b) Two-Tier Structure • Tier 1: Farms that already meet all requirements (current and new) would enter Tier 1, recognising their high level of nutrient management. • Tier 2: Farms that do not yet fully meet all Tier 1 Phosphorus Balance requirements could enter Tier 2 and work towards Tier 1 over time, with advisory support. c) Grassland Requirement • The minimum grassland requirement would be reduced from 80% to 70%. • This would allow some farms to grow more arable crops, such as cereals. • Additional safeguards (such as buffer strips near watercourses) on some arable fields would be required to manage any risks to water quality. d) Phosphorus Balance Rules

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• Existing participants will enter Tier 1 and maintain the current limit of no more than 10 kg P per hectare per year surplus. • New Tier 2 entrants will be permitted to join with a higher P surplus, provided they commit to reducing it by at least 10% over four years, or to 10 kg P per hectare per year. • Compliance with the Phosphorus balance, will be assessed using a three-year rolling average, allowing for normal year-to-year variation in farming conditions. • Compliance may also be demonstrated through soil testing showing stable or declining soil phosphorus under the Soil P Protocol. • All farms must prepare and submit annual nutrient/fertilisation accounts, as per the existing requirements which will be checked and verified by NIEA. e) Clover and Leguminous Crops Current limits on clover and leguminous crops are designed to reduce risk of elevated nitrate levels in groundwaters. This is a measure historically applied by the EU due to widespread issues in some European countries. However, as most soils in NI are less vulnerable to nutrient losses than those in European countries, the following changes are proposed: • To permit more clover and legumes which has the potential to reduce the need for chemical fertiliser and imported feed. • Targeted safeguards will be introduced in higher-risk areas if necessary. f) Application to the Programme • Tier 1 farms will apply for a maximum four years, aligning with the NAP cycle, rather than applying annually. This means that those applying for entry into the scheme part way through the NAP four-year review cycle will only be approved up to the end of that review period. • Tier 2 farms will be required to apply for entry into the programme each year, to allow progress to be reviewed and monitored. • Annual nutrient planning and reporting will be required for all participants, which will be checked and verified by NIEA. g) Inspections, Training and Review • Tier 1 farms, will be considered as a lower risk and will therefore have a 1% inspection rate, reflecting their higher compliance. • Tier 2 farms will receive targeted training and advisory support on nutrient management. • Farms in Tier 2 (considered as in-conversion) will be considered as a higher risk than those in Tier 1, and therefore will have a 5% rate of inspection. • Nutrient management accounts will continue for farms operating under the programme and will continue to be subject to monitoring and review by NIEA annually.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• Farms which are not part of the Nutrient Stewardship Programme but which are operating over 170kg Nitrogen per hectare per year, will be considered High Risk and will be subject to the highest 10% rate of inspection. The proposed Nutrient Stewardship Programme (NSP) will bring a greater proportion of grassland farms within a structured and monitored framework than the current derogation model. By widening participation, more farms will be operating to defined nutrient management requirements, to optimise nutrient efficiency, with detailed record keeping, and increased oversight. Ensuring enhanced nutrient management across a larger cohort of farms contributes to the protection and recovery of sensitive habitats in line with DAERA's obligations under the Habitats Regulations. Review of the measure The level of uptake and impact of the NSP will be reviewed after two years, and again as part of the wider NAP review, as set out in the governance section of the consultation document. If the review concludes that the approach is not effective, then a more restrictive regulatory system will be required.
Mitigation measures for late harvested arable crops	**Proposed Measure** To introduce specific provision on implementation of mitigation measures at planting stage supported by additional guidance. Mitigation will be required on fields planted with late harvested crops, where there is a risk to a watercourse e.g. slope of the field, run-off pathways and proximity to a watercourse. Such mitigation will be laid out in guidance.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Examples of actions to be considered at crop establishment include: • Ploughing an upturned outside furrow parallel with the waterway • Inclusion of an appropriate grass filtration buffer between the crop and the watercourse
A focused approach to improving water quality	**Proposed Measure** To introduce a "focused approach" to support the NAP. In focused areas, it is proposed to provide additional advisory support, education and recommendations for voluntary measures to mitigate against the risk of nutrient losses to water. In doing so it will provide additional targeted support in specific high-risk catchments, alongside the existing NAP rules that continue to apply to all farms.
	Rationale and/or additional detail The focused approach is intended to ensure that:

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• The right measures are used in the right places, and • Action is concentrated where the risk to water quality is greatest. How focused areas would be identified Focused areas will be selected using existing monitoring and assessment data, including: • Water quality trends in rivers and lakes, • Information on protected sites and habitats • Evidence of rising nutrient levels, • Assessments carried out under previous NAP implementation reports, and • Data on land and runoff risk. This process will identify catchments where agricultural nutrient losses pose the greatest risk to water quality. Upon being selected participants will be signposted to advisory support available to them. What support would be offered in focused areas The focused approach will rely on advice, education, and voluntary action, rather than additional regulatory controls. Support will include: • Advice and training on nutrient management and water protection; • Non-regulatory advisory farm visits; • Support to access funding or grants for practical measures such as buffer strips, tree and hedge planting, and yard improvements; • Advice on techniques to manage or export excess nutrients, such as slurry separation; • Coordination between advisers to ensure consistent messages. Advice will be delivered through organisations such as CAFRE, environmental advisors and existing catchment-based programmes. Working with farmers In focused areas, farmers will be invited to take part in themed peer learning groups. These groups will: • Meet at key times of the year, • Often be hosted on participating farms, • Discuss and demonstrate practical actions that improve water quality, • Allow farmers to learn from advisers and each other, • Receive one-to-one advice as part of this support. More general information, including water quality monitoring results, will be published on DAERA's website. Ongoing monitoring under the Water Framework Regulations and future NAP implementation reports will track progress over time.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	DAERA is proposing that uptake of the focused approach measure will be voluntary. This is an opportunity to show improvement through voluntary uptake and action as an alternative to implementation by Regulation. Review of the measure The level of uptake and impact of this measure will be reviewed after two years, and again as part of the wider NAP review after 4 years, as set out in the governance section. If the review concludes that the approach is not effective, then a more restrictive regulatory system will be required.
Nutrient Efficiency Roadmap	**Proposed Measure** To develop a Nutrient Efficiency Roadmap for Northern Ireland farming, built around an overarching mission: To enhance food security, farm profitability, and environmental outcomes by increasing nutrient security through the efficient use of nitrogen and phosphorus on NI farms.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Work on the Roadmap will begin ahead of next NAP cycle coming into effect. Its development and implementation will run in parallel, and it will be a key advisory support over the period of the next NAP. Key features of the proposal include: • A co-designed and co-owned roadmap, involving farmers, government, industry, environmental groups and other relevant organisations. • A focus on practical actions that can be adopted on farms now, alongside a pathway to increase uptake over time. • Use of task-and-finish groups to support delivery of specific actions. • Governance and coordination supported by DAERA, building on existing stakeholder structures. Scope of the Roadmap The roadmap will: • Prioritise nitrogen and phosphorus, while recognising the importance of other factors such as soil pH and nutrients like potassium and sulphur. • Focus mainly on-farm (“pre-farm gate”) actions but may include post-farm gate measures where these clearly improve nutrient efficiency. • Avoid actions that would have unjustified negative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions or carbon capture. • Place soil health at the centre of improved nutrient management. Without a coordinated roadmap, opportunities to improve efficiency, reduce pollution and support farm profitability may be missed.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
Utilising Technology	
Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports	**Proposed Measure** The existing online system will be enhanced to ensure more up to date and accurate reporting of exports and imports of slurry and manures. Organic manure movements must be notified to DAERA as follows. • All organic manure movements must be notified to DAERA by the exporter three times annually as a minimum. Movements up to the end of February, June and October must be notified by the exporter and verified by the importer no later than the end of the subsequent month. • Additionally, all exports of 15 miles or greater in a straight-line distance must be notified to DAERA within five days of the transfer. Verification by the receiving farm or operator, is required within two weeks of the receiving farm or operator being notified. • This notification will be by the online system which will be enhanced. An App will also be developed so that farmers can notify and verify movements using a mobile phone, providing an alternative to logging into the online system directly. A phone line alternative to the online system and App will also be available. • The five day notification period for transfers of 15 miles or greater does not apply to transfers of separated slurry solids and poultry litter to licensed manure processing facilities. • The 15 mile straight line distance is measured from the location of the holding where the slurry is stored/produced, if this is different from the location of the registered Farm Business ID. • Under the 2019 NAP Regulations, Reg 27 (1) farmers are already required to … “keep sufficient records to allow the following information to be ascertained for any calendar year - …” Therefore, farmers should keep records of slurry movements on an ongoing basis and these records should be available for inspection in the current year. These records could be a log kept in a notebook or documentation from a contractor or haulier. This will be highlighted in guidance for the updated NAP.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Additional measures • Where farms are found to have submitted false or misleading information, or where there is found to be insufficient evidence to verify transfer, farms will be required to notify DAERA at least a day in advance of transfer and submit geotagged photographs as evidence of movements, on the day of transfer. These photographs must show departure from the exporting farm and spreading or unloading at the importing farm/destination.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• Where, on assessment, DAERA finds that an export has been declared to land which is unsuitable for spreading slurry or manure, such as bog or upland rough grazing, then the export will be invalid.
Extending the system to processed slurry solids and digestate movements	**Proposed Measure** The existing online system will be extended to include additional materials, such as digestate and processed slurry products, to give a more complete picture of how nutrients are managed across the region. Therefore, exports and imports of processed slurry solids and digestates must be notified to DAERA as follows: - • All processed slurry solids and digestate movements must be notified to DAERA by the exporter three times annually as a minimum. Movements up to the end of February, June and October must be notified by the exporter and verified by the importer by the end of the subsequent month • Additionally, all exports of 15 miles or greater in a straight-line distance must be notified to DAERA within five days of the transfer. Verification by the receiving AD plant, manure processing facility or farm, is required within two weeks of the receiver being notified. • The five day notification period for transfers of 15 miles or greater does not apply to transfers of separated slurry solids and poultry litter to licenced manure processing facilities • The additional measures for slurry and manure listed at 'Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports' also apply.
Additional Measures to Support Environmentally Sustainable Farming	
Awareness of existing storage requirements and how dirty water storage, rainwater and parlour washings can impact this	**Proposed Measure** To raise awareness of the existing storage requirements and share best practices for making the most of on-farm storage facilities.
	Rationale and/or additional detail This will be done through advisory support, guidance and training by DAERA and other trusted advisors to raise awareness of regulatory requirements for storage requirements. This includes advice about how dirty water storage, rainwater and parlour washings can impact overall farm storage. Advice and information will be provided on how to make the most of existing storage facilities to ease pressures on storage needs, especially during extended periods of wet weather. Guidance will cover best practices for handling and reducing the impact of dirty water, rainwater and parlour washings.
	Proposed Measure

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
Revised silage bale storage requirements	To strengthen the regulatory framework to ensure best practices are followed and to mitigate against the risk of pollution when silage bales are stored in fields.
	Rationale and/or additional detail It is proposed to include an amendment so that: • Silage bales should not be stored in areas where there is increased risk of run-off into the waterway. • They should be stored in a manner to reduce the risk of effluent seepage and run-off to the waterway. How silage bales are wrapped for storage, and that they should not be stored within 10 metres of a waterway will remain unchanged as a minimum requirement.
Voluntary buffer strips on arable land	**Proposed Measure** Voluntary, uncultivated buffer strip alongside waterways in arable fields.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Key features of the proposal include: • The buffer would be an area of land left uncultivated and covered with vegetation, such as grass • The width of the buffer strip would vary, depending on local site conditions and risk factors • The buffer area would not be treated with fertilisers or plant protection products • The buffer would apply along waterways and waterbodies. Participation would be voluntary, supporting farmers to take informed decisions.
Voluntary Liming Programme	**Proposed Measure** Continue to raise awareness of benefits of liming on suitable land.
	Rationale and/or additional detail Key features of the proposal include: • Liming would apply mainly to intensively managed grassland farms on mineral soils • Certain land types would be excluded, including peat soils, species rich grassland and other priority habitats, and protected sites • Farms would be encouraged to have up-to-date soil analysis, with lime requirements identified through soil testing and a farm nutrient management plan.

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	Participation would be voluntary, supporting farmers to take informed decisions about soil management.
Technical Amendments	
Definition of Appropriate Person	**Proposed Measure / Amendment** DAERA is proposing to amend the definition of appropriate person to align the wording so that it is consistent with the wording used for storage requirements already used within the Regulations. It is proposed that in paragraphs (c) and (d) of the definition that 'livestock manure' will be replaced with 'Organic Manure'. Thereby, reference to the appropriate person will be extended to include those who have control of all organic manures and not just livestock manure.
Definition of Farmyard manure	**Proposed Measure / Amendment** The definition of farmyard manure will be amended to include stackable organic matter that can be used as a fertiliser.
Updating terminology	**Proposed Measure / Amendment** The NAP regulations currently refer to 'Fertilisation Account' and 'Fertilisation Plans'. It is proposed to amend these to 'Nutrient Management Account' and 'Nutrient Management Plans' which are more reflective of the terminology used across the industry.
Covering of Lagoons	**Proposed Measure / Amendment** Following the consultation in 2019, it was agreed that the provisions within Schedule 6, paragraph 12 reference to 'Any slurry storage tank' should not include lagoons. The 2019 NAP Regulations do not accurately reflect this, and it is proposed that this should be corrected as part of the regulatory review.
Definition of heavy rain	**Proposed Measure / Amendment** Currently the definition of heavy rain simply states "more than 4mm of rain per hour" this may be difficult for some to interpret. To improve clarity, it is proposed to include "when a Met Office weather warning for rain is in operation". This amendment makes clear to operators, especially when considering the restriction on applying fertiliser when heavy rain is falling or forecast within 48 hours. Heavy rain will now be defined as either more than 4mm of rain per hour or when a Met Office weather warning for rain is in operation.
Changes to the Phosphorus content of livestock feed	**Proposed Measure / Amendment** The analysis of the P content of ruminant concentrate feed has recently been completed and has confirmed reductions in P content.

<table>
<tr><th>NAP Measure</th><th>Description of Action for Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
The phosphorus (P) content of livestock diets is a key factor within the overall P inputs of NI and hence a key driver of the overall NI P balance. Over a number of years AFBI have undertaken an extensive programme of work, mainly funded by DAERA, which investigated nutritional strategies to reduce P levels in dairy, pig and poultry diets. This work demonstrated that P levels in diets could be lowered from historical levels, while maintaining productivity. This work was conducted in collaboration and discussed with the feed industry.

The analysis of the P content of ruminant concentrate feed has recently been completed and has confirmed reductions in P content. Based on the research the table in the NAP Regulations 2019 will be updated from four values to two, reflecting the most up to date data. The below table shows the proposed changes (Table 11 of the consultation document):

NAP Regulations 2019 Sch 2 Table 7 and Proposed Change
<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Existing NAP 2019 Regulations</td><td colspan="2">Proposed Change</td></tr>
<tr><td>Agricultural Product</td><td>Phosphorus Content (% fresh weight)</td><td>Agricultural Product</td><td>Phosphorus Content (% fresh weight)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Poultry Concentrate</td><td>0.5 (or actual declared content)</td><td rowspan="3">Ruminant Concentrates</td><td rowspan="3">0.47 (or actual declared content)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pig Concentrate</td><td>0.48 (or actual declared content)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ruminant Concentrate</td><td>0.55 (or actual declared content)</td></tr>
<tr><td>All other concentrates</td><td>0.58 (or actual declared content)</td><td>All other concentrates</td><td>0.43 (or actual declared content)</td></tr>
</table>

Labelling of Feed

It is also proposed that all manufacturers of Animal feed will be required to clearly label the product to show the % P content.
</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Implementation – Including Inspections/Enforcement</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">False or misleading information provisions</td><td>Proposed Measure

To extend the existing duty not to provide false or misleading information so that it applies not only to the controller, but also to the appropriate person.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rationale and/or additional detail</td></tr>
</table>

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	This will mean that individuals who undertake work or supply information on behalf of a controller could be held responsible if they deliberately provide false or misleading information for the purposes of the Regulations. This proposal builds on changes made during the last review of the NAP, where certain offences relating to slurry spreading were extended to apply to the appropriate person. It recognises that contractors often carry out this work and may commit offences independently of the controller's direct knowledge or instruction.
Increased inspections based on risk	**Proposed Measure** This proposal introduces a revised approach to inspections which aims to make them more targeted, efficient and fair, so that effort is focused on the farms and activities that present the greatest risk to the environment.
	Rationale and additional detail A stronger focus on advice and support The proposed approach recognises that most farmers want to comply with the NAP requirements and protect water quality. Under this proposal there will be a focus on: • Clear guidance and information • Raising awareness of requirements • Access to advisory support Where issues are identified, the first step will normally be to work with the farmer to correct them. This will help farmers understand what is required and how to meet the standards. A more targeted approach to inspections Inspections will be more focused on farms and activities where the risk to the environment is higher. This means that: • Farms that produce higher levels of livestock manure will be more likely to be inspected • Inspection rates will vary depending on the level of risk and participation in support programmes For example: • Farms which are not part of the NSP but which are operating over 170kg Nitrogen per hectare per year, will be considered High Risk and will be subject to the highest 10% rate of inspection. • Farms in Tier 1 of the NSP, will be considered as a lower risk and will therefore have a 1% inspection rate, reflecting their higher compliance

NAP Measure	Description of Action for Assessment
	• Farms in Tier 2 of the NSP (considered as in-conversion) will be considered as a higher risk than those in Tier 1 and therefore will have a 5% rate of inspection. This approach is designed to target resources where they can have the greatest impact. More visible inspection activity The proposal includes a greater presence of inspectors on the ground. Inspections will focus on key activities that can lead to pollution if not managed properly, such as: • Spreading slurry during unsuitable conditions (for example, before or during heavy rain). • Verifying records of slurry or manure being transferred between farms. • Checking use of Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment (LESSE) on farms which are required to use it. This will help ensure that the most important rules are being followed in practice. Simpler and more focused inspections The current inspection system covers a wide range of checks. Under this proposal, inspections would be streamlined. This means inspections will focus on the most important areas, including: • Limits on nitrogen from livestock manure • Use of phosphorus fertiliser • Adequacy of slurry storage • Management of farmyards • Risks of pollution reaching waterways • Record keeping Simplifying inspections should make them quicker to carry out and allow more farms to be inspected overall. Reasons for the Change This aims to ensure that the system is fair and proportionate, with appropriate higher penalties for serious or repeated breaches.

3.5.3 Related measure being progressed through separate legislation

An additional measure has been proposed through separate legislation to help support the implementation and enforcement of the NAP. As this is not directly implemented through the NAP, this has not been assessed within this RIAA, however, the successful introduction and appropriate implementation of this measure may help achieve improvements in environmental management with respect to agriculture and nutrient management.

3.5.3.1 Fertiliser Database

As part of the Lough Neagh Action Plan, a Northern Ireland Fertiliser Database is in development, which will provide better information on how fertilisers are sold, moved and used to support improved nutrient management and help reduce pollution.

The database will not be introduced through the NAP Regulations and will be progressed through separate legislation with a public consultation taking place before any new legislation is introduced.

3.5.4 Governance, Monitoring and Review

DAERA has outlined a series of governance and monitoring measures to ensure that the draft NAP 2027-2030 is delivered clearly, consistently and accountably and to ensure that it contributes to positive environmental outcomes. Regular monitoring, reviewing and adaptation of the draft NAP 2027-2030 aim to ensure that the measures remain appropriate, effective and proportionate in line with new scientific evidence, environmental progress and pressures and through evolving policy. DAERA has recognised that the revised NAP is not a fixed end point but forms part of a multi-cycle Plan, which is part of an ongoing process of improvement, and where required it will be amended to ensure the necessary environmental improvements will occur through the iterative and cyclic nature of the Plan.

Governance aims to provide the structure for oversight of the draft NAP 2027-2030, allowing for progress to be tracked, risk to be identified and decisions to be made based on the best available evidence and to ensure transparency within changes to policy and/or implementation. Governance of the draft NAP 2027-2030 will include coordination across government, farmers, the agri-food industry and environmental organisations. This approach aims to ensure that actions across the sectors are aligned, roles and responsibilities are clear and that the draft NAP 2027-2030 operates in a coherent way across policy areas. This includes the continued involvement of stakeholders in the oversight of the draft NAP 2027-2030, monitoring programme and shaping future policy development.

Scientific Evidence, Robust Data and Modelling

The effective regulation requires the use of reliable monitoring data, scientific evidence and appropriate analytical tools and assessments to identify environmental pressures, causality relationships, and evaluate the impact of introduced measures. Assessment of the progress of the draft NAP 2027-2030 will include the use of scientific evidence, data and modelling such as;

- Water Quality monitoring;
- Assessing nutrient balances;
- Tracking emissions data; and
- Reviewing wider environmental indicators.

This will help support informed decision-making and determine the progress of the measures in respect of the NAP achieving its aims.

NAP Steering Group – Role and Functions

A NAP Steering Group will be established to oversee the implementation and review of the effectiveness of the measures of the draft NAP 2027-2030. The Steering Group will include representatives from the farming sector, the agri-food industry, environmental organisations and DAERA. The exact structure and reporting arrangements of the Steering Group are under development, and the work of the Steering Group will help inform future NAP reviews, identify if further escalation in measures is required, contribute to future public consultations and support wider policy development. The Steering Group will focus on;

- Monitoring progress against agreed indicators;
- Review new evidence and analysis;
- Assess if the measures of the NAP are achieving sufficient take up and/or intended outcomes;
- Identify risks, gaps or unintended impacts;
- Provide recommendations to DAERA on possible changes;
- Provide a route for ongoing stakeholder input; and
- Support alignment with related policy areas such as water quality, climate change and ammonia.

Monitoring and Review Framework

The governance of the NAP will be supported by a structured monitoring and review framework, this will include;

- Ongoing review with some specific measures reviewed after two-years, in addition to the full statutory review every four year;
- Evaluation of uptake of programmes and measures at farm, catchment and national levels;
- Assessment of environmental indicators such as water quality and nutrient balances;
- Review of compliance data, including inspection outcomes and trends;
- Alignment with wider reporting cycles, such as River Basin Management Plans; and
- An approach which allows changes to be made where progress is limited.

DAERA has indicated that a specific set of key metrics and indicators will be developed for supporting the two-year review to assess progress against environmental outcomes. These metrics and indicators will be based on best-available evidence and include appropriate measures of behavioural change, changes in agricultural practices, trends in chemical phosphorus use, and progress in the uptake and effectiveness of measures such as the NSP and the Focused Approach.

Review of Measures

The progress of all measures introduced under the draft NAP 2027-2030 will be reviewed within two years of implementation. This review will:

- Assess how well the measures are being put into practice;
- Consider whether the measures are improving water quality as intended, to the extent that is possible within the timeframe of two years;
- Identify any issues or barriers affecting delivery; and
- Consider the measures which are a key focus (as noted below) of the 2 year review and may be subject to further action if necessary.

This review will be based on available evidence and monitoring data. It will help to determine whether the NAP measures remain effective and appropriate, or whether amendments and adjustments are required. A key focus of the review will be on measures such as Chemical Phosphorus Fertilisers, Nutrient Stewardship Programme and Focused Approach, with an assessment on the level of uptake and considering if these are delivering on the expected environmental outcomes, to the extent that is possible within the timeframe of two years.

Where monitoring indicates that environmental outcomes are not being achieved, or sufficient take up of voluntary measures has not been secured, a staged and proportionate response will be applied. This may include the introduction of increased advisory support and awareness raising, additional requirements, more targeted measures, or amendments to relevant voluntary or advisory measures to become mandatory. This approach ensures that the Programme can respond to new evidence and changing circumstances, while remaining focused on achieving improvements in water quality.

Compliance, Enforcement and Targeted Intervention

Compliance and enforcement will form a core part of delivery of the draft NAP 2027-2030. Monitoring data and inspection outcomes will be used to assess compliance and identify where action may be needed. A risk-based approach will be applied. This means focusing effort on areas where environmental risks are highest. This may include:

- Increased inspections;
- Closer monitoring of high-risk farms; and
- Targeting priority catchments.

Where progress is not being achieved, a staged and proportionate response will be used. This may include:

- Increased advice and support;
- Targeted regulatory action; and
- Stronger enforcement where needed.

Transparency and Reporting

The Department is committed to transparency in how the NAP is implemented. This will include:

- Regular reporting on progress;
- Publication of relevant data where appropriate; and
- Clear explanations of how decisions are made.

It will also include clear communication of:

- How monitoring data is used;
- How recommendations are assessed;
- Where challenges or gaps remain; and
- Where further action may be required.

Governance arrangements will ensure that the NAP is implemented in line with legal and environmental obligations. Monitoring and review will be based on defined indicators and targets to assess environmental outcomes and compliance with statutory obligations, including Water Framework Directive objectives and the protection of European sites. Where monitoring identifies that outcomes are not being achieved or sufficient take up of voluntary measures has not been secured, governance will support adaptive management, including targeted additional intervention in high-risk areas and the strengthening of measures where required. This approach will ensure that mitigation measures are implemented effectively, and that the Programme is able to prevent environmental deterioration and respond to emerging risks.

The measures set out in the draft NAP 2027-2030 consultation document should be understood in the context of a broader set of interdependencies, such as wider ammonia policy. To give effect to this, the

ongoing governance mechanism will include a formal function for assessing progress on wider ammonia policy as an interdependency to the implementation of the NAP measures.

3.5.5 Support through Advice and Funding

DAERA has recognised that farmers and land owners will require guidance on how the proposed measures of the draft NAP 2027-2030 will affect their businesses and how these will be implemented. Therefore, DAERA has developed support in the form of advice and guidance to explain the requirements of the draft NAP 2027-2030 and assistance through funding to aid in the implementation of the measures where appropriate.

This support includes the following;

- Advice and Guidance: a range of sources can provide support to help farmers understand and implement the proposed measures of the draft NAP 2027-2030 such as DAERA guidance, CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise) advisory service, industry organisations, support from the wider agri-food supply chain and through environmental and catchment-based initiatives. These sources offer a range of support such as official documents, online tools, one-to-one advisory sessions, training events/knowledge transfer programmes and targeted advice in priority areas.
- Funding: A series of funding and grant sources are available which can be accessed such as;
  - The Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme;
  - Sustainable Agriculture Programme;
  - Sustainable Catchment Programme;
  - Farming with Nature Package; and
  - Just Transition.

3.6 Aspects of the draft NAP 2027-2030 to be Assessed

Aspects of the draft NAP 2027-2030 for implementation, which are described in detail above, are considered in this assessment and **Table 3-3** and **Table 3-4** sets out the existing and proposed NAP measures and identifies those to be considered as part of this appropriate assessment and the rationale for their inclusion or otherwise.

Table 3-3 Elements of the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 assessed in the Stage 2 appraisal for Appropriate Assessment

NAP Regulation	Assessed within this Report
1	No. This Regulation comprises background information and the definition of terms used in the NAP Regulations, and has no potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites.
2 - General	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
3 – Prevention of water pollution from application of fertilisers	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
4 - Storage requirements	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.

5 - Measures relating to land management	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
6 - Record keeping and compliance monitoring	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
7 - Enforcement	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
8 - Powers, duties and functions of the Department	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
9 - Miscellaneous	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
10 - Derogation from measures governing the limits on land application of livestock manure	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.

Table 3-4 Elements of the Proposed new measures and amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 assessed in the Stage 2 appraisal for Appropriate Assessment

NAP Topic	**Assessed within this Report**
Nutrient Management – Balanced Nutrient Use, Fertiliser and Manure Controls	Yes. This NAP Topic includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
Manure Storage and Application Requirements – Ammonia Implications	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
Farming Approaches to Improve Nutrient Use and Water Quality	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
Utilising Technology	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
Additional measures to support environmentally sustainable farming	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
Technical Amendments	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has

NAP Topic	Assessed within this Report
	the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.
Implementation – including inspections/enforcements	Yes. This NAP Regulation includes measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. This has the potential to give rise to LSEs on European Sites and is therefore considered below.

4.0 Overview of the Receiving Environment

Northern Ireland has obligations under UK and domestic law to protect and conserve biodiversity. This relates to habitats and species both within and outside designated European Sites. Nationally, Northern Ireland has developed a Biodiversity Strategy (DAERA 2015) to address issues and halt the loss of biodiversity, in line with national and international commitments. The overall vision in the Biodiversity Strategy is to halt biodiversity loss through engagement with a number of high-level challenges.

4.1 Identification of European Sites and Zone of Influence

In Northern Ireland, SPAs and SACs are part of the UK National Site Network (formerly a part of the Natura 2000 network prior to the UK's departure from the EU). They are still referred to as European Sites, as per current DAERA guidance. In RoI, sites within the Natura 2000 Network are also referred to as European sites and comprise SACs and SPAs. In both NI and RoI, SACs are designated on account of the supported Qualifying interests (QIs) which are limited to habitats and species which are listed on Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive respectively. SPAs, however, are concerned with the protection of specific Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) limited to populations of Annex I bird species and the associated habitats of importance for these populations.

In identifying the Zone of Influence (ZoI) for the appropriate assessment of the NAP, a number of considerations were taken into account, notably the national and strategic nature of the NAP; the relationship of listed qualifying interests of SACs and SPAs within NI and those in RoI which have connectivity with agricultural land in Northern Ireland.

The HRA screening appraisal determined that since the NAP was a national programme that all the European Sites within NI, as well as those in RoI within 15km of the border or lying downstream of, and hydrologically linked to, agricultural lands in Northern Ireland, were considered. For consistency, the ZoI for the AA adopts the same approach.

In NI there are 58 SACs which are designated for one or more of 49 habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, of which 13 are priority habitats at a European level, or 18 species listed in Annex II of the Directive. These are largely terrestrial or freshwater sites, however a number lie offshore including those designated on account of the supported reef and sandbank habitats and supported marine mammal populations.

In the RoI, within 15km of the border and/or downstream of agricultural lands within NI, there are 27 SACs which are designated for one or more of 55 habitat types (Annex I of the Directive) and 14 species (Annex II of the Directive), of which one or more are included as qualifying interests. These are entirely terrestrial or coastal sites.

SPAs are designated for the protection of endangered species of wild birds including listed rare and vulnerable species, regularly occurring migratory species as well as wetland habitats that support such species. Currently there are 16 SPAs designated within NI and 10 SPAs designated within the relevant areas of RoI.

Figure 4-1 and **Figure 4-2** illustrates the distribution of the SACs and SPAs in relation to the NAP HRA Study Area. It is acknowledged that the number of European sites designated, and their boundaries, are subject to change over time and must therefore be verified on an ongoing basis.

Table 4-1 provides a summary breakdown of the European sites in NI and the relevant areas of RoI. While many are obvious based on their location, other links are more circumspect. The SAC and SPA designated sites within the ZoI are listed in Appendix A. **Figure 4-1** and **Figure 4-2** illustrates the distribution of the

SACs and SPAs in relation to the NAP HRA Study Area. It is acknowledged that the number of European sites designated, and their boundaries, are subject to change over time and must therefore be verified on an ongoing basis.

Table 4-1 European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the NAP in NI and RoI

European Sites	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland (within the ZoI)
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	58	27
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	16	10

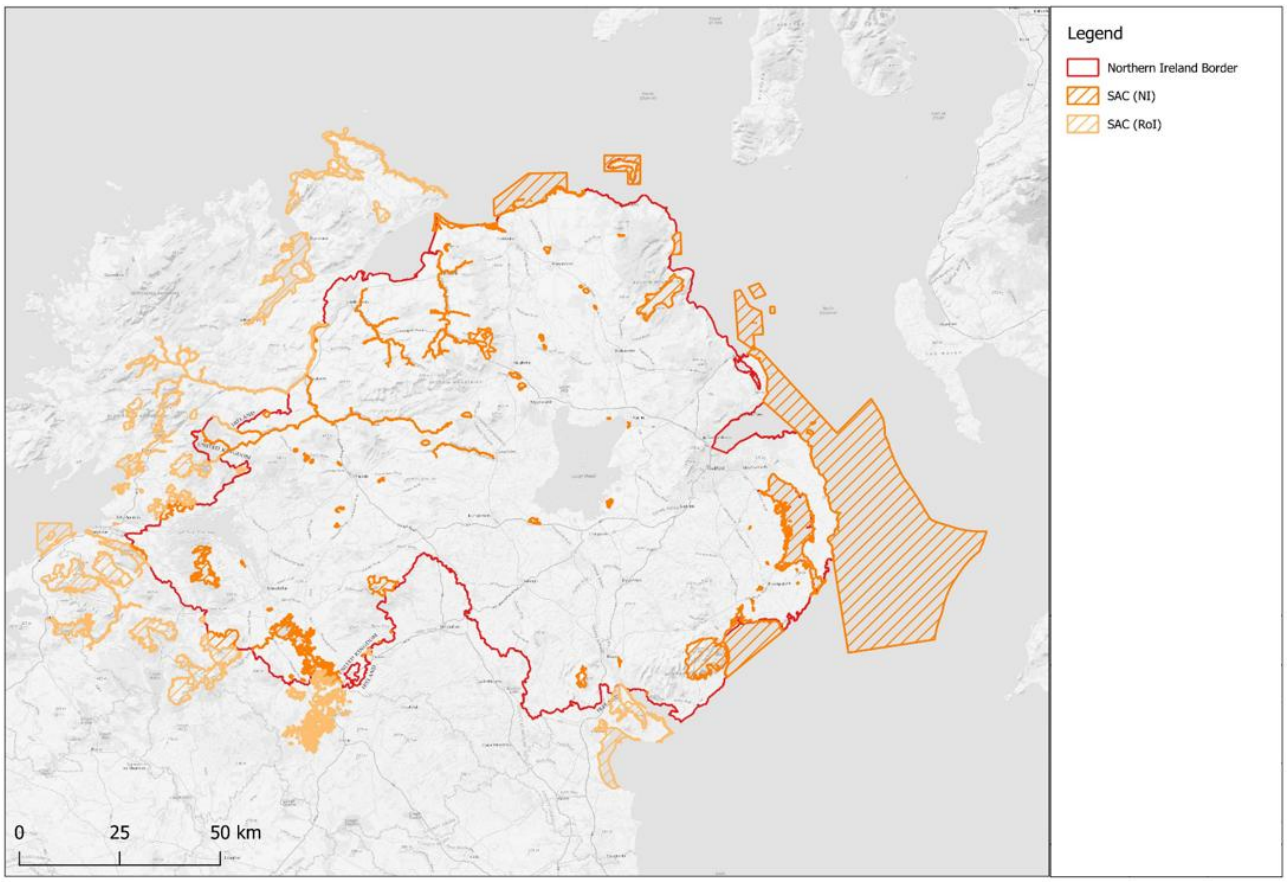


Figure 4-1 Distribution of SACs relevant to the NAP HRA

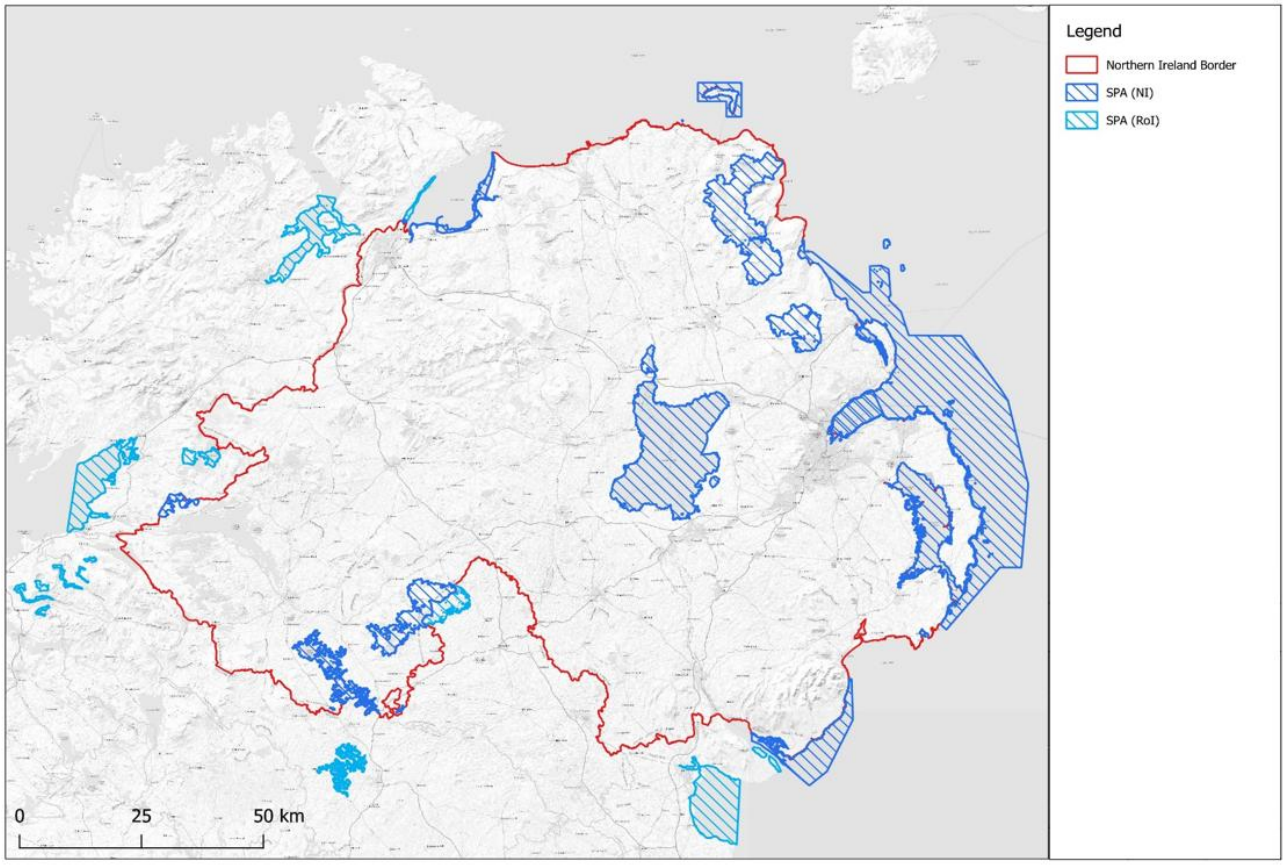


Figure 4-2 Distribution of SPAs relevant to the NAP HRA

4.2 Conservation Objectives

Site-specific conservation objectives (SSCO) aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at a European Site. Maintaining habitats and species in a favourable conservation condition then contributes to the wider objective to maintain those most vulnerable habitats and species at favourable status throughout their range within European Sites.

At an individual site level, SSCO specify whether the objective is to maintain or to restore favourable conservation condition of the habitat or species, and they set out attributes and targets that define the objectives. It is the aim of the relevant departments in NI and RoI to produce SSCO for all European Sites in due course. The SSCO for European Sites are set out to ensure that the qualifying features of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition / conservation status.

A summary of the conservation objectives which have been set for each site is included in Appendix A.

It is noted that the existing conservation condition of some habitats and species is unfavourable at present for various reasons, including because of exceedance in environmental quality parameters. This is discussed further in the next section.

4.3 Conservation Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species

Under the Habitats Directive, each Member State is obliged to undertake surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Annexes and under Article 17, to report to the European Commission every six years on their status and on the implementation of the measures taken under the Directive. While this obligation no longer applies to NI, the 4th UK Habitats Directive Article 17 Report was published by the JNCC in 2019 (JNCC 2019) and as such provides a UK wide summary of the conservation condition of the habitats and species which are qualifying features of SACs within NI.

The 2019 Article 17 Report (DAERA 2019) identifies the conservation status of the qualifying Annex I habitats and Annex I species within SACs in NI.

For the 2019 submission, the report recorded 2% of habitats as 'favourable', 20.4% as 'Unfavourable inadequate', 59.2% as 'Unfavourable Bad' and 18.4% as 'Unknown'. In regard to species, of the 28 species assessed (included non-qualifying species) 12 were considered to be at 'favourable' conservation status, 3 at 'inadequate' conservation status, 2 at 'bad' conservation status and 11 'unknown'. Northern Ireland's supporting documentation for the conservation status assessment of each habitat was examined to gain insight into which of these included pressures or threats that related to agricultural activities. Of the 48 habitats for which specific supporting documentation for Northern Ireland was available, 44 assessments included at least one pressure or threat relating to agricultural activities. These included activities relating to water pollution and degradation, air pollution, and land use including grazing practices, fertiliser application or land drainage.

For the UK, of the designated species reported, 33 were given an overall conservation status of 'favourable', 24 a status of 'inadequate', 16 a status of 'bad' and 20 a status of 'unknown'. Of these, 9 species showed improvement in overall conservation status, 47 showed no change, 12 showed decline and 25 were uncertain in comparison with the results of the 3rd UK Habitats Directive Report. Northern Ireland's supporting documentation for the conservation status assessment of each species was examined; of the 26 species for which specific supporting documentation for Northern Ireland was available, 24 assessments included at least one pressure or threat relating to agricultural activities. These included activities relating to agricultural land management practices (including grazing practices, removal of small structures used by bat species, and pest control methods), pollution of surface, ground or marine waters, and air pollution arising from mixed sources.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, reporting to the European Commission will no longer be required, however DAERA will continue to report periodically every 6 years. The first of these reports was published in 2026 as Habitats Regulations Reporting, covering the period for 2019-2024. The report indicated that the overall trend from the previous reporting cycle is continuing with habitats and species in poor condition. For the Habitats Regulations Reporting for 2019-2024, for the 42 terrestrial habitats reported, 1 habitat was recorded as 'Favourable' (H1210 Annual Vegetation of drift lines), two habitats as 'Unfavourable – Inadequate', 37 habitats as 'Unfavourable – Bad' and two habitats as 'Unknown'. For marine habitats, 3 habitats were recorded as 'Favourable', one habitat was recorded as 'Unfavourable-Inadequate', 2 habitats as 'Unfavourable-Bad' and two habitats as 'Unknown'.

A total of 37 Annex I terrestrial habitats have been concluded as being in Unfavourable-Bad Conservation Status. This is primarily due to nitrogen deposition from the extent of habitats receiving Nitrogen Critical Load exceedance following revised Nitrogen Deposition Critical Loads which were set in 2022 under the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, accompanied with JNCC revised Habitats Regulations Reporting guidance. Agricultural activities generating air pollution impacted 88% of all Annex I Habitats and pressures linked to grazing practices and climate change.

For the 32 terrestrial species, 11 species were at 'Favourable' Conservation Status, 2 species at 'Unfavourable – Inadequate', 10 species at 'Unfavourable – Bad' and 9 species at 'Unknown'. Of the 32

terrestrial species, 11 are currently assessed as having Favourable Conservation Status, with most of these remaining stable since the last reporting round; notable improvements include pine marten, whose range and population are increasing, and slender green feather-moss and Geyer's whorl snail, both of which have been reassessed as Favourable following new survey evidence. Two species are Unfavourable-Inadequate, including clubmosses and narrow-mouthed whorl snail, reflecting concerns about habitat, future prospects and population assessment. Ten species are now Unfavourable-Bad, with several deteriorating from Unfavourable-Inadequate due to new evidence or population declines, including Atlantic salmon, marsh saxifrage, Killarney fern, bog mosses and *Cladonia* lichens. Significant declines were also recorded for pollan and otter, both now Unfavourable-Bad, while white-clawed crayfish moved from Unknown to Unfavourable-Bad following the 2024 survey. Nine species remain Unknown because there is still insufficient information for a full conservation assessment. There is continued deterioration in the quality of freshwater habitats impacting species such as S1106 Atlantic salmon *(Salmo salar),* S5076 Pollan *(Coregonus pollan)* and S1355 Otter *(Lutra lutra)* due to pollution predominantly from agricultural sources. Agriculture related pressures, particularly from Critical Load exceedances of atmospheric Nitrogen, remained a key pressure source on habitats and species, agricultural activities, indirectly impact the species through pressure impacts upon its supporting habitat.

In RoI, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) published an Article 17 report detailing the conservation status in Ireland of habitats and species listed in the EU Habitats Directive, in 2025.

For the 2025 submission, the RoI's Article 17 Report recorded 10% of habitats as 'favourable', 42% as 'inadequate' and 48% as 'bad', a decline from the previous reporting in 2019. In regard to species 58% were assessed as 'favourable', 12% as 'inadequate', 20% as 'bad' and 10% as 'unknown' or considered to be vagrant species (nine species in total, primarily bats and cetaceans)

Among the key findings of both reports were:

- 90% of habitats are in unfavourable status, with many demonstrating ongoing deteriorating trends (51%), albeit with some positive actions underway;
- Deteriorating trends are particularly notable in marine, aquatic, grassland, and woodland habitats;
- The main pressures to habitats are from agriculture-related practices, particularly overgrazing, drainage and pollution to surface or groundwaters, alien and problematic species, residential, commercial, industrial and recreational areas, forestry and extraction of resources, among others;
- Conservation measures have been undertaken in 54 habitats, an increase of 18 habitats from the previous assessment;
- The status of raised bogs in Ireland as a whole is 'bad', however active raised bogs in Ireland have increased by 7% between 2018 and 2024 as a positive habitat change since the commencements of assessments in 2007 through reduced damage from activities such as drainage and peat extraction with increased restoration efforts;
- Blanket bog is also assessed as 'bad', the report notes that, as one of main impacts on this habitat is grazing, impacts also occur through on-going deleterious effects such as peat cutting, erosion, drainage and burning, there has been implementation of restoration action plans in many areas;
- Grassland, such as orchid-rich grassland and hay meadows, have remained in poor condition with a decline in the range and area by 2025;
- Although woodlands within Ireland are rated as 'bad' due to their patchy and fragmented distribution, improvements have been noted due to afforestation, the planting of native species, removal of alien species and controls on overgrazing and programmes such as the Forestry Programme 2023-2027;

- Many freshwater habitats are considered 'unfavourable' due to nutrient loading within the catchment area;
- Marsh Fritillary, Kerry Slug, Pine Marten and many bat species have also been assessed as 'favourable' with evidence of an expanding range;
- Fish species such as the Atlantic salmon, Sea Lamprey, Pollan and Twite Shad remain at 'bad' status;
- Freshwater pearl mussel is 'bad' and declining, with many freshwater species at risk from nutrient pollution; and
- A wide range of species are impacted by agricultural activities and from forestry, impacts from alien and problematic species as a pressure source is predicted to increase in the future. Conservation measures have been implemented for 21 for the Annex II species.

Similarly, the requirements for reporting under Article 12 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) are every six years. The NI Article 12 submission is encapsulated within that of the wider UK. The most recent UK 4th Habitats Directive report was submitted in 2019, covers 264 species which includes breeding, wintering and passage Annex I bird species. Significant long-term decreases have been recorded in a relatively large proportion of species including northern gannet (Morus bassanus), common goldeneye (Bucephala clangula), sandwich tern (Thallasseus scandvicensis) among a large number of others with some species showing minor increases.

With the UK leaving the EU, this is no longer required, with reports being produced at the individual country level. For Northern Ireland, the first of these reports was published in 2026 as Habitats Regulations Reporting, covering the period for 2019-2024 for the status and trend of bird species[2]. This approach to reporting is broadly aligned to the previous 2019 UK Article 12 report, with statuses and trends reported at the UK scale, however some Northern Ireland-specific trends on terrestrial breeding birds, breeding seabirds and non-breeding waterbirds has been undertaken. The report indicated that Northern Ireland supports a high proportion of bird species of conservation concern, with 28% of regularly occurring species on the UK BoCC Red list and 24% on the Ireland BoCC Red list. Overall trends are mixed, breeding birds show long-term gains but short-term declines. Breeding seabirds are generally increasing in populations, with Northern Ireland supporting internationally important numbers of breeding seabirds (Razorbill *Alca torda* and Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*), while non-breeding waterbirds have declined long term despite some recent improvement.

Farmland birds, breeding waders and wintering waterbirds remain the main concerns, whereas woodland birds are faring relatively better. Pressures on bird species in Northern Ireland include highly pathogenic avian influenza, which has affected some seabird colonies, and climate change, which is linked to declines in wintering waterbirds and some distribution shifts. However, there are also clear positives, including strong increases in species such as Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) and Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), successful Curlew (*Numenis arquata*) recovery within the Antrim Hills and Lower Lough Erne islands, and in 2023, for the first time in over 200 years on the island of Ireland, Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) bred. In 2024, White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), bred in Northern Ireland for the first time in over 150 years.

Northern Ireland is also important at an all-Ireland scale for wintering waterbirds and breeding seabirds, and its SPA network continues to support internationally important populations of several species such as Pochard (*Aythya Ferina*), Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) and Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*).

[2] Habitats Regulations Overview Report for the Reporting Period 2019-2024 Northern Ireland: Status and Trends of Bird Species

The RoI's most recent Article 12 submission to the EU Commission on the Status and trends of bird species (2008-2012) covers 196 species which includes breeding, wintering and passage species. The report details that some species have undergone significant declines in their long-term breeding population trend: corncrake (*Crex crex*), curlew (*Numenius Arquata*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and redshank (*Tringa tetanus).* The hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) shows a long-term population trend decrease. The results confirm that there is a need for measures to halt the declines noted above, most of which are due largely to changes in farming practices and intensity, and also the increase of activity in extensively farmed uplands through forests and wind farm construction.

The assessment and outlook are pessimistic overall. Biodiversity losses and habitat changes continue on an international scale. EU conservation status reporting[3] indicates generally declining trends and unfavourable status for many habitats, with 81% having poor or bad conservation status. Many species are faring better, but 15% are in decline at EU level, mostly freshwater species. Agricultural activities remain the key pressure. The outlook is very poor, with climate change adding to challenges and cumulative impacts.

A European Commission report 'Sustainable Development in the European Union' (EU, 2023), warned of the worrying decline in nature globally, with species extinction rates accelerating. The UN stating that biodiversity is in crisis. In RoI, the majority of the most ecologically important habitats are reported to be of inadequate or bad conservation status. Agricultural practices account for 70% of the negative impacts on habitats. Most species are considered to be stable however a number of key species are declining. Aquatic species and bees are reported to be most at risk. Pressures from changes to land use, intensification of agriculture, pollution and climate change, as well as the impacts of a growing economy, are likely to bring additional pressures on a number of species and habitats in RoI. Based on the poor conservation status of many important habitats and some species, considerable efforts and resources will be required to improve their status, both within and outside protected areas.

It's likely that pressures due to climate change, agricultural system changes and invasive species will remain the same or increase unless action is undertaken.

4.4 Existing Threats and Pressures to EU Protected Habitats and Species

Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to identify threats and pressures to QIs/ SCIs using a standard set of criteria. A threat is defined as an '*Activity expected to have an impact on a species/habitat type in the future*' and a pressure is defined as an '*Activity impacting a species/habitat type during the reporting cycle*'. These identified threats and pressures are still documented for European sites within NI as they predate the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

Threats and pressures considered to be most relevantly linked either directly or indirectly to the NAP were extracted from the full list of threats and pressures. The headline category considered relevant to the NAP is agriculture but the main list is presented below.

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Transportation and service corridors;
- Urbanisation, residential and commercial development;
- Mining, extraction of materials and energy production;

[3] Conservation status of habitats under the EU Habitats Directive

- Biological resource use other than agriculture and forestry;
- Alien and Problematic Species;
- Mixed Source Pollution;
- Natural System modifications;
- Natural biotic and abiotic processes (without catastrophes);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes; and
- Climate change

Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, Member States are also obliged to identify threats and pressures to individual qualifying features using a standard set of criteria. Threats are defined as '*Factors expected to act in the future after the current reporting period*' within the '*current six-year reporting period*', and pressures are defined as '*Acting now and/or during (any part of or all of) the current reporting period*', within the '*future to reporting periods*.'

Threat and pressure categories identified from the most recent Article 17 Reports were considered in regard to the NAP. Examples of potential threats and pressures derived from these categories are detailed in **Table 4-2**.

Table 4-2 Threat/Pressure Categories, Notes and Terrestrial Examples (based on Article 17 2025 report in RoI and Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024, 2026 report in NI)

Threat/Pressure Categories	Notes on Sub-categories	Example Threat/Pressure with regard to the NAP Regulations
Agriculture	Includes land conversion, grazing (intensive grazing and overgrazing by livestock), extensive grazing and undergrazing, land abandonment, burning, enrichment, drainage and associated pollution.	The proposed changes to regulations within the NAP aim to reduce the environmental impact of agricultural activities. It is envisaged that the proposed changes will have potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts in respect of the environment such as through the appropriate buffering of watercourses. Such a measure would potentially give rise to reduced surface water and nutrient runoff from agricultural land in addition to other benefits for freshwater SACs. However, baseline water quality data indicates that only 31% of river sites in NI have good or better status concentrations.
Sylviculture, Forestry	Includes land conversion, grazing, forestry management practices such as clear felling, removal of dead wood, burning, enrichment, drainage and associated pollution, lack of replanting or natural regrowth.	Pollution impacts from forestry sources on surface water, soil and biodiversity are similar to agriculture. Impacts of forestry which may be relevant to the NAP are the potential for land conversion through inappropriate planting of forestry, including native species woodland, and associated changes to terrestrial and freshwater sites.
Mining, extraction of materials and energy production	Includes renewable abiotic energy use inclusive of geothermal power, solar, wind and tidal energy production.	Given the nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Transportation and service corridors	Includes roads, paths, shipping lanes and associated light and noise pollution.	Habitat and species disturbance and pollution from transportation systems (e.g. shipping and transportation impacts on marine environment including those related to agricultural exports which currently account for approximately 14% of all Northern Irish exports). Given the

Threat/Pressure Categories	Notes on Sub-categories	Example Threat/Pressure with regard to the NAP Regulations
		nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Urbanisation, residential and commercial development	Includes urbanisation, industrialisation, recreation and associated pollution.	Given the nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Biological resource use other than agriculture & forestry	Includes hunting, poisoning, fishing, pollution arising from aquaculture and removal of terrestrial plants.	Given the nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Alien and Problematic Species	Includes introduction of alien and problematic species.	Given the nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Mixed Source Pollution	Includes to surface waters, groundwater, marine water pollution, air borne, soil, excess energy, noise and light.	As noted, there is unequivocal evidence from reports by DAERA and others that agriculture in NI is causing surface water and groundwater pollution and subsequent damage to ecosystems and biodiversity through nutrient enrichment.
Natural System modifications	Includes fires, landfill/land reclamation, removal of sediments, abstractions and siltation.	Given the nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Natural biotic and abiotic processes (without catastrophes)	Includes erosion, succession, competition and predation.	Habitat removal/destruction and changes in population dynamics. Intensification of agricultural practices and other proposed measures may result in such threats.
Geological events, natural catastrophes	Includes storms, floods and fire.	Given the nature of the changes proposed within the NAP, it is not considered that the programme would have potential to give rise to any threats and pressures in respect of this category.
Climate change	Includes temperature rise, drought, sea level rise, extremes and increased precipitation.	Habitat destruction/alteration of climate change impacts on marine and terrestrial environment. Predicted changes in precipitation and temperatures may alter future farming practices affected by the NAP.

5.0 Appraisal for Appropriate Assessment

5.1 Summary of Screening Appraisal

In order to comply with the requirements of Article 43(1) of the Habitats Regulations, the process of screening for HRA was undertaken at an earlier stage in the drafting of the NAP**.** The HRA Stage 1 screening appraisal assessed the potential for the NAP to result in LSEs on any European Sites within the UK National Site network and Natura 2000 network in RoI, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The Stage 1 screening appraisal report prepared concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the NAP was required for the following reasons:

- The NAP is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site;
- The possibility of likely significant Water Quality and Habitat Deterioration effects could not be excluded for European sites listed at Appendix A in the absence of further evaluation and analysis or the application of mitigation measures; and
- The possibility of likely significant Habitat Deterioration arising through aerial emission effects could not be excluded for European sites listed at Appendix A in the absence of further evaluation and analysis or the application of mitigation measures.

Therefore, adopting the precautionary principle, it was concluded that an appraisal for appropriate assessment (Stage 2 of HRA, as outlined in Section 2.2.1 above) must be undertaken.

The appraisal considers the implications of the NAP on European sites and potential for adverse effects[4] that could result from implementation of the NAP, on the integrity of any European Site, with respect to its conservation objectives, structure and function. EC guidance[5] states that the integrity of a site involves its ecological functions and the decision as to whether it is adversely affected should focus on, and be limited to, the site's conservation objectives. As noted earlier in this document, in the absence of geographic specificity of the measures contained within the NAP and given the strategic and large-scale nature of the NAP, the focus has been on the broad intention of conservation objectives more so than site specific conservation objectives.

The potential effects have been assessed in the absence of any mitigation measures (refer Section 2.2.4) and also with reference to the precautionary principle. It is noted that the development of the NAP has benefited from some integration of SEA/AA expertise to highlight and address concerns on an ongoing basis as the NAP has been finalised.

This is in line with the Habitats Regulations which promote a hierarchy beginning with avoidance before considering mitigation and compensatory measures.

5.2 Approach to Assessment

In line with the relevant guidance, this stage of the HRA consists of three main steps:

- **Impact Prediction:** where the likely impacts of the NAP are examined. A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to assess potential for impact;

[4] Effects considered include direct, indirect, short term, long term, temporary, permanent and cumulative.

[5] European Commission Notice C (2021) 6913 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (EC, 2021).

- **Assessment of Effects:** where the effects of the NAP are assessed as to whether they have any adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites as defined by conservation objectives; and
- **Mitigation Measures:** where mitigation measures are identified to ameliorate any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site.

5.3 Impact Prediction

The methodology for the assessment of impacts is derived from (EC, 2021). When describing changes/activities and impacts on ecosystem structure and function, the types of impacts that are commonly presented include:

- Direct and indirect effects;
- Short and long-term effects;
- Construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and
- Isolated, interactive and cumulative (or 'in-combination') effects.

A 'source-pathway-receptor' approach has been applied for this assessment:

- The **source** relates to the principles and priorities outlined in the NAP which have the potential to adversely impact European Sites, e.g. emissions to water or air from agriculture.
- The **pathway** relates to how implementation of the NAP can potentially impact European Sites, e.g. impacts to water quality primarily from agricultural runoff or habitat deterioration from airborne ammonia emissions and nitrogen deposition.
- The **receptor** is European Sies in NI and in RoI within the 15km ZoI.

5.3.1 Context for Impact Prediction

The impact prediction is based against the current environmental baseline of the relevant European Sites, including water quality of freshwater ecosystems, in addition to the NAP, in respect of its potential to impact upon these sites.

Against this baseline, the development and implementation of the NAP 2027-2030, may be considered to be positive in terms of its impacts on European Sites as it sets out the requirements for agricultural activities with the purpose of greater beneficial outcomes.

However, the measures within the NAP may have potential to impact on European Sites given the nature of the measures proposed. As the NAP is focussed at a national and strategic level (a whole territory approach), the potential is not for direct or location-specific impacts but rather high-level indirect impacts arising as a result of the various measures. Section 5.3.2 identifies the main potential ecological impacts that could arise for European sites from the implementation of the NAP measures.

5.3.2 Impact Identification

The Stage 1 Screening appraisal has identified the potential for a number of principle pathways for likely significant effects to occur to European Sites as a result of the proposed NAP, these include:

- Water quality and habitat deterioration as a result of agricultural runoff; and
- Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.

In addition to these identified LSEs, there remains potential for impacts associated with aerial noise, visual and physical habitat disturbance arising through agricultural activity in proximity to European Sites as a result of agricultural land management practices, with or without the proposed NAP.

The EU Commission has published a 2019 report on the links between the Birds and Habitat Directives and the Nitrates Directive[6], which is considered to be of direct relevance to potential impacts associated with nitrogen outputs to freshwater ecosystems which may arise as a result of the NAP. The report identifies that while aquatic flora requires nitrates for growth, in general aquatic fauna does not. While natural background levels of nitrates in water usually do not have a direct effect on aquatic fauna, once concentrations increase above the natural background, this can cause excessive growth in aquatic flora which changes the water ecosystem characteristics by reducing light availability, increasing amounts of organic matter and causing an unstable amount of dissolved oxygen. This brings aquatic ecosystem functioning into imbalance and may lead to eutrophication.

The eutrophication mechanism leads to a chain reaction, notably a change in the structure of biological communities and trophic networks, as well as changes in biogeochemical cycles. Such conditions endanger many aquatic fauna, leading in the long-term to reduced reproduction, leaving of the area or death, as well as potential extreme changes in habitats.

The report also provides the following non-exhaustive list of surface water and groundwater dependent habitats and species that are specifically or exceptionally vulnerable to nitrogen:

Surface water-dependent	**Groundwater-dependent**
• Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; • Lagoons; • Blanket bog (active only); • Bog woodland; • *Margaritifera margaritifera* (freshwater pearl mussel); • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia); • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.; and • Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition type vegetation.	• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*); • Hamatocaulis (drepanocladus) vernicosus (slender green feather-moss); • Machairs; • Alkaline fens; • Calcareous fens with *Cladium Mariscus* and species of *Caricion davallianae*; • Transition mires and quaking bogs; and • Turloughs.

A summary of the main potential ecological impacts that could arise from the implementation of the NAP and the measures arising from it are based on the above and presented below for use in the impact prediction.

Permanent and/or temporary deterioration: Habitat deterioration results in the diminishment of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction of toxic contamination introduced by agricultural practices from diffuse or point sources via the pathways discussed above - airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition and habitat deterioration arising as a result of water quality impacts from agricultural runoff.

Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc): This is relevant where there may be an impact on the hydrological/hydrogeological connection to a European Site or on water quality. This could be via point source or diffuse pollution from agricultural activities. In terms of potential for alteration of water quality, the impact(s) may be in-situ or ex-situ (i.e. downstream and outside the immediate area) and can

[6] FAQ note on the links between the Nature Directives and the Nitrates Directive, European Commission (2019)

include the release of nitrates, suspended solids or other discharges from land such as land used for agricultural activities. Alterations to subsurface water flow or groundwater can result in impact to groundwater dependent habitats such as petrifying springs and fens.

Climate change: Climate change has major indirect impacts on biodiversity through its interaction with other stressors, in particular habitat fragmentation and loss; over-exploitation; pollution of air, water and soil; and spread of invasive species. Climate change predictions for NI show significant projected decreases in mean annual, spring and summer precipitation amounts and an increase in extreme storm activity over Ireland by mid-century. Such changes are extremely likely to give rise to significant changes in ecological conditions within European Sites throughout NI and may have potential to be exacerbated through agricultural practises associated with the NAP.

In-combination effects: A series of individually modest impacts may, 'in-combination', produce a significant effect. The underlying intention of this in-combination provision is to take account of combined effects, and these will often only occur over time. In that context, one must consider plans or projects which are completed; in preparation; or approved but uncompleted. Where there is a series of small, but potentially adverse effects occurring within or adjacent to a European Site, consideration should be made as to their combined effects.

5.3.3 Impact Prediction

In line with the methodology for impact prediction outlined above, the main ecological impacts that could potentially arise from the existing measures in the NAP Regulations and recommended amendments included in the draft NAP 2027-2030 are summarised in **Table 5-1** and **Table 5-2**, respectively, and discussed in the following sections, In combination impacts are assessed separately in Section 5.6.

It is acknowledged that the NAP is a high-level document, and the measures are designed to be applied across the entire geographical area of NI and as such, prediction of effects at individual European sites is not always practical as the NAP lacks the necessary spatial detail to give context to the extent or significance of any potential effects arising from any individual farmholding. This approach is in line with the Opinion of the Advocate General in joint cases C-531/24 and C-895/24 (The An Taisce ruling), at paragraphs 95-98 (CJEU, 2026).

Table 5-1 Principal Ecological Impact Pathways that could potentially arise from the existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Part 2 - General			
4	Duty to Prevent Water Pollution	• None anticipated.	• N/A
5	Duty to comply with the NAP Regulations	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
6	Exemptions granted by DAERA	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
Part 3 – Prevention of Water Pollution from the Application of Fertilisers			
7	Closed Spreading Periods	• None anticipated.	• N/A
8	Land Application Restrictions	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands.

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
			• The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
9	Livestock Manure Nitrogen Limits	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
10	Nitrogen Fertiliser Application Limits	• None anticipated.	• N/A
11	Nitrogen Fertiliser Application Limits (Non-grassland)	• None anticipated.	• N/A
12	Application of Anaerobic Digestate	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
13	Limits on the land application of chemical phosphorus fertiliser	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff. •	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
14	Limits on land application of high phosphorus organic manures	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
15	Land Management	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
16	Fertilisation Plans	• None anticipated.	• N/A

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Part 4 - Storage Requirements			
17	Storage for Livestock Manure and Silage Effluent	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
18	Storage Capacity of Pig and Poultry Manure	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
19	Storage of Slurry	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
20	Storage of Farmyard Manure	• None anticipated.	• N/A
21	Storage of Poultry Litter and Anaerobic Digestate Fibre	• None anticipated.	• N/A
22	Storage of Dirty Water	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
23	Calculations of Livestock Manure Storage Capacity	• None anticipated.	• N/A
24	Making and Storage of Silage	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
25	Cover in Winter	• None anticipated.	• N/A

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Part 5 - Measures relating to Land Management			
26	Crop Management	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
Part 6 - Record Keeping and Compliance Monitoring			
27	Records Required	• None anticipated.	• N/A
28	True Records	• None anticipated.	• N/A
Part 7 - Enforcement			
29	Responsibility for Enforcement	• None anticipated.	• N/A
30	Serving of Notices	• None anticipated.	• N/A
31	Appeals	• None anticipated.	• N/A
32	Offences	• None anticipated.	• N/A
33	Penalties	• None anticipated.	• N/A
Part 8 - Powers, duties and functions of the department			
34	NAP reporting	• None anticipated.	• N/A
35	NAP review	• None anticipated.	• N/A
Part 9 - Miscellaneous			
36	Transitioning from previous Regulations	• None anticipated.	• N/A

No.	NAP Regulation	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
37	Necessary amendments to other legislation	• None anticipated.	• N/A
38	Revoking other Regulations and saving provisions	• None anticipated.	• N/A
Part 10 - Derogation from measures governing the limits on land application of livestock manure			
39	Additional measures relating to derogated farms	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands.
40	Derogation Applications	• None anticipated.	• N/A

Table 5-2 Main Ecological Impacts that could arise from the recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030

NAP Topic and Measure	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Nutrient Management – Balanced Nutrient Use, Fertiliser and Manure Controls		
Limit chemical phosphorus fertiliser availability through an advisory approach	• None anticipated	• N/A
Reducing the Northern Ireland average phosphorus surplus	• None anticipated	• N/A
Dairy cow nutrient excretion values – based on milk yield	• None anticipated	• N/A
Updated poultry nutrient excretion figures	• None anticipated	• N/A
Standard values for separated manures and slurries	• None anticipated	• N/A
Updated chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland	• None anticipated	• N/A
Allowance for processed organic fertiliser	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands
Manure Storage and Application Requirements – Ammonia Implications		
Reduced slurry application volumes in February and early October	• None anticipated	• N/A
Clearer definition of Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment	• None anticipated	• N/A
Tiered move to increased use of LESSE	• None anticipated	• N/A

NAP Topic and Measure	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Pre-Notification of new slurry and silage storage	• None anticipated	• N/A
Clarify cover requirement for new above-ground slurry stores	• None anticipated	• N/A
Limit the use of unprotected granular urea fertilisers	• None anticipated	• N/A
Anaerobic Digestate Measures	• None anticipated	• N/A
Farming Approaches to Improve Nutrient Use and Water Quality		
Nutrient Stewardship Programme – a revised approach to Derogation	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands
Mitigation measures for late harvested arable crops	• None anticipated	• N/A
A focused approach to improving water quality	• None anticipated	• N/A
Nutrient Efficiency Roadmap	• None anticipated	• N/A
Utilising Technology		
Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports	• None anticipated	• N/A
Extending the system to processed slurry solids and digestate movements	• None anticipated	• N/A
Additional measures to support environmentally sustainable farming		
Voluntary buffer strip on arable land	• None anticipated	• N/A

NAP Topic and Measure	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Awareness of existing storage requirements and how dirty water storage, rainwater and parlour washings can impact this	• None anticipated	• N/A
Voluntary liming programme on farms with high stocking rates	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands
Revised silage bale storage requirements	• None anticipated	• N/A
Technical Amendments		
Definition of Appropriate Person	• None anticipated	• N/A
Definition of Farmyard manure	• None anticipated	• N/A
Updating terminology	• None anticipated	• N/A
Covering of Lagoons	• Water quality and habitat deterioration arising as a result of agricultural runoff; and • Habitat deterioration through airborne ammonia and nitrogen compound deposition.	• All impacts identified associated with these Regulations would have potential to give rise to significant effects on the conservation status of Annex I habitats which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex I habitats within proximity to agricultural lands. • The identified impacts would have potential to give rise to impacts upon the conservation status of Annex II species which lie downstream of agricultural activities, or other sensitive Annex II species within proximity to agricultural lands

NAP Topic and Measure	Impact Identification	Impact Prediction
Definition of heavy rain	• None anticipated	• N/A
Changes to the Phosphorus content of livestock feed	• None anticipated	• N/A
Implementation – including inspections/enforcements		
False or misleading information provisions	• None anticipated	• N/A
Increased inspections based on risk	• None anticipated	• N/A

5.3.4 Key Existing Mechanisms of Relevance for the NAP

There are a number of national policy and legislative mechanisms already in place of relevance to the NAP in relation to both water quality as well as agriculture. These may be summarised as follows:

- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) introduced a comprehensive river basin management planning system to help protect and improve the ecological health of our rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal and groundwaters.
- The Draft Ammonia Strategy for Northern Ireland (in development) sets targets for 2030 and beyond for ammonia reduction, and proposes three pillars as part of a strategic approach to addressing ammonia: (1) An ambitious and verifiable ammonia reduction programme for implementation on farms, (2) A programme of restoration and management of our most valuable habitats to alleviate the symptoms of ammonia and nitrogen exceedance, and (3) A revised Operational Protocol for the assessment of impacts from atmospheric nitrogen pollution.

5.3.4.1 Water Quality Policy

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) came into force in December 2000 and is transposed into Northern Irish legislation through the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 and subsequent Water (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. The Regulations establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. The key environmental protection objectives are:

- Prevent deterioration of the status of all bodies of surface water and groundwater;
- Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water and groundwater with the aim of achieving good status by the end of 2027 at the latest;
- Protect and enhance all artificial and heavily modified bodies of water, with the aim of achieving good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status; and
- Achieve compliance with the requirements for designated protected areas.

The mechanism under the WFD by which these objectives are to be achieved is through the adoption and implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and Programmes of Measures (PoM) as outlined under Article 13 of the WFD. The 3rd cycle RBMP covers the period 2021-2027 and its Programme of Measures are being implemented by local authorities.

The linkages between the WFD and the Habitats and Birds Directives (BHD) have been outlined in a document published by the European Commission in 2011[7]. The document states:

> *'Any Natura 2000 site with water-dependent (ground- and/or surface water) Annex I habitat types or Annex II species under the Habitats Directive or with water-dependent bird species of Annex I or migratory bird species of the Birds Directive, and, where the presence of these species or habitats has been the reason for the designation of that protected areas, has to be considered for inclusion in the register of protected areas under WFD Article 6. These are summarised as "water-dependent Natura 2000 sites'.*

The report notes that 'there is a need to identify the water related requirements to achieve favourable conservation status of habitats and species dependent on water'; the focus therefore for Natura 2000 sites is on those dependent on water and on the water related requirements. The report also states that, according to WFD Article 4.1(c), the WFD objective of good status may need to be complemented by additional

[7] Links between the Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC) and Nature Directives (Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC). Frequently asked Questions. EC 2011

objectives in order to ensure that conservation objectives for protected areas are achieved. For example, if a certain concentration of a nutrient is needed to achieve good ecological status and a more stringent value is needed to achieve a site's conservation objectives, then the latter applies. A point made by the Advocate General in the An Taisce joined cases (C-531/24 and C-895/24) is also germane here –

> *"If a Member State was to establish that an increased application of nitrogen is incompatible with the prohibition of deterioration or the requirement for improvement under Article 4(1) of the Water Framework Directive, that does not necessarily mean that such application would not be lawful. Rather, it could be permitted if one of the derogations also provided for in Article 4 was applicable*". (paragraph 70, CJEU (2026)).

DAERA is responsible for producing RBMPs throughout Northern Ireland. As with RoI's RBMPs, NI has moved into its third cycle of plan for 2021-2027 covering the Neagh Bann, North Eastern and North Western River Basin Districts. The results of the third cycle RBMP classification mean that NI will not achieve the objective to have 70% of its water bodies at 'good or better' status. Little improvement has occurred since 2015; at that time 37% of all water bodies were at good or high status. While the failure of all surface water bodies to achieve good or high status in 2021 primarily relates to the changes in monitoring and inclusion of additional priority substances, comparison of ecological status shows little to no change in status from the previous cycle, and a decline in status for lake water bodies. Pressure assessments undertaken have identified that the main pressures acting upon the water environment in NI are nutrient pressures, relating primarily to agricultural activities and sewage-related problems[8]. The RBMP has identified that Soluble Reactive Phosphorous (SRP) was the cause of decline in status for 100 river water bodies in NI between 2015 and 2018, accounting for 20% of cases where water bodies failed due to one test element in 2015, and increasing to 40% of cases in 2018.

5.3.4.2 Current Agricultural Policies

In assessing the potential effects of the proposed NAP, the context of the existing frameworks of support available to farmers is of some relevance. Currently support and enforcement of standards in agriculture is administered through a range of mechanisms, until 2025 this was through the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Greening payments (which from 2021 were incorporated into the BPS payment system), young farmers payment, the formation of a regional reserve and cross-compliance. Cross-compliance is enforced and administered through the requirement for applicants to meet a number of statutory management requirements (SMRs) and maintaining the land for which support is paid, in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC).

SMRs cover the environment, climate change, public health, animal health and plant health and animal welfare. GAECs cover protection and management of water, protection of soil and carbon stock and minimum level of maintenance with regard to retention of landscape features and avoiding the deterioration of habitats. In 2025, DAERA replaced the BPS with the Farm Sustainability Transition Payment (FSTP) as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme which primarily carried over the existing BPS rules and acts as a transition to the introduction of the Farm Sustainability Payment in 2026.

In 2017, the significance of ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector was recognised with the addition of an Annex to the SALMS 'Making Ammonia Visible'[9], outlining policy for agriculture in NI in relation to ammonia. The overarching aim is to satisfy the joint need of bringing ammonia emissions from agriculture down, while allowing priority habitats and European Sites to recover. A draft ammonia strategy for NI has also been developed by DAERA.

[8] Third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021 - 2027

[9] Making Ammonia Visible

5.4 European Sites

This appropriate assessment considers European Sites designated in the UK National Site Network, under the Habitats Regulations, in addition to those sites within RoI designated under the Irish European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), transposing the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

The proposed programme, which is not connected or necessary to the management of any European Site (as supported by paragraph 84 of CJEU (2026)), has previously been screened against those European Sites for which a pathway of effect can be reasonably established between a receptor and the source of an effect.

As set out above the geographical scope of the project, which relates to agricultural activity undertaken across NI, has potential to give rise to potential effects upon European Sites across the country. Furthermore, the project has potential to give rise to transboundary effects upon European Sites within RoI which lie in close proximity to the NI/RoI border or those sites which lie downstream of and hydrologically linked to agricultural lands within NI.

The screening appraisal, undertaken using this ZoI, could not rule out likely significant effects arising to any of the European Sites screened into the assessment. As set out above, at **Table 4-1**, NI supports 58 SACs and 16 SPAs while RoI, within the ZoI of the NAP, supports 27 SACs and 10 SPAs. These sites, their Qualifying Interests (QIs) or Special Conservation Interests (SCIs or feature species), and conservation objectives are included in Appendix A and Appendix B summarises the identified sensitivity of the listed Annex I habitats and Annex II species (in Table 1 of Appendix B) or Annex I bird species (in Table 2 of Appendix B). In total, the screened European Sites include 70 QI features and 61 SCI bird features.

While it is noted that a large proportion of European Sites within NI and RoI will be potentially affected by measures within the NAP, in order to address the specific vulnerability of such sites to these potential impacts it is considered that further consideration of the qualifying features of the sites, their conservation objectives and their relative sensitivity is required. This further consideration is set out below in the context of the identified impact pathways which have been identified within the HRA screening appraisal of the programme.

5.4.1 Impacts Associated with Agricultural Runoff

Of the qualifying features for which all SACs and SPAs in NI and RoI have been designated, some are considered to be particularly sensitive to elevated nitrogen concentrations within surface and groundwaters potentially arising as a result of agricultural activities that may be affected by the NAP.

The primary identified pathway for potential adverse effects upon European Site integrity arising as a result of adopting the NAP and implementing and administering the NAP Regulations is the potential for effects upon the freshwater environment associated with agricultural runoff. This runoff is generated by various agricultural activities including the spreading of organic manures including livestock manures such as slurry, farmyard manure and dirty water and other organic manures including anaerobic digestate, sewage sludge and other waste and compost; in addition to the spreading of chemical fertilisers typically any combination of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilisers. These materials are typically applied to agricultural lands, including areas of improved grassland, arable and horticultural lands.

Runoff may also arise as a result of inappropriate storage of manure, silage and silage effluent.

These materials may enter the freshwater environment, typically surface water bodies in proximity to the lands to which such materials are applied or stored, as a result of the natural downhill movement and hydraulic flow characteristics of surface waters, exacerbated by high rainfall, steep slopes, saturated and impermeable soils and inappropriate spreading or storage practices.

An excessive supply of nutrients to water bodies, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, can lead to eutrophication, whereby these elevated concentrations result in accelerated growth of plants and algae. This reduces oxygen levels in the system, which can cause a loss of sensitive species and impact upon the ecological status of the water body. Elevated nutrient concentrations, arising from both point (e.g. sewage discharges) and diffuse (e.g. agricultural runoff) anthropogenic sources, represent the most significant threat to water quality within freshwater and coastal SACs in NI. In freshwaters, phosphorus is usually the limiting nutrient for plant and algal growth, whereas in marine waters nitrogen is generally the limiting nutrient.

It is well documented that eutrophication arising as a result of agricultural inputs to the freshwater environment is an issue of primary concern for a range of habitats and the species which are dependent upon such habitats, as recognised as a primary objective of the implementation of the WFD. A number of species included at Annex II of the Habitats Directive and forming QIs of SACs in NI are noted as being particularly sensitive to such inputs. These include freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, a QI of four of the sites screened into this assessment. The species can experience decreased recruitment, decreased growth and adult mortality as a result of increased levels of nitrate and phosphate (Bauer 1988 & 1992).

Salmonids, including the Annex II species Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* which is listed as a QI for ten screened in European Sites, are also particularly sensitive to the effects of eutrophication with direct effects including increased mortality (Jarvie et al. 2005), environmental toxicity through lowered pH levels and associated increases in harmful pathogens (Snieszko 1974), and indirect effects such as decreased food availability as a result of decreased macroinvertebrate abundance (Ortiz and Pulg 2007 and Friberg et al. 2010). Such impacts upon salmon populations may result in subsequent impacts upon other species, including freshwater pearl mussel for which salmon is an important host species during its larval stage and the Annex II species Otter, which forms a QI species for 13 European Sites screened into this assessment, for which salmon and other salmonids represent important prey species.

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* forms a QI for four SACs screened into this assessment. This aquatic Annex II species has been shown to be vulnerable to effects associated with eutrophication (Demers and Reynolds 2002, Haddaway et al. 2014).

Other freshwater Annex II species which form QIs for the European Sites screened into the assessment include sea lamprey, brook lamprey and river lamprey, which are QIs of Lough Gill SAC. This site is not hydrologically linked to agricultural lands within NI and as such will not be affected by inputs arising through agricultural runoff, however they may be subject to impacts associated with nutrient enrichment arising as a result of airborne deposition, as discussed below.

Previous studies have identified Annex I Habitats and Annex II Species within NI which are noted as being water dependant[10]. Many of these Annex I habitats and six Annex II species were identified within European Sites within the ZoI of the NAP. These include the following freshwater Annex I habitats (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Watercours of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation, which is a QI of six European sites screened into the assessment;
- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, which is a QI of eight European Sites screened into the assessment;
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea, which is a QI of four European sites screened into the assessment;

[10] Curtis, T., Downes, S. & Ni Chathain, B. (2009) The ecological requirements of water-dependent habitats and species designated under the Habitats Directive. Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. 109B, 261–319.

- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp., which is a QI of two European Sites screened into the assessment;
- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, which is a QI of four European Sites screened into the assessment;
- Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae), which is a QI of three European Sites screened into the assessment.

These habitats, where they lie downstream of agricultural lands within NI, are all vulnerable to impacts associated with nutrient enrichment through agricultural runoff. This can lead to altered vegetative composition of the habitats (Philips et al. 1978 & Seddon 2006), in addition to the development of algal species which negatively influence the diversity and health of the Annex I habitats (Dodds 2006).

In addition to the potential impacts to freshwater habitats and species, it is considered that agricultural runoff has potential to impact upon habitats which, while not aquatic, are closely associated with the freshwater environment, including those which are inundated by flows during periods of flooding, namely the Annex I habitat Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion alvae) which forms a QI for three SACs that were screened in at Stage 1. The ground floral composition and diversity of this habitat may be adversely impacted by deposition of nutrients during the inundation of floodwaters.

A range of water-dependent terrestrial Annex I habitats were considered within this assessment. These include the following QIs (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Alkaline fens;
- Blanket bogs;
- Bog woodland;
- Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae;
- European dry heaths;
- Machairs;
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion);
- Transition mires and quaking bogs; and
- Turloughs.

In addition to these water-dependant qualifying features a further three qualifying features were added to consideration within this assessment, namely the Annex II species: otter and white-clawed crayfish, and the Annex I Habitat Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-batrachion vegetation. These habitats and species and the number of SACs for which they represent qualifying features, within the project ZoI are set out below at **Table 5-3**. Where conservation objectives, including attributes and targets have been referred to, these have been taken from the most detailed information available, either from documentation published by DAERA or NPWS.

In addition to water dependant habitats and species which are particularly vulnerable to the potential effects arising as a result of the NAP, it is noted that a range of further Annex I habitats and Annex II species, inclusive of the vast majority of qualifying features are also sensitive, to a lesser extent, to surface and groundwater impacts associated with agriculture. The potential for effects on these qualifying features would therefore also arise as a result of inputs associated with the NAP. These include the following QIs (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Active raised bogs;

- Alpine and Boreal heaths
- Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae;
- Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration;
- Depressions on peat substrates of the rhynchosporion;
- European dry heaths;
- Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels;
- Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands;
- Limestone pavements;
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae);
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix;
- Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles;
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia);
- Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands;
- Species-rich Nardus grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe);
- Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; and
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.

It is considered that a range of these habitats, within the respective SACs for which they form QIs, may lie upstream of all agricultural activity undertaken in proximity to these designated sites. However, there is potential for adverse effects on these terrestrial habitats, which are vulnerable to the effects of nutrient enrichment and subsequent changes to vegetation composition as a result of agricultural runoff, to arise in the absence of the application of mitigation measures.

As agricultural runoff has potential to give rise to impacts upon the above listed habitats, including their vegetative composition, it is subsequently envisaged that Annex II species which are dependent upon such habitats are also vulnerable to such effects. These species include (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Geyer's whorl-snail;
- Killarney fern;
- Marsh Fritillary;
- Marsh Saxifrage;
- Narrow-mouthed whorl-snail; and
- Slender green feather-moss.

In addition to impacts to freshwater and terrestrial habitats which interact with freshwaters, it is well documented that agricultural runoff across catchments also gives rise to significant inputs to the marine and coastal environments, influencing the structure and functioning of such habitats through altered vegetative composition and through the effects of algal blooms which occur as a result of high levels of dissolved nitrogen (Vollenweider 1992; Krause-Jensen et al. 2007; Schramm 1996). On this basis the following Annex I coastal marine habitats are considered to be vulnerable to the effects of eutrophication arising through agricultural runoff (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Coastal lagoons;
- Estuaries;
- Large shallow inlets and bays;
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;
- Reefs;
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand;
- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time; and
- Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.

As set out in respect of terrestrial habitats, these coastal marine habitats may in certain circumstances be located at significant distances from agricultural lands associated with the NAP. However, there is some potential for adverse effects on these coastal habitats, which are vulnerable to the effects of nutrient enrichment and subsequent changes to vegetation composition as a result of agricultural runoff, to arise in the absence of the application of mitigation measures.

On the basis that the NAP may give rise to potential adverse effects in respect of the above listed coastal marine habitats it is considered that the programme has the potential to result in adverse effects upon a number of associated Annex II species which utilise these habitats. These species include (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Grey seal;
- Harbour porpoise; and
- Harbour seal.

It is also noted that while coastal habitats, such as those associated with dunes and saltmarsh have limited interaction with the marine environment, during high tide periods and during storm flows, there is potential for elevated nutrient content within coastal waters to give rise to increased nutrient deposition within such habitats in the absence of mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is some potential for surface water flows from agricultural land adjacent to such habitats to runoff into these coastal ecosystems, including through the inappropriate application of manures (Provoost et al. 2011) and in the absence of mitigation measures. On this basis the following Annex I habitats were considered to be vulnerable to nutrient enrichment relevant to the NAP (as listed in Table 1 of Appendix B):

- Annual vegetation of drift lines;
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea);
- Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae);
- Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae);
- Embryonic shifting dunes;
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (“grey dunes”);
- Humid dune slacks;
- Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi);
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks; and
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (“white dunes”)

On the basis that the NAP may give rise to adverse effects in respect of the above listed coastal habitats it is considered that the plan has the potential to result in adverse effects upon a single associated Annex II species which utilises these habitats, namely Petalwort.

Based on available Article 17 reporting for both NI[11] and RoI[12], as set out at Appendix B, the vast majority of qualifying features discussed above are in sub-favourable condition, with many of these habitats also exhibiting a negative trend. The 2024/25 Summary Feature Condition Assessment Status[13] for Terrestrial ASSI and Marine Features in NI has been published by DAERA and has also been considered and included Appendix B where applicable to qualifying features of each SAC within the ZoI. This also indicates that large a large proportion of qualifying features are in sub-favourable condition, with many showing a deteriorating trend. In the majority of cases identified threats include those arising through nutrient inputs from agriculture.

In respect of SPAs, these sites and their special conservation interests are generally less vulnerable to the effects of nutrient enrichment, via surface and groundwater or via airborne deposition, than SACs. This is due to the nature of the qualifying features which are only indirectly affected by nutrient enrichment of freshwater, marine or terrestrial habitats on which the Annex I bird species may be reliant. No SPAs in NI have been set specific conservation objectives which relate to nutrient enrichment or other agricultural runoff effects. Long-term indirect effects may however still occur. As set out at Table 2 of Appendix B, the SCI bird interests for which the SPAs are designated are all associated with either freshwater, marine or terrestrial habitats which have been identified above as being vulnerable to the inputs relevant to the NAP, and as such are considered vulnerable to the impacts of nutrient enrichment to their habitats in the absence of mitigation measures. Such enrichment can give rise to changes to food resource availability for these species in the short, medium, and long term.

Based on available Article 17 reporting for both NI and RoI, as set out at Appendix B, the vast majority of these SCIs are considered to have decreasing short-term or long-term trends. The 2024/25 Summary Feature Condition Assessment Status for Terrestrial ASSI and Marine Features in NI which was recently released has also been considered and in included in Appendix B where applicable to SCIs of each SPA within the ZoI. This indicates that large a large proportion of SCIs are in sub-favourable condition, however, the trend is unclassified. In the majority of cases identified threats include those arising through nutrient inputs from agriculture.

[11] The reporting has moved from the previous Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting) to the Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024, however the spatial data for the individual sites is not presently available from DAERA to provide information on specific designated sites, therefore the previous Article 17 Reporting has been given

[12] The spatial data for the third Article 17 report for RoI submitted in 2025 is not presently available from the NPWS website to provide information on specific designated sites

[13] 2024/25 Summary Feature Condition Status of Protected Areas

Table 5-3 Water Dependent QIs and European Sites

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
[1029] *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater pearl mussel)	3	1	Largely surface water dependant	N	N/A	Y	Water quality: macroinvertebrate and phyto-benthos (diatoms)	Restore water quality- macroinvertebrates: EQR greater than 0.90; phyto-benthos: EQR greater than 0.93	These EQRs correspond to high ecological status for these two Water Framework Directive biological quality elements. They represent high water quality with very low nutrient concentrations (oligotrophic conditions).
[1092] *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed crayfish)	1	3	Surface water dependant	Y	N	Y	Water quality	No decline	White-clawed crayfish is not considered very sensitive of water quality, but the species is intolerant of low pH and poorest water quality and lack of calcareous influence.
[1095] *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea lamprey)	0	1	Surface water dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[1096] *Lampetra planeri* (Brook lamprey)	0	1	Surface water dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
[1099] *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River lamprey)	0	1	Surface water dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[1106] *Salmo salar* (Atlantic salmon)	5	5	Surface water dependant	N	N/A	Y	Water quality	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA	Q values based on triennial water quality surveys.
[1150] Coastal lagoons	1	2	Surface and seawater dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)	Annual median DIN within natural ranges and less than 0.15mg/L	Target based on Roden and Oliver, 2010).
[1355] *Lutra lutra* (Otter)	6	7	Surface and seawater dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[1528] *Saxifraga hirculus* (Yellow/Marsh saxifrage)	1	0	Largely groundwater dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[21A0] Machairs	0	2	Largely groundwater dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals	0	3	Largely surface water dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: nutrients	Restore the concentration of nutrients in the water column to sufficiently low levels to support	As a nutrient-poor habitat, oligotrophic and Water Framework Directive (WFD) 'high' status targets apply. Where a lake has nutrient concentrations that

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
of sandy plains (*Litttorelletalia)*								the habitat and its typical species.	are lower than these targets, there should be no decline within class, i.e. no upward trend in nutrient concentrations. For lake habitat 3110, annual average Total Phosphorus (TP) concentration should ≤10µg/l TP, average annual total ammonia concentration should be ≤0.040mg/l N and annual 95th percentile for total ammonia should be ≤0.090mg/l N. See also the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009.
[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or	3	1	Surface water dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: nutrients	Restore the concentration of nutrients in the water column to sufficiently low levels to support the habitat and its typical species.	Lake habitat 3130 is associated with high water quality, with low dissolved nutrients. It is naturally more productive than 3110, probably reflecting higher concentrations of nutrients such as calcium, rather than P alone. 3130 may

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
Isoeto-Nanojuncetea									reach favourable condition slightly above the oligotrophic boundary for nutrients, but in the absence of habitat-specific targets, the targets are Water Framework Directive (WFD) 'High Status' or oligotrophic (OECD, 1982). The "good-moderate" boundary is too enriched to support the habitat. Annual average Total phosphorus (TP) concentration should be ≤10µg/l TP, average annual total ammonia should be ≤0.04mg/l and and annual 95th percentile for total ammonia should be ≤0.090mg/l N. Where nutrient concentrations are lower there should be no upward trend.
[3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic	1	1	Largely groundwater dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: nutrients	Restore the concentration of nutrients in the water column to sufficiently low	Lake habitat 3140 is associated with high water quality, with low dissolved nutrients. Some forms of the habitat appear to be

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
vegetation of *Chara spp.*								levels to support the habitat and its typical species.	naturally more productive than others, e.g. the machair form may be naturally more nutrient-rich. The default target for typical marl lakes is Water Framework Directive (WFD) 'High Status' or oligotrophic (OECD, 1982). Annual average Total phosphorus (TP) concentration should be ≤10µg/l TP, average annual total ammonia should be ≤0.04mg/l and and annual 95th percentile for total ammonia should be ≤0.090mg/l N. Where nutrient concentrations are lower there should be no upward trend.
[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamium*- or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation	2	2	Both surface and groundwater dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: nutrients	Restore the concentration of nutrients in the water column to sufficiently low levels to support	As a relatively productive habitat, mesotrophic and Water Framework Directive 'good' status targets apply. Where a lake has nutrient concentrations that are lower than these targets,

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
								the habitat and its typical species.	there should be no decline within class, i.e. no upward trend in nutrient concentrations. For lake habitat 3150, annual average TP concentrations should be ≤20µg/l TP, average annual total ammonia concentration should be ≤0.065mg/l N and annual 95th percentile for total ammonia should be ≤0.14mg/l N.
[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	5	3	Surface water dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: nutrients	Maintain the concentration of nutrients in the water column to sufficiently low levels to support the habitat and its typical species	As a nutrient poor habitat, oligotrophic and Water Framework Directive 'high' status targets apply. Where a lake has nutrient concentrations that are lower than these targets, there should be no decline within class, i.e. no upward trend in nutrient concentrations. For 3160 lakes and ponds, annual average TP concentrations should be ≤5µg/l TP, average annual total

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
									ammonia concentration should be ≤0.04mg/l N and annual 95th percentile for total ammonia should be ≤0.09mg/l N.
[3180] Turloughs (Ireland)	1	1	Largely groundwater dependant	Y	Y	Y	Soil nutrient status: nitrogen and phosphorus	Maintain/restore nutrient status appropriate to soil types and vegetation communities	Waldren (2015) found mean total nitrogen (TN) at Coolcam of 4,983mg/kg TN and total phosphorus (TP) of 245mg/kg TP
[3260] Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-batrachion* vegetation	5	1	Largely surface water dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality: nutrients	Maintain the concentration of nutrients in the water column necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat.	Mean annual total ammonia must be ≤ 0.040 mg/l N for high status and ≤ 0.065 mg/l N for good status, and the annual 95th percentile must be ≤ 0.090 mg/l N (high) and ≤ 0.140 mg/l N (good). Mean molybdate reactive phosphorus must be ≤ 25 µg/l P (high) or ≤ 35 µg/l P (good) and the annual 95th percentile must be ≤ 45 µg/l P (high) and ≤ 75 µg/l P (good).

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
[7130] Blanket bogs (active only)	8	11	Largely rainwater dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	3	4	Groundwater dependant	Y	N	Y	Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Maintain soil pH and nutrient status within natural ranges	Relevant nutrients and their natural ranges are yet to be defined. However, nitrogen deposition is noted as being relevant to this habitat in NPWS (2013). See also Bobbink and Hettelingh (2011)
[7210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Carex davalliana*	1	1	Groundwater dependant	Y	Y	Y	Ecosystem function: water quality	Maintain appropriate water quality, particularly nutrient levels, to support the natural structure and functioning of the habitat	Fens receive natural levels of nutrients (e.g. iron, magnesium and calcium) from water sources. However, they are generally poor in nitrogen and phosphorus with the latter tending to be the limiting nutrient
[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)	1	4	Groundwater dependant	Y	Y	Y	Water quality - nitrate level	No increase from baseline nitrate level and less than 10mg/l	Target based on data from McGarrigle et al. (2010). See Lyons and Kelly (2016) for further details

Water Dependent QI	Total Number of European Sites with the ZoI		Type of Water Dependency	Conservation objectives with specific reference to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Specific targets set for impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Conservation objectives with indirect relevance to impacts associated with agricultural runoff (Y/N)	Relevant Conservation Objective (DAERA or NPWS)		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland					Attribute	Target	Notes
[7230] Alkaline fens	4	4	Groundwater dependant	Y	N	Y	Ecosystem function: water quality	Maintain appropriate water quality, particularly nutrient levels, to support the natural structure and functioning of the habitat	Fens receive natural levels of nutrients (e.g. iron, magnesium and calcium) from water sources. However, they are generally poor in nitrogen and phosphorus, with the latter tending to be the limiting nutrient
[91D0] Bog woodland	3	1	Surface and rainwater dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	3	1	Largely surface water dependant	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
[1393] Slender green feather-moss (Hamatocaulis (Drepanodadus) vernicosus)	0	1	Groundwater dependent	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.4.2 Impacts Associated with Airborne Nutrient Deposition

In addition to the potential for surface and groundwater impacts, effects arising because of activities relevant to the NAP as a result of agricultural runoff, there is another potential pathway for nutrient enrichment of habitats arising as a result of agricultural activities associated with the NAP, that being via the airborne emission of ammonia from spread and stored manures and the subsequent deposition of nitrogen compounds within the receptor habitats. The majority of SACs in NI are designated on account of a supported Annex I habitat of a type sensitive to atmospheric ammonia, with critical levels assigned to these habitats of 1µg/m^3 (Kelleghan et al. 2019). These critical levels have been assigned on the basis of best available data (Cape et al. 2009) however this value may not be conservative enough when assessing the potential impacts of deposition of airborne nutrient compounds including NOx and ammonia (Bobbink et al. 2010). Effects may arise in respect of all SACs which lie in proximity to agricultural activities related to the NAP which give rise to airborne ammonia emissions.

Emissions of ammonia lead to the deposition of nitrogen compounds on land, through either dry deposition close to the emission source, or wet deposition in rainfall that can be transported much further afield. The effects of exposure to ammonia are particularly important for sensitive habitats such as bogs and woodlands. In bogs, sensitive plants are subject to stress much faster through dry deposition than they are through wet deposition (i.e. at lower nitrogen loads), and exposure can lead to direct damage to sensitive species, changes in community composition, plant water stress, and changes in plant morphology. Owing to their acidic nature, ombrotrophic bogs provide a significant sink for ammonia. In woodlands ammonia can result in direct damage to foliage, and adverse effects such as increased sensitivity to drought, frost, and pest attack, loss of mycorrhiza and fruit bodies, and changes in community composition (Bobbink et al. 1998).

It is noted that all of the SACs and SPAs included within this RIAA occur in or in close proximity to agricultural activity within NI on lands likely to be affected by the proposed NAP. These European sites are considered highly likely to be subject to dry and wet deposition of nitrogen compounds arising as a result of NAP relevant activities. While the severity of eutrophication arising via this pathway may in some cases be minimal, relative to the potential inputs arising through runoff, due to physical separation between the sites and areas of agricultural land, it is considered, on a precautionary basis, that all such sites may experience significant levels of nitrogen enrichment via this pathway. Sensitivity of the QI habitats and species or SCI bird species to this nitrogen enrichment is variable however as noted above, all the QI habitats, associated Annex II species and wetland habitats upon which Annex I bird species rely are considered to be to some extent susceptible to adverse effects associated with such inputs.

The Air Pollution Information System (APIS)[14] provides a searchable database and information on pollutants and their impacts on habitats and species. This includes indicative values of critical levels of ammonia concentrations for sensitive habitats. This enables a search of designated European Sites, and features within, that are receiving ammonia concentrations that are above their critical level. Of the 58 SACs in NI, 50 sites have ammonia concentrations that are above the critical level for the habitats present. This relates to the following broad habitat types:

- Acidophilous Quercus forest (25 sites)
- Alluvial forest (6 sites)
- Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub habitats (5 sites)
- Arctic-alpine calcareous grassland (5 sites)
- Arctic-alpine rich fens (1 site)

[14] APIS - Air Pollution Information System

- Atlantic Pioneer salt marshes (6 sites)
- Carpinus and Quercus mesic deciduous forest (2 sites)
- Coastal dune grasslands (grey dunes) (5 sites)
- Coastal dune heaths (1 site)
- Dry heaths (10 sites)
- Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides (2 sites)
- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters (1 site)
- Moist and wet dune slacks (2 sites)
- Moist and wet dune slacks – acid type (3 sites)
- Moist and wet dune slacks - calcareous type (3 sites)
- Moist or wet mesotrophic to eutrophic hay meadow (5 sites)
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (2 sites)
- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or hydrochariton type vegetation (2 sites)
- Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland (2 sites)
- Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath (13 sites)
- Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools (6 sites)
- Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools (including softwater lakes) (3 sites)
- Raised and blanket bogs (28 sites)
- Rich fens (7 sites)
- Semi-dry Perennial calcareous grassland (basic meadow steppe) (3 sites)
- Shifting coastal dunes (3 sites)
- Turloughs (1 site)
- Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires (14 sites)
- Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts (1 site)
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation (4 sites)

Each of these habitats have a critical level of 1µg $NH3/m^3$ (annual mean); at 22 European sites, ammonia levels are over twice this value, and at 4 sites they are over 3 times this concentration.

NI's Article 17 supporting documentation[15] for the conservation status assessment of features at these sites was examined for any pressures or threats relating to air pollution, and those specified as arising from agricultural activities. Of the 48 habitats for which specific supporting documentation for Northern Ireland was available, 10 habitat assessments specified 'mixed-source air pollution, air-borne pollutants' as a pressure or threat (7 as a high-ranking pressure/threat and 3 as medium-ranking), while 22 habitat assessments

[15] The reporting has moved from the previous Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting) to the Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024, however the spatial data for the individual sites is not presently available from DAERA to provide information on specific designated sites, therefore the previous Article 17 Reporting has been given

specified ‘agricultural activities generating air pollution’ as a pressure or threat to the habitat (9 at a high-ranking level and 13 at a medium-ranking level). Of the 26 species for which specific supporting documentation for Northern Ireland was available, one species’ assessment (Marsh fritillary butterfly) specified ‘agricultural activities generating air pollution’ as a pressure or threat to the species (medium-ranking), while four other species (Petalwort, large white-moss, Marsh saxifrage and Pollan) specified ‘mixed-source air pollution, air-borne pollutants’ as a pressure or threat (all high-ranking).

APIS provides indicative values within nutrient nitrogen critical load ranges for habitats, for use in air pollution impact assessments. This enables a search of European Sites, and features within, that are receiving a level of nitrogen deposition that is above their critical load. **Table 5-4** shows the European sites in NI with one or more features receiving above their critical nitrogen load. Of the 58 SACs in NI, 48 are receiving nitrogen deposition that is above the critical load for the designated habitat or species present.

In addition to the total nitrogen deposition at the site, APIS provides an indication of the source attribution (how the deposition at the site is apportioned between different emission sources), and the relative extent to which these are local or long-range in nature. **Table 5-4** indicates the total % of nitrogen deposition at these sites attributable to agricultural activities occurring within NI, and the proportional contribution of livestock and fertiliser to this. This indicates that, of the nitrogen deposited at these sites, between 16 and 63.5% is attributable to agricultural activities taking place within NI (a combination of livestock and fertiliser sources).

Table 5-4 European Sites with Nitrogen Deposition above Critical Loads and Proportion Attributable to NI Agriculture

SAC	Broad Habitat Type/Species Above Critical N Load	% Contribution to site deposition from NI Agriculture*		
		Livestock %	Fertiliser %	Total %
Aughnadarragh Lough	Marsh fritillary butterfly	46	4.7	50.7
Ballykilbeg	Marsh fritillary butterfly	39.2	3.22	42.2
Ballynahone Bog	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	46.1	3.3	49.4
Banagher Glen	Acidophilous Quercus forest; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wetland; Carpinus and Quercus mesic deciduous forest	47.5	3.6	51.1
Bann Estuary	Atlantic upper-mid & mid-low salt marshes; Shifting coastal dunes; Coastal dune grasslands (grey dunes); Moist and wet dune slacks – acid type; Moist and wet dune slacks -calcareous type	43.3	3.2	46.5
Binevenagh	Arctic-alpine calcareous grassland; Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub habitats; Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	49.1	5.7	54.8
Black Bog	Raised and blanket bogs	53.9	3.4	57.3
Breen Wood	Raised and blanket bogs; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wetland; Acidophilous Quercus forest	56.2	4.5	60.7
Carn-Glenshane Pass	Raised and blanket bogs; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wetland	48.2	3.8	52

SAC	Broad Habitat Type/Species Above Critical N Load	% Contribution to site deposition from NI Agriculture*		
		Livestock %	Fertiliser %	Total %
Cranny Bogs	Raised and blanket bogs	43.6	2.6	46.2
Cuilcagh Mountain	Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub habitats; Raised and blanket bogs; Dry heath; Arctic-alpine calcareous grassland; Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Semi-dry Perennial calcareous grassland (basic meadow steppe);	24.9	2	26.9
Curran Bog	Raised and blanket bogs	43.9	2.8	46.7
Dead Island Bog	Raised and blanket bogs	54.1	3.3	57.4
Deroran Bog	Raised and blanket bogs	49.9	3	52.9
Derryleckagh	Acidophilous Quercus forest; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires; Marsh fritillary butterfly	41.8	2.6	44.4
Eastern Mournes	Raised and blanket bogs; Arctic-alpine calcareous grassland; Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub habitats; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Dry heaths; Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools (including softwater lakes)	30.1	3	33.1
Fairy Water Bogs	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	49.7	3.5	53.2
Garron Plateau	Rich fens; Raised and blanket bogs; Dry heaths; Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools (including softwater lakes); Arctic-alpine calcareous grassland; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	56.4	3	59.4
Garry Bog	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	54.3	3.4	57.7
Hollymount	Acidophilous Quercus forest	40.4	3.4	33.8
Largalinny	Raised and blanket bog; Dry heath; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Acidophilous Quercus forest; Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub habitats	30.2	2.6	32.8
Lough Melvin	Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Acidophilous Quercus forest; Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools (including softwater lakes)	15.1	0.9	16
Magheraveely Marl Loughs	Rich fens	24.1	2	25.1

SAC	Broad Habitat Type/Species Above Critical N Load	% Contribution to site deposition from NI Agriculture*		
		Livestock %	Fertiliser %	Total %
Magilligan	Moist and wet dune slacks; Marsh fritillary butterfly; Coastal dune grasslands (grey dunes); Moist and wet dune slacks - acid type;	39.3	3.6	42.9
Main Valley Bogs	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	57.2	3.5	60.5
Monawilkin	Dry heath; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Acidophilous Quercus forest	30	2.5	32.5
Moneygal Bog	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	36.9	1.9	38.8
Moninea Bog	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	19.3	1.2	20.5
Montiaghs Moss	Marsh fritillary butterfly; Moist or wet mesotrophic to eutrophic hay meadow; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	44.7	2.9	47.6
Murlough	Coastal dune heaths; Atlantic upper-mid & mid-low salt marshes; Moist and wet dune slacks; Shifting coastal dunes; Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland; Coastal dune grasslands (grey dunes)	38.9	2.5	41.4
North Antrim Coast	Atlantic upper-mid & mid-low salt marshes; Dry heaths; Coastal dune grasslands (grey dunes); Moist and wet dune slacks - acid type; Shifting coastal dunes; Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland; Vertigo angustior – Narrow mouthed whorl snail (Low and medium altitude hay meadows)	52.6	3.7	56.3
Owenkillew River	Raised and blanket bogs; Acidophilous Quercus forest	52.4	3.4	55.8
Peatlands Park	Raised and blanket bogs; Acidophilous Quercus forest	60.6	2.9	63.5
Pettigoe Plateau	Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools (including softwater lakes); Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools; Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires; Dry heaths; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	25.7	3.2	28.9
River Faughan and Tributaries	Acidophilous Quercus forest	45.7	3.9	49.6
River Roe and Tributaries	Acidophilous Quercus forest	46.9	4.1	51
Rostrevor Wood	Acidophilous Quercus forest	37.5	2.5	40

SAC	Broad Habitat Type/Species Above Critical N Load	% Contribution to site deposition from NI Agriculture*		
		Livestock %	Fertiliser %	Total %
Slieve Beagh	Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools; Raised and blanket bogs; Dry heaths	51	3	54
Slieve Gullion	Raised and blanket bogs; Dry heaths; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	42	2.7	44.7
Strangford Lough	Atlantic upper-mid & mid-low salt marshes; Coastal dune grasslands (grey dunes);	41	3.6	44.6
Teal Lough	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires; Dry heaths; Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	53.9	2.9	56.8
Tonnagh Beg Bog	Raised and blanket bogs	49.3	3.1	52.4
Tully Bog	Raised and blanket bogs	42.1	2.5	44.6
Turmennan	Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	43.7	2.9	46.6
Upper Ballinderry River	Raised and blanket bogs; Acidophilous Quercus forest	52	3.4	55.4
Upper Lough Erne	Rich fens; Raised and blanker bogs; Moist or wet mesotrophic to eutrophic hay meadow; Acidophilous Quercus forest	37.3	3.1	40.4
West Fermanagh Scarplands	Raised and blanket bogs; Arctic, alpine and subalpine scrub habitats; Arctic-alpine calcareous grassland; ; Dry heaths; Permanent dystrophic lakes, ponds and pools; Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath; Acidophilous Quercus forest; Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools (including softwater lakes); Semi-dry Perennial calcareous grassland (basic meadow steppe); Carpinus and Quercus mesic deciduous forest; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	29.4	2.2	31.6
Wolf Island Bog	Raised and blanket bogs; Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	52.5	3.2	55.7

5.5 Assessment of Existing and Proposed NAP Regulations

As outlined in Section 3.2, the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 are sub-divided into 10 parts, with reference to eight Schedules. Part 1 comprises background information and the definition of terms used in the NAP Regulations and is not assessed. Parts 2 – 10, are being assessed and include the suite of measures which aim to improve nutrient management and reduce water pollution from agricultural activities. The draft NAP 2027-2030 comprises measures and amendments under 7 topic areas, all of which are being assessed. Each of these elements being assessed have some potential, directly or indirectly, to give rise to effects upon European sites across a range of timescales.

This assessment is undertaken in the context of the European Sites and relevant Conservation Objectives, as discussed above in Section 5.4, particularly in regard to those sites which support qualifying features known to be vulnerable to the effects identified as potentially arising as a result of the existing and proposed NAP Regulations.

The NAP Regulations are part of the legal framework listed in the WFD NI Regulations, giving DAERA powers and duties to manage water quality to achieve the intended outcomes. The objectives of Article 4(1) of the Water Framework Directive require more than the prohibition of deterioration and the requirement for improvement. Under Article 4(1)(c), within the same timeframe, Member States are also to achieve compliance with any standards and objectives for protected areas. That applies in particular, under Article 6 and point 1(v) of Annex IV, to European sites, where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in the protection of the sites. That constitutes a further objective to be achieved by the programme of measures under Article 11 of the Water Framework Directive and therefore also by the action programmes under the Nitrates Directive. By setting rules for fertiliser and manure use, storage, nutrient management and other activities on farms, the NAP Regulations are intended to reduce pressures on rivers, lakes, groundwater, and coastal waters in support of achieving the objectives that are set for individual waterbodies.

Before establishing an action programme, Member States must thus also assess its effects on European sites. The criteria for assessment under the Habitats Regulations are evident from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. As noted at paragraph 95 of CJEU (2026), an assessment of implications can be meaningfully carried out only if the impending adverse effects on European sites are already sufficiently identifiable. Measures which entail an abstract risk of adverse effects on protected areas but do not yet allow the specific effects on individual sites to be identified cannot be assessed in terms of their implications on European sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

As stated previously, it is noted that the NAP Regulations are applied nationwide and therefore, do not deal with location specific elements associated with individual farms or agricultural activities within sub-areas, such as catchments, within NI. As such, it is not achievable at this level of assessment (the plan level) to undertake a detailed appraisal of the predicted effects of the existing and proposed NAP Regulations at the level of individual European Sites. This approach has also been adopted in RoI in its appropriate assessment of the 5th Cycle NAP and is reflected in CJEU (2026), and also in it's 6th Cycle NAP. This assessment will therefore focus upon the overall effects upon European sites which would be predicted to occur as a result of the existing and proposed NAP Regulations. This will be undertaken in the context of historical trends in water quality, air quality, the known condition and threats to qualifying features of European Sites across NI and the relevant areas of RoI and the material changes to be implemented as a result of the implementation of the existing and proposed NAP Regulations as it compares to current agricultural policy.

The distinction between the existing NAP regime and the proposed NAP regime is important. In general, the assessment of these measures indicates that the potential for effects on the environment from their implementation are largely positive, reflecting their nature as protective measures. However, measures within the draft NAP 2027-2030 also effectively prescribe agricultural activities, such as the application of organic manures and chemical fertilisers. Consideration of the baseline environment shows that the status and trends in water quality, biodiversity and designated site condition (as evident from Appendix B) are declining, and there is evidence that agricultural activities in NI are a significant driver of these declines.

In principle, a NAP review could reach a decision that certain existing measures are to continue and are sufficient to achieve the objectives of Article 1 of the Nitrates Directive. This would result in the continuation of existing measures without any change. From a Habitats Regulations context, the continuation of an existing measure would generally not give rise to any new 'effects' which might trigger an assessment under Article 6(3), but continuation of ongoing measures or activities requires careful consideration under the

Habitats Directive; some ongoing activities fall within the scope of Article 6(2) whilst others are subject to the specific assessment steps under Article 6(3). As noted in the introduction to this RIAA, Article 6(3) is primarily concerned with avoiding adverse effects from adoption of new plans and consenting new projects (looking forwards) whereas Article 6(2) is inherently backward-looking.

DTA (2026) makes the distinction clear –

> *"Article 6(2) also makes provision for proactive measures which are preventative in nature; they involve the taking of appropriate steps to avoid habitat deterioration and significant species disturbance. Articles 6(1) and (2) are primarily concerned with addressing existing threats and pressures through positive management and preventative steps; they generally apply to effects from existing ongoing activities. Where a restoration objective applies the Directive therefore assumes that measures and steps under 6(1) and (2) will be being taken.*
>
> *Article 6(3) and (4) are reactive preventative measures to avoid significant effects from proposed plans and projects. They set out a series of procedural and substantive safeguards governing plans and projects which have a 'likely significant effect' on a European site".*

OEP (2026) points out that "*there is currently no legal case precedent or legal authority in Northern Ireland which indicates how the Habitats Regulations specifically interrelate with the NAP Regulations*". This is a germane point in relation to Article 6(2) obligations, but we will return to that later.

Table 5-5 sets out the assessment of the existing 2019 NAP Regulations for NI in the context of potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of relevant European Sites in view of the conservation objectives of those sites, while the assessment of measures in the draft NAP 2027-2030 are outlined in Section 5.5.2 in **Table 5-6**.

5.5.1 Assessment of existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

Table 5-5 sets out the assessment of the existing NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 in the context of potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of relevant European Sites in view of the conservation objectives of those sites.

Table 5-5 Assessment of Existing NAP Regulations

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
Part 2 - General			
4	**Duty to prevent water pollution** – responsibility is placed on controllers and their employees to prevent water pollution by ensuring organic and inorganic fertilisers do not enter any surface waters or ground waterbodies.	This measure places personal responsibility on controllers and their employees to ensure that their activities do not negatively impact water quality by ensuring all fertilisers applied to their ground (both organic and inorganic) do not enter surface waters or ground waterbodies. Onus is placed on the controller (and their employees) to follow all appropriate regulations and guidelines relating to the spreading of fertilisers on all lands with specific measures relating to fertiliser spreading in close proximity to water courses. Positive effects of this measure include reduced nutrient loadings to water bodies. This will have positive effects for water quality and biodiversity, flora & fauna (BFF) in freshwater and downstream marine European Sites and those which are hydrologically linked within the 15km ZoI, located within the Republic of Ireland. However, these positive effects are reliant on effective, widespread implementation and enforcement of this measure.	It is considered that this measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive effects upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. There are no positive or negative effects expected from this measure to air quality across European Sites.
5	**Duty to comply with NAP Regulations** - The controller must have regard for any NAP guidance issued by DAERA as well as the COGAP.	Similar to Regulation 4 above, this measure places responsibility on controllers and their employees to adhere to all guidance published by DAERA in support of NAP Regulations and the COGAP. The NAP Regulations and COGAP promote measures to reduce the negative effects of agricultural activities on water, soil, air quality and overall ecosystem functions. This measure has the potential for positive effects for water quality and BFF in freshwater and downstream marine European Sites due to reductions in nutrient loadings to water bodies from agricultural lands. The use of LESSE (Regulation 8) will have positive effects for air quality and climatic factors with reduced emissions of NH_3 and N_2O to the atmosphere. However, these positive effects are reliant on effective, widespread implementation and enforcement of NAP Regulations. It should be noted that while effects on the whole are positive, there is potential for negative effects on European Sites. In certain areas, where nutrient mobilisation pathways are highly active due to landscape specific factors such as topography, hydrology and soil type, limits placed on fertiliser applications may continue to pose risks to water quality. In addition, on holdings of lower stocking densities where	The effects of this measure are considered to be largely positive and will benefit European Sites in a number of ways. Positive effects will also relate to European Sites within the 15km ZoI. The scale of positive effects is subject to appropriate implementation and enforcement. There remains potential for certain measures with the NAP Regulations to have negative effects to European Sites, particularly in regard to water and air quality. Mitigation through continued monitoring and appropriate

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
		LESSE is not required, there remains a potential for negative effects to European Sites in respect to water quality, air quality and climatic factors. There is also potential for these negative effects as a result of Regulation 9 which permits application of up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year from grazing livestock manure subject to specific additional criteria and conditions under Regulation 39.	implementation of safeguards within the NAP Regulations is required.
6	**Exemptions Granted by DAERA** - DAERA may exempt research activities and other activities of DAERA or other agencies that they authorize, where these may benefit water quality and agricultural nutrient use efficiency, or protect human, animal, or environmental health.	This measure has the potential for both positive and negative effects on European Sites. The significance of effects will be dependent on the nature, scale and location of exempt activities. On agricultural holdings where NAP Regulations are not applicable, there is the potential for negative effects. Research that qualifies for an exemption to the NAP Regulations, by aiming to improve nutrient efficiency in agricultural systems, may have potential for positive effects. Similarly, short-term exemptions from the NAP Regulations to address emergency situations within or in proximity European Sites where human/animal or environmental health could be at risk, have the potential for positive effects.	This measure has the potential for both positive and negative effects on European Sites. Appropriate consideration and mitigation measures should be implemented when authorising and conducting exempt activities.
Part 3 – Prevention of water pollution from the application of fertilisers			
7	**Closed spreading periods** – applications of fertilisers are prohibited in the winter months to reduce water pollution risks.	This measure aims to nutrient enrichment of water bodies by prohibiting fertiliser applications during the winter months when plant growth rates and nutrient uptake are low but rainfall is high. Increased overland flow and soil saturation resulting from frequent, high intensity rainfall events during the winter months make applications of fertiliser too great a risk to freshwater and downstream marine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives for water quality. Hydrologically connected Republic of Ireland European Sites within the 15 km ZoI will also benefit from positive effects. This measure is expected to result in positive effects for European Sites due to reduced nutrient loadings which cause water quality issues such as eutrophication, which in turn damages habitat quality for aquatic flora and fauna. Under Regulation 7(2), chemical fertiliser cannot be applied to land within the specified closed period unless there is a demonstratable crop requirement. If adhered to correctly, this is not expected to have any significant adverse effects on European Sites.	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European sites through reduced nutrient loadings to water bodies. Mitigation comprises compliance with existing legislative requirements. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should consider options to strengthen the existing NAP Regulations related to 'closed periods' and the timing and location of organic manure applications to land. This should include

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
			reassessing farmyard dirty water management controls where current measures appear impractical, and winter applications are increasing the risk of nutrient losses to water.
8	**Land application restrictions** – Sets restrictions for the rates, methods and types of fertiliser applications and specifies ground conditions and buffer zone distances from surface waters which must be adhered too.	This measure aims to reduce nutrient losses via losses to water bodies and emissions to air by outlining the manner by which fertiliser should be applied to land, this includes the appropriate ground conditions, machinery to be used, application rates and buffer zones relative to water body risk. It is expected that this measure will have positive effects to European Sites by reducing the water quality risks of fertiliser applications and preventing NH_3 volatilisation and N_2O losses to the atmosphere. There remains some potential for negative effects to European Sites. Regardless of the accuracy by which fertilisers are applied, there will be a degree of loss to the atmosphere. Methods that are more direct in terms of land application, such as LESSE, should ensure that more nutrients are incorporated into the soil, and reduce the risk to European Sites.	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency and by avoiding activities which pose a risk for nutrient mobilisation to water or air. Potential negative effects are limited to agricultural lands where digestate from anaerobic digestors are applied or where NAP Regulations relating to LESSE and application rates are not applicable. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
9	Livestock manure nitrogen limits and excretion rates for nitrogen and phosphorus	This measure places farm specific limits for manure applications via spreading or deposits by the livestock themselves. Limits are calculated based on livestock excretion rates and nutrient content of fertilisers, a maximum limit outside of derogation is set at 170 kg nitrogen/ha/year. If this measure is adhered to correctly, there is the potential for positive effects on European Sites for water quality, air quality, biodiversity and climatic factors due to the reduction of nutrient loadings to water bodies and emissions of NH_3 and N_2O to	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency. There is potential for negative effects in areas of greater nutrient

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
		the atmosphere. However, with any fertiliser applications there remains an inherent risk of negative effects to European Sites from nutrient losses via these pathways. The potential significance of negative effects will be influenced by individual farm and catchment characteristics, including soil type, topography, runoff risk, hydrology and the current conservation status of each European Site.	mobilisation risk or where non-compliance is an issue. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations. OEP (2026) has recommended that in relation to the organic nitrogen limits set out in the NAP Regulations, DAERA should: a) ensure that only land which is suitable for grazing or the application of manure is included in farm nitrogen loading calculations; b) where it has information that indicates farmers are or may be working above the 170 kg N/ha/year limit without a derogation, take appropriate steps to ensure those farmers understand and are complying with the regulations.
10	**Nitrogen fertiliser application limits** - limits on the application of total available nitrogen in organic manure and chemical fertiliser (excluding livestock manure and anaerobic digestate) to grassland.	Limiting nitrogen fertiliser applications (both organic manure and chemical fertilisers) on grassland to crop requirements and within certain limits will prevent losses of excess nitrogen to surface waters via overland flow or groundwaters via leaching through the soil profile. This has the potential for positive effects for freshwater and downstream marine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives for water quality and associated positive effects for aquatic flora and fauna. Reducing nitrogen fertiliser applications will also have positive benefits for air quality and climactic factors on European Sites. The significance of these effects will depend on the appropriate implementation and enforcement of this measure and NAP Regulations.	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency and reduced nutrient loadings to water.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
11	**Nitrogen fertiliser application limits** - limits on the application of total available nitrogen in organic manure and chemical fertiliser (excluding livestock manure and anaerobic digestate) to lands other than grassland.	As above, limiting nitrogen fertiliser applications (both organic manure and chemical fertilisers) to crop requirements and within certain limits will prevent losses of excess nitrogen to surface waters via overland flow or groundwaters via leaching through the soil profile. This has the potential for positive effects for freshwater and downstream marine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives for water quality and associated positive effects for aquatic flora and fauna. Reducing nitrogen fertiliser applications will also have positive benefits for air quality and climactic factors on European Sites. The significance of these effects will depend on the appropriate implementation and enforcement of this measure and NAP Regulations.	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency and reduced nutrient loadings to water.
12	**Application of anaerobic digestate** – measures relating to the application of digestate from anaerobic digestors.	This measure sets restrictions on the application of anaerobic digestate, applications must not exceed crop phosphorus requirements and the nutrient content of the digestate, the supply of phosphorus available from the application of livestock manure and other fertilisers and the soil phosphorus index must also be considered. This measure has the potential for both positive and negative effects on European Sites, by promoting more efficient use of organic fertilisers and reducing the use of imported chemical fertilisers. This should lead to reduced nutrient loadings which will have a positive impact on freshwater and downstream marine European Sites which have water quality Conservation Objectives and their associated objectives for biodiversity, particularly aquatic flora and fauna. However, this measure makes an exception to these requirements where these do not need to be considered in situations where the digestate itself, or materials used for digestate, are from the same holding that will be applying the digestate. This may result in the application of excess nutrients and exacerbate water quality issues for European Sites.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency and reduced nutrient loadings to water. However, an exemption for certain holdings exists which may exacerbate water quality issues for European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
13	**Limits on the land application of chemical phosphorus fertiliser** – chemical fertilisers containing phosphorus must not be applied at rates exceeding crop requirements.	This measure requires that application rates of chemical phosphorus fertilisers must take the soil phosphorus index, the soil phosphorus index requirements for the crop and the phosphorus content available from other fertilisers into account. A fertilisation plan must also be completed for lands which will receive chemical phosphorus fertilisers. It is anticipated that this measure will result in positive effects for European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. Excess soil phosphorus is more readily mobilised and delivered to water bodies through overland flow and restricting	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through increased phosphorus use efficiency and reduced phosphorus loadings to water.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
		phosphorus fertilisers to crop requirement will reduce loadings of excess phosphorus to waters. The effects of associated water quality issues such as eutrophication and effects to aquatic flora and fauna will be reduced for freshwater and downstream marine European Sites. However, it should be noted that the soil phosphorus index is based on a different soil phosphorus test in the Republic of Ireland and so limits for Northern Irish applications may continue to have negative effects on hydrologically linked European Sites in this jurisdiction within the 15km ZoI.	However, positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue for Republic of Ireland European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
14	**Limits on land application of high phosphorus organic manures** – organic manures containing high phosphorus contents (>0.25kg total phosphorus per 1kg total nitrogen) must not be applied at rates exceeding crop requirements.	This measure requires that application rates of organic manures with a high phosphorus content, must take the soil phosphorus index, the soil phosphorus index requirements for the crop and the phosphorus content available from other fertilisers into account. A fertilisation plan must also be completed for lands which will receive chemical phosphorus fertilisers. An exemption applies where organic manure is applied in accordance with the Sludge Regulations or under licence / exemption under the Waste Regulations or organic manure comes from a holding with no more than 7kg nitrogen/ha/year to its lands through the grazing animals and land application. This measure has the potential to result in both positive and negative effects for European Sites. By applying organic manures with high phosphorus contents in line with crop requirements for phosphorus will reduce the risk of phosphorus losses to water and its associated effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna in freshwater and downstream marine European Sites. These positive effects are dependent on appropriate implementation of this measure. There is the potential for negative effects due to an exemption where an exception is that crop phosphorus requirements and available soil phosphorus do not need to be considered in certain situations. This may lead to over application of phosphorus and mobilisation of the excess to associated water bodies and may impact European Sites. It should also be noted that the soil phosphorus index is based on a different soil phosphorus test in the Republic of Ireland and so limits for Northern Irish applications may continue to have negative effects on hydrologically linked European Sites in this jurisdiction within the 15km ZoI.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through increased phosphorus use efficiency and reduced phosphorus loadings to water.However, positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to an exemption which applies in certain situations and for hydrologically linked Republic of Ireland European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should consider proposing additional mandatory requirements for soil analysis, and that all applications to land of both organic manure and chemical fertilisers are based on crop needs.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
15	**Land management** – supplementary feeding sites must be a minimum of 20m and supplementary livestock drinking points must be a minimum of 10m from any waterway where there could be a significant risk of pollution occurring from their use.	This measure aims to reduce the risk of sediment and nutrient pollution to associated water bodies where supplementary feeding and drinking points for livestock are located in proximity. Where stock congregate at these points there is a risk of poaching and soil erosion and excess nutrients through excretion and excess manure in these areas. Placing these points at a distance from water bodies has the potential to result in positive effects to water quality at freshwater European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution. The significance of these positive effects will be dependent on appropriate implementation. As there is a difference between the distance required between feeding sites and drinking water points to water bodies, there may still be a risk of nutrient and sediment pollution to freshwater European Sites from drinking water points impacting on water quality. Furthermore, the introduction of additional sediment and nutrient sources from soil-based sources and livestock excretion has a potential for negative effects on aquatic flora and fauna in freshwater European Sites.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through reduced nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies. However, positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to a difference in the distance required from water bodies for supplementary feeding sites versus supplementary drinking water points. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
16	**Fertilisation Plans** – annual fertilisation plans must be completed and available on farms where they are required.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
Part 4 – Storage requirements			
17	**Storage for livestock manure and silage effluent** - The capacity of storage facilities should be sufficient for all livestock manure and silage on the holding to ensure compliance with NAP regulations.	This measure sets regulations for the appropriate storage of all livestock manures and silage. This must include consideration of the storage capacity that is likely to be required during poor weather conditions when land spreading is not permitted, be sufficient for at least 22 weeks of storage and free from structural defects or poor management that could result in effects to water quality. This measure has the potential to result in positive effects for European Sites due to the reduced risk of nutrient pollution and seepage of silage effluent to water bodies from inappropriately stored manures and silage. However, in areas where non-compliance is an issue, there remains a potential for negative effects to European Sites in the event where inadequate storage facilities allows for manures seepage or silage effluent to enter water bodies.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing manure seepage and silage effluent from entering water bodies. However, positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to non-compliance. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
18	**Storage capacity of pig and poultry manure** – Specific storage requirements for manure storage on pig and poultry enterprises, required storage times depend on the scale of the enterprise.	This measure sets regulations for the appropriate storage of all livestock manures and silage. The total storage capacity must be sufficient for at least 26 weeks, except for small-scale enterprises where is must be a minimum of 22 weeks. Where there is another livestock enterprise on the same holding, the livestock manure storage capacity should be sufficient for at least 26 weeks storage for the pig or poultry enterprise and at least 22 weeks for the other livestock enterprise. This measure has the potential to result in positive effects for European Sites due to the reduced risk of nutrient pollution to water bodies from inappropriately stored manures. However, in areas where non-compliance is an issue, there remains a potential for negative effects to European Sites in the event where inadequate storage facilities allows for manures seepage to enter water bodies.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing manure seepage from entering water bodies. However, positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to non-compliance. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
19	**Storage of slurry –** Specific requirements for slurry storage.	This measure specifies the requirement for slurry storage facilities to be subject to certain standards, and that new facilities should be notified to the Department. Exemptions apply where slurry is being temporarily transported, as well as for older facilities (those constructed and not substantially modified prior to 1 December 2003). This measure has the potential to have positive effects on European Sites by reducing the risk of leakages and seepage of slurry and its associated effects to water bodies and aquatic flora and fauna. Furthermore, where storage facilities are constructed to specified standards, emissions of NH_3 and N_2O will be prevented and will result in positive effects to air quality and climatic factors for European Sites. However, in cases where slurry storage is exempt from these requirements, there remains the potential for negative effects to European Sites.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing slurry seepage from entering water bodies and emissions to the atmosphere. However, positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue in cases where exemptions apply and where non-compliance is an issue. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
20	**Storage of farmyard manure (FYM)** – specific restrictions and requirements for the storage of FYM.	This measure specifies the appropriate storage of FYM, whereby middens should have adequate effluent collection facilities and field heaps should not be kept for extended periods (maximum period of 120 days) and must be stored in the field under appropriate ground conditions, avoiding risks to water bodies including groundwaters. This measure has the potential for positive effects for European Sites by reducing the risk for nutrient pollution to water bodies and associated effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna in downstream freshwater and marine European Sites. The significance of these positive effects is reliant on appropriate implementation of this measure.	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient pollution to water bodies through inappropriately stored FYM.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
21	**Storage of poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre** - specific restrictions and requirements for the storage of poultry litter and anaerobic digestate.	This measure sets out requirements for appropriate storage of poultry manure and anaerobic digestate, middens should have adequate effluent collection facilities and field heaps should not be kept for extended periods (maximum period of 120 days) and should be notified prior to placement. These must be stored in the field under appropriate ground conditions, avoiding risks to water bodies including groundwaters, and must be covered with an impermeable membrane. This measure has the potential for positive effects for European Sites by reducing the risk for nutrient pollution to water bodies and associated effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna in downstream freshwater and marine European Sites. The significance of these positive effects is reliant on appropriate implementation of this measure.	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient pollution to water bodies through inappropriately stored poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre.
22	**Storage of dirty water** - Storage must be provided for dirty water during periods when conditions for land application are unsuitable.	Dirty water may be contaminated by coming in contact with material such as livestock faeces and urine, chemical fertilisers, silage effluent, washings including of holding areas or farm equipment, and can therefore contain nutrients, contaminants and sediment. This measure sets out requirements for the storage of dirty water, storage must be available for this waste during periods when land application is not permitted. This measure has the potential for positive effects for European Sites by reducing the risk for nutrient pollution to water bodies and associated effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna in downstream freshwater and marine European Sites. The significance of these positive effects is reliant on appropriate implementation of this measure.	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient pollution to water bodies through inappropriately stored dirty water.
23	**Calculations of livestock manure storage capacity** - provisions that can be considered when calculating the storage capacity required for livestock manure.	Subject to correct implementation, this measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral, subject to correct implementation and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
24	**Making and storage of silage** – specifics for the production and storage of silage.	This measure sets outs requirements for silage storage facilities to be subject to certain standards and must be managed appropriately to avoid risks to water bodies. New facilities should be notified to the Department. Exemptions apply for older facilities (those constructed and not substantially modified prior to 1 December 2003). This measure has the potential to result in positive effects for European Sites due to the reduced risk of pollution to water bodies of silage effluent to water bodies and its associated effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna. However, in areas where non-compliance is an issue and where exceptions to these regulations apply, there remains a potential for negative effects to European Sites.	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing water pollution from inappropriately produced and stored silage. However, the risks for negative effects may continue in cases where exemptions apply and where non-compliance is an issue. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations.
25	**Cover in winter** – requirements for the provision of cover left on fields from crops harvested late in the year or the sowing of nitrogen fixing cover crops following harvesting.	This measure refers to the management of land to minimise soil erosion and nutrient loss over winter following the harvesting of a crop. When crops are harvested late, residues must be left in place, or a crop should be sown to uptake nitrogen. This measure has the potential to result in positive effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna at freshwater European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies.	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies from exposed soil following crop harvesting.
Part 5 - Measures relating to land management			
26	**Crop management** - sets out crop management requirements where grass leys and arable crops are sown in rotation.	This measure sets out crop management requirements where grass leys and arable crops are grown in rotation by requiring the first crop shall be sown as soon as possible after the grass has been ploughed. This measure has the potential to result in positive effects to water quality and aquatic flora and fauna at freshwater European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies.	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies from exposed soil following crop harvesting.

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
Part 6 – Record keeping and compliance monitoring			
27	**Records required –** Outlines what records are required to be kept for management and inspection purposes.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should materially increase the current inspection rates and the number of random inspections. It should ensure inspection rates are sufficient to provide a credible picture of compliance, and assess whether such compliance means the NAP Regulations will deliver the intended outcomes.
28	**True Records** - Records must not be false or misleading, nor should any NAP information in a notice or document provided to DAERA.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
Part 7 – Enforcement			
29	**Responsibility for enforcement** – DAERA and those authorised by DAERA are responsible for enforcement of NAP Regulations.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should review how it monitors and enforces compliance with laws relating to water pollution from agriculture under the NAP Regulations, the Water Order (Northern Ireland) 1999 and the

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
			cross-compliance framework governing area-based agricultural payments. This should include: a) setting out its intended approach to ensure there is clarity for the agricultural sector regarding which compliance and enforcement tools may be used when breaches and incidents occur; b) ensuring that the combination of the frequency of inspections and the financial or other penalties that may be imposed following detection of breaches is sufficient to incentivise compliance.
30	**Serving notices** – DAERA may serve notices where necessary under the NAP Regulations to minimise any significant pollution risks.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
31	**Appeals -** Those served notice by DAERA have the right to appeal by wiring to the Appeals Commission within 28 days.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
32	**Offences** - Details which Regulations it is considered an offence not to comply with, without reasonable excuse.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
33	**Penalties** - Those found guilty of an offence as detailed in Regulation 32	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	will be liable for financial or custodial penalties.		positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
Part 8 - Powers, duties and Functions of the Department			
34	**NAP Reporting -** DAERA are required to report on the NAP implementation at four-yearly intervals.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
35	**NAP Review -** DAERA are required to review the NAP at four-yearly intervals and must revise the programme where necessary.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
Part 9 - Miscellaneous			
36	Transitioning from previous Regulations	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
37	Necessary amendments to other legislation	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
38	Revoking other Regulations and saving provisions	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site.
Part 10 - Derogation from measures governing the limits on land application of livestock manure			

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
39	**Additional measures relating to derogated farms** – measures which apply to farms which are granted derogation with greater stocking limits.	This measure allows farms with at least 80% grassland the right to apply for a derogation, permitting the land application of grazing livestock manure above the limit of 170kg nitrogen/ha/year up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year as set out in these Regulations, and the conditions that must be complied with by those seeking a derogation. This measure has the potential to negatively impact European Sites due to increased risks of nutrient loadings to water bodies and the associated effects of this to aquatic flora and fauna. Derogated farms must comply with additional controls to prevent negative effects but the effectiveness of these controls is reliant on appropriate implementation and enforcement.	This measure has potential to give rise to negative effects for European Sites due to the increased risk of nutrient loadings to water bodies from the derogation permitting higher application rates of nutrients which may impact on European Sites and in hydrologically linked Republic of Ireland European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirement, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations with derogation conditions placing additional requirements on land holdings operating under this.
40	Administrative process by which DAERA will grant or refuse applications for derogation.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should ensure that the derogation process under the NAP Regulations meets its legal obligations and supports intended outcomes for protected sites under the Habitats Regulations, including: a) providing clarity on how it ensures there is sufficient scrutiny of applications within the 28-day window for refusal, and considering

NAP Regulation	Description of NAP Regulation	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
			whether an active approval process should be implemented; b) considering and clarifying how its legal duties under the Habitats Regulations interrelate with the NAP Regulations.

As evidenced in Section 4, the conservation status of a significant percentage of habitats and species are considered to be unfavourable, with agricultural practices, including activities generating diffuse pollution to surface and ground waters, contributing to those downward trends. Based on the most recent data at Appendix B, this trend is unlikely to stabilise or improve unless significant improvements occur.

In light of the above, it is logical to conclude that the conservation status of habitats and species vulnerable to agricultural emissions are unlikely to stabilise or improve and may well become more unfavourable as time goes on in the absence of measures or initiatives being taken or proposed to be initiated by Government as Article 6(2) proactive measures which are preventative in nature and which involve the taking of appropriate steps to avoid habitat deterioration and significant species disturbance, as such measures are primarily concerned with addressing existing threats and pressures through positive management and preventative steps; they generally apply to effects from existing ongoing activities. This is consistent with OEP (2026) who note that NAP Regulations form part of a wider suite of measures to address nutrient pollution in Northern Ireland, but that it is difficult to see which different measures are intended to combine together to deliver Northern Ireland's overall objectives for nutrient pollution and water quality.

Therefore, a key consideration in this assessment is whether the draft NAP, in the absence of a wider suite of measures are intended to combine together to deliver Northern Ireland's overall objectives for nutrient pollution and water quality (Article 6.2 measures), is likely to perpetuate the decline in water quality and increase in waterbodies at 'risk' which are evidenced to be already adversely affecting European sites; contrary to the overall requirement of the Habitats Regulations to maintain or restore to a favourable conservation status, the qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

This is pertinent since this overall requirement underpins the site-specific conservation objectives of the European sites relevant to this assessment and those conservation objectives, which are central to determining whether the plan being assessed, through the actions and activities resulting from it, will result in an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites and the coherence of the UK network of sites and Natura 2000 network.

5.5.2 Assessment of recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030

Table 5-6 sets out the assessment of the recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030 in the context of potential for adverse effects on the integrity of relevant European Sites in view of the conservation objectives of those sites.

Table 5-6 Assessment of recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
Nutrient Management – Balanced Nutrient Use, Fertiliser and Manure Controls		
Limit chemical phosphorus fertiliser availability through an advisory approach - It is proposed to introduce new additional approach to managing the use of chemical phosphorus (P) fertiliser on grassland. This approach builds on the existing NAP requirement and combines limits on the availability of phosphorus fertiliser products with strengthened advice and support. The aim is to ensure that phosphorus fertiliser is only used where there is a clear need based on soil nutrient levels and crop requirements.	One of the main drivers of poor water quality in Northern Ireland is excess phosphorus. Excess phosphorus can be washed away by rainfall or irrigation, entering the water bodies located within and upstream of European Sites via surface water pathways. This leads to a decline in water quality affecting aquatic ecosystems and species. Imported phosphorus in fertiliser and feed concentrates is noted to be a key source of excess phosphorus, with excessive use of phosphorus in fertilisers and poor agricultural management practices increasing the risk of nutrient runoff into water bodies. This measure proposes an advisory limit on chemical phosphorus fertiliser availability, recommending that phosphorus is only utilised in certain circumstances. The implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. This includes reducing the risk of adverse effects on the quality of water bodies located within European Sites by reducing the loss of phosphorus to these water bodies through the advisory limit on the use of chemical phosphorus on grasslands to where evidence of its requirements must be provided. This reduced phosphorus loading, and risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation and uptake of this advisory measure. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of uptake and enforcement of the measure to ensure that chemical phosphorus fertiliser is applied appropriately. Mitigation may include increased inspection rates, effective education, or where the measure does not show suitable uptake, a movement to a mandatory measure. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Reducing the Northern Ireland average phosphorus surplus – It is proposed to reduce the national average phosphorus surplus by 30%, from the 2024 level of 8729 tonnes over the 4 year duration of the next NAP.	As discussed for the proposed measure 'Limit chemical phosphorus fertiliser availability through an advisory approach', excess phosphorus is one of the main challenges to the achievement of good water quality in Northern Ireland. There has been a trend of increasing	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation and enforcement. In particular for freshwater and

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	phosphorus surplus and soluble reactive phosphorus in water bodies (including those within European Sites) in Northern Ireland in recent years, despite an overall reduction of the phosphorus surplus over the last 20 years. Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, only farms which operate under a derogation (due to be amended to the NSP) require a farm phosphorus balance limit. These farms are intensively stocked and comprise of at least 80% grassland and may increase the land application limit (170kg nitrogen/ha/year) to up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year from grazing livestock manure. This is subject to additional conditions and Cross-Compliance verifiable standards, one of which is that there must not be an exceedance of a surplus of 10kg phosphorus/ha/year on a derogated holding. Currently, there are approximately approximately 688 farms operating at a livestock manure production of between 150-169kg nitrogen/ha/year and 2,550 farms operating at a production of 170kg nitrogen/ha/year and above (including those operating under a derogation). Effective implementation and enforcement of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. The primary potential positive effect is contributing to the reduction of surplus phosphorus in soils on intensively managed farm which are not operating under a derogation agreement. There is potential for positive effects on the quality of water bodies within European Sites as reducing farm phosphorus balance for intensive farms will address phosphorus pollution at the source by reducing the risk of phosphorus entering water bodies via surface water pathways. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on habitats and species within these European Sites.	estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects may arise from the stated limits not being strict enough and a lack of a robust checking and monitoring protocol to assess this. Robust monitoring is required to inform whether the lower limits will need to be set in the subsequent NAP (2031-2034). Potential adverse effects may also arise from a lack of clarity regarding whether there are additional requirements on land holders to support the implementation, including the requirements for high phosphorus and low phosphorus holdings, as well as a lack of advice to landholder on how this measure may impact other management plans. This may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. Mitigation may include an appropriate level of monitoring, increased inspection rates and effective enforcement. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be ‘dialled up’ in high-risk areas or ‘dialled down’ in lower risk areas. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should consider proposing mandatory phosphorus and nitrogen balance targets at both the individual farm and national levels, to require better nutrient management and drive improvements throughout the agri-food sector. This could include the introduction of limits on both the phosphorus and crude protein content of

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
		concentrated animal feeds to help control farm-level nutrient surpluses.
Dairy cow nutrient excretion values – based on milk yield - Proposed to reform the standard nutrient excretion values for dairy cows under the NAP by replacing the single values for Nitrogen and Phosphorus by values determined by milk yield.	Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, there is a single excretion rate for dairy cows set at 100kg nitrogen/year for consideration in farm nutrient management. There is a strong relationship between manure nitrogen excretion and milk yield. This current excretion rate was based on a mean annual milk yield output per cow per year of 7,220 litres. Milk output per dairy cow in Northern Ireland has been continually increasing since completion of the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. The Statistical Reviews of Northern Ireland Agriculture reported an average output of 8,038 litres over 2024. As such the current accounting of nutrients produced by various dairy production systems applied in nutrient management may have reduced in accuracy, increasing the risk of incidental nutrient losses to water bodies within European Sites, as well as increased NH_3 or 2027-2030 emissions from land application (and associated deposition within European Sites). Revised nitrogen excretion rates have been calculated across a wide range of milk production levels based on the Northern Ireland Ammonia Inventory. It has been proposed that the nitrogen excretion rates introduced within this measure are banded based on annual milk yield. There are seven nitrogen excretion bands and associated excretion values proposed. The gross farm milk production per calendar year divided by the average number of dairy cows during that year, will determine which band that a farm falls into. The effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for short to long-term positive effects on European Sites through enabling a more accurate calculation of manure nitrogen loading on dairy farms to	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of guidance to farmers. Mitigation can be delivered through the delivery of clear guidance to farmers prior to the introduction of the new banded rates. Improved nutrient management advice, guidance and support is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be ‘dialled up’ in high-risk areas or ‘dialled down’ in lower risk areas.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	be applied in nutrient management. This has the potential to reduce the risk of incidental nutrient loss from agricultural land into water bodies within and upstream of European Sites which may cause a deterioration in water quality. There is also potential for positive effects through a reduction of nitrogen emissions from land application and associated deposition within European Sites. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on habitats and species within these European Sites. Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, a single excretion rate for dairy cows set at 19kg phosphorus/year for consideration in farm nutrient management, derived by applying the N:P ratio of dairy cow slurry to the nitrogen excretion value for dairy cows. Excretion of phosphorus is associated with the total feed intake, which has increased in recent years. DAERA propose an alternative method of estimating phosphorus excretion based on banding of milk production (annual milk output per cow per year), similar to the method used for estimating nitrogen excretion. The phosphorus excretion values estimated by this methodology are lower than those adopted previously in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, with values of between 11 and 122kg phosphorus/year reflecting the reduction in the phosphorus content of feed. The effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for short to long-term positive effects on European Sites through enabling a more accurate calculation of manure phosphorus loading on dairy farms to be applied in nutrient management. This has the potential to reduce the risk of incidental nutrient loss from agricultural land into water bodies within and	

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	upstream of European Sites which may cause a deterioration in water quality.	
Updated poultry nutrient excretion figures - Proposed to amend the standard values for poultry figures as noted within the tables in the consultation document.	Figures relating to poultry manures across a range of poultry production and management systems, such as nitrogen and phosphorus livestock excretion rates are outlined under the current the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. Stakeholders, advisors and regulator have highlighted that some of these values are incorrect or may be likely to lead to nitrogen loading and/or crop nitrogen requirements being under or overestimated. Under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 review, an accurate nutrient profile reflective of current poultry housing, litter and feed conditions was produced through up-to-date research. The effective implementation of this measure has the potential for short to long-term positive effects European Sites through enabling a more accurate calculation of manure nitrogen loading on poultry farms to be applied in nutrient management. This has the potential to reduce the risk of incidental nutrient loss from agricultural land into water bodies upstream of and within European Sites which may cause a deterioration in water quality. There is also potential for positive effects through a reduction of nitrogen emissions from land application and associated deposition within European Sites. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on habitats and species within these European Sites.	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with the new poultry figures not reflecting the best scientific knowledge. Mitigation can be delivered through considering all best available scientific evidence and transparently reporting this evidence base.
Standard values for separated manures and slurries - Proposed to update the regulations to include a standard value for screw press separated slurry fractions as outlined in the tables of the consultation document.	Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, measures governing the application of anaerobic digestate to land do not include standard values, instead a nutrient content analysis is required showing the percentages of dry matter, total nitrogen, total	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any positive or negative effects upon any European Site.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	phosphate, total potash and ammonia nitrogen or ammonium; a fertilisation plan is required; and application of anaerobic digestate must not exceed the fertilisation standards for crop phosphorus requirements. A wide variety of feedstocks are utilised for anaerobic digestate which results in a variability of digestate nutrient content, as such this proposed measure does not propose to introduce standard values for nitrogen and phosphorus in digestate. Instead, this measure proposes to retain the current requirement for a nutrient content analysis of digestate. The implementation of this proposed measure is not considered to have any potential for effects on European Sites, as there is no change proposed for anaerobic digestate. Currently in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, the available nitrogen and phosphorus contents for separated cattle slurries (liquid portion) based on strainer box, weeping wall, and mechanical separator methods of separation are outlined. This proposed measure suggests including standard average nutrient content values generated from AFBI research for separated liquid and solids from screw press separation of cattle slurry (whilst retained the values for strainer box and weeping wall standard values as these are in use on some farms). The implementation of this proposed measure is not considered to have any potential for effects on European Sites.	Potential effects are limited to those associated with standard values not reflecting the methods utilised or best scientific knowledge. Notwithstanding the fact that these effects are considered to be insignificant, the previously proposed mitigation of considering all best available scientific evidence and transparently reporting this evidence base can be applied to this NAP measure also.
Updated chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland - Introduction of whole-farm limits on chemical nitrogen fertiliser use, based on how much grass a farm produces. As detailed in the table of the consultation document.	Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, farms have a maximum amount of available nitrogen from chemical fertiliser and organic manures (other than livestock manures) that can be applied on the grassland area. These are 272kg nitrogen/ha/year	Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, farms have a maximum amount of available nitrogen from chemical fertiliser and organic manures (other than livestock manures) that can be applied on the grassland area. These are 272kg nitrogen/ha/year

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	for dairy farms and 222kg nitrogen/ha/year for other farms (apart from nitrogen in livestock manure). This proposed measure is for an update of the current chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland. The proposed measure is for an introduction of a whole farm limit on chemical nitrogen fertiliser or organic nitrogen supply use based on actual grass growth and soil requirements to reduce the potential for excess nitrogen losses. Grass growth is based upon the number of silage cuts taken on farm. Farms operating at the maximum grass production level will have additional requirements to obtain the maximum allowable rate of nitrogen, through regular soil testing and analysis every four years. Effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites, due to a reduced risk of nitrogen loss into water bodies following land application for less productive holdings. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. The review should allow for any updates to account for current advances in understanding of soil nutrient management.	for dairy farms and 222kg nitrogen/ha/year for other farms (apart from nitrogen in livestock manure). This proposed measure is for an update of the current chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland, with use based on actual grass growth and soil requirements to reduce the potential for excess nitrogen losses. Effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites, due to a reduced risk of nitrogen loss into water bodies following land application for less productive holdings. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. The review should allow for any updates to account for current advances in understanding of soil nutrient management. It is recommended that the requirement for soil sampling and analysis is extended to all categories of grassland production to ensure that nitrogen and other nutrients are applied in accordance with crop and soil requirements and prevent nutrient accumulation or nutrient losses from occurring. Furthermore, clarification should be provided as to whether the regular soil testing will also include nitrogen, as presently this focuses on testing as a minimum for phosphorus, potassium and soil pH. The inclusion of nitrogen would ensure that excessive nitrogen accumulation subject to the level of grass crop production is prevented.
Allowance for processed organic fertilisers - It is proposed to introduce a specific allowance and limit of 100 kg nitrogen per hectare per year for “Processed Organic Fertilisers” derived from agricultural sources	There is currently no difference in the treatment of processed livestock manures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. These are subject to the ceiling of 170kg nitrogen/ha/year as outlined in the Nitrates Directive. Due to perceived higher environmental risk, particularly the higher risk of nitrogen leaching, manure and manure-based fertilisers	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	are subject to more stringent restrictions than nitrogen containing mineral/chemical fertilisers. However, since the introduction of the Nitrates Directive, studies have found that under certain conditions Recovered Nitrogen from manure (RENURE) materials act as chemical fertilisers as defined in the Nitrates Directive. As such they could be used above this maximum limit set out in the Nitrates Directive. Processed manures are defined within the measure as those from chemical and/or heat treatment and excludes simple mechanical processing such as pelleting or composting. If the processed manures are included within the allowances for chemical phosphorus fertiliser use, and they have a nitrogen leaching potential and agronomic efficiency similar to chemical fertilisers, then the effective implementation of this measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. These characteristics, similar to chemical fertilisers, reduce the risks of nitrate losses in water in comparison to manure. As such there is potential for the risk of the deterioration of the quality of water bodies to be reduced. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. There is uncertainty regarding whether this measure could inadvertently lead to negative effects on European Sites. RENURE materials only have a similar nitrogen leaching potential and agronomic efficiency to chemical fertilisers under certain conditions. In other cases, RENURE materials/livestock manures may have a higher nitrogen leaching potential which could lead to increased pollution of water bodies within European Sites and associated negative effects on water dependent habitats and species.	Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with a lack of uncertainty regarding RENURE materials and their use under specific circumstances. Mitigation can be delivered through considering all best available scientific evidence and transparently reporting this evidence base.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
Manure Storage and Application Requirements – Ammonia Implications		
Reduced slurry application volumes in February and early October - It is proposed that the maximum volume of slurry which can be applied during the month of February and the period of 30th September to 15th October is reduced from the current limit of 30m3 per hectare per single application to 25m3 per hectare per single application.	Lower soil temperatures and wetter soil conditions result in reduced grass growth during February and between the 1st to 15th October. Lower grass cover increases the risk that soils will not retain nutrients form slurry applications, and these nutrients will be lost to water bodies located upstream of and within European Sites via surface water pathways. Additionally, higher rates of slurry application in place currently have the potential to give rise to higher ammonia emissions to air. The implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. The primary potential benefit from this measure is that lower quantities of nutrients should be lost through runoff into water bodies as more nutrients should be retained in the soil by better aligning nutrient application to grass growth requirements. There is also potential for positive secondary effects on the quality of water bodies within European Sites by reducing the risk of nutrient pollution of these water bodies. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. Furthermore, the reduced rate of slurry application proposed by this measure in the stated periods has the potential for positive effects on the quality of air within European Sites through reducing the potential quantity of ammonia emissions to air.	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with slurry application and a lack evidence that the new maximum volume of slurry which can be applied during these periods will not oversupply nutrients beyond the expected crop uptake. Such gaps in evidence may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should consider extending the NAP Regulations to reflect a broader, more integrated approach that addresses nutrient losses to air alongside water pollution.
Clearer definition of Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment - Proposed to update and clarify the definition of LESSE in the regulations. Under the proposed definition, LESSE will include:	This proposed measure is to update the definitions for LESSE to allow equipment to be selected based upon environmental performance rather than a specific fixed equipment type and account for new or alternative technologies becoming available which meet the criteria as LESSE. The implementation of this proposed measure has potential for positive effects on European Sites, as the effective use of LESSE equipment should	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
• Any method that reduces ammonia emissions by 30% or more compared with the inverted splash plate method.	ensure that the soil retains more nutrients. This should reduce the risk of nutrient loss through emissions to air (and subsequent deposition) and to water bodies via surface water pathways. This will have positive effects on the quality of soil, water bodies and associated habitats and species within European Sites.	
Tiered move to increased use of LESSE - Extend the mandatory use of LESSE to more farms over time, using a tiered approach based on farm size, measured in livestock units, based on the table in the consultation document.	Currently LESSE are only required to be used for cattle farms with 200 or more cattle livestock units from 1 February 2022 as stated in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. This measure proposes to extend the situations in which the use of LESSE is mandatory in a gradual approach using tiers, based on farm size with livestock units as a measurement value. It is proposed that by February 2030, all farm businesses over 50 livestock units must spread by LESSE. The land application of slurry generally has the potential for negative effects on European Sites due to the loss of nitrogen to the atmosphere through 2027-2030 losses and NH_3 volatilisation, as well as nutrient losses via surface water pathways. There will be a degree of nutrient loss regardless of the accuracy by which fertilisers are applied. However, effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European sites through the use of a method (LESSE) that is more accurate in terms of land application by ensuring the soil retains more nutrients. LESSE methods reduce NH_3 emissions, and 2027-2030 losses compared to other slurry distribution systems, which reduces the risk of adverse effects on terrestrial and aquatic habitats due to deposition of nitrogenous compounds. The use of LESSE can also decrease the risk of surface runoff into water bodies, with potential for positive effects the quality of water bodies located within European Sites, including consideration of	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with the introduction of this measure not occurring until 2027. Mitigation should include an earlier introduction of this measure and consider the extension of the use of mandatory LESSE for all slurry spreading, or a ban on the use of splash plates on slurry tankers.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	transboundary catchments. This reduced risk of pollution also has the potential for positive secondary effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	
Pre-Notification of new slurry and silage storage – It is proposed to strengthen the regulatory requirement for pre-notification of slurry or silage stores prior to construction. Controllers must notify the Department 28 days before construction (including substantial enlargement or substantial reconstruction) begins and provide the registration number of the Chartered Structural or Civil Engineer supervising and certifying the building works. If no acknowledgement is provided by DAERA within 28 days following notification, construction can proceed.	The effective implementation of this proposed measure has potential for neutral effects on European Sites, as it will not directly result in any action. However, there is potential that pre-emptive checks and improved controlled on storage facilities, in particular those that are exempt from planning permission as exempted agricultural development, can strengthen the current Regulations.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Clarify cover requirement for new above-ground stores - Clarify through guidance and awareness raising that for new above-ground slurry storage facilities, the cover must be: • A tensioned fitted cover (for example, a properly fitted membrane designed to remain in place), or • A fixed structure (such as a roof or lid). Other cover types that are loose-fitting or not fixed in place are not considered to meet the existing requirement.	Above ground slurry stores may contribute to pollution of European Sites via emissions of ammonia and subsequent deposition, as well as the potential risk of nutrient runoff into water bodies due to rainfall causing exposed above ground stores to overflow. Currently in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, it is stated that 'Any slurry storage tank constructed, substantially enlarged or substantially reconstructed after 31 December 2019, which is not contained within or underneath a roofed building, shall be covered in a manner which minimises emissions of odour and ammonia'. Under this proposed measure, it is required that any new above ground stores must include a tensioned fitted / fixed cover, when constructed. Effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites, primarily by reducing the risk of ammonia emissions from above ground stores, and subsequent nitrogen	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Adverse effects are limited to those related to nutrient losses from above ground stores modified before December 2019. Mitigation may include an appropriate level of monitoring, increased inspection rates and effective enforcement.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	deposition. There is also potential for short to long-term positive secondary effects on the quality of water bodies within European Sites through reducing the potential risk of nutrient runoff into these water bodies by reducing the risk of rainfall causing exposed above ground stores to overflow. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	
Limit the use of unprotected granular urea fertilisers - Proposed that the use of urea fertiliser in Northern Ireland would be managed through a seasonal approach, with a requirement to only use protected urea for applications from 01 April each year.	Urea is used as a nitrogen fertiliser in agriculture due to its high nitrogen content (46%). Once applied to the soil, nitrogen losses can arise via ammonia volatilisation. The conversion of urea to ammonia (hydrolysis) is catalysed by the urease enzyme. During this reaction, unless ammonia reacts with water to form ammonium, taken up by plants or converted to other forms of nitrogen in the soil, it will likely be lost to the atmosphere. Protected urea contains inhibitors such as N-(n-Butyl) thiophosphoric triamide (NBPT), these inhibitors bind to the active site of the urease enzyme, preventing it from reacting with urea and catalysing the hydrolysis reaction. The use of protected urea as proposed in this measure has been shown to reduce ammonia losses significantly, by slowing the breakdown of urea and allowing more time for it to be absorbed by plants, as well as reducing the production of ammonia which helps to minimise the risk of ammonia volatilisation. The effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European sites by reducing ammonia and N_2O emissions from farms and subsequently improving air quality during the seasonal period of the limit. The reduction of N_2O emissions will also reduce subsequent nitrogen deposition and is anticipated to reduce the risk of	It is considered that this measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects on European Sites. Positive effects may arise from the reduction of ammonia and N_2O emissions. Negative effects may arise from long-term use and potential accumulation of urease inhibitors in soils. Mitigation may include increased inspection rates and effective enforcement, and it is recommended that the use of protected urea fertiliser is implemented on a year-round basis to reduce emissions of ammonia and nitrous oxide to deliver the maximum possible benefits. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be ‘dialled up’ in high-risk areas or ‘dialled down’ in lower risk areas.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	pollution to soils and water bodies located upstream of and within European Sites. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on habitats and species within European Sites. However, there is some uncertainty regarding the potential for long-term effects of this measure. Long-term use of urease inhibitors may lead to alterations in soil microbial communities. If not appropriately managed, these chemicals could disrupt microbial diversity and slow down the natural nitrogen cycling processes, which may impact the resilience of the ecosystem. If used excessively, urease inhibitors may accumulate within European Sites, particularly in soils, with unknown long-term effects on water bodies, flora and fauna.	
Anaerobic Digestate Measures - Update the NAP rules as follows: Separation of Digestate to reduce Phosphorus content • Where the separated liquid portion of digestate has a low phosphorus to nitrogen ratio (1:10 or lower), it can be spread under the existing NAP rules for cattle slurry. • If the digestate is produced using feedstock sourced from outside Northern Ireland, it must be applied strictly in line with crop nutrient needs and will require a nutrient management plan to be completed and retained on farm. Targeted application of Digestate to Land • Where the separated liquid portion has a higher phosphorus to nitrogen ratio than 1:10, then it must be applied strictly in line with crop	Separation of Digestate to reduce Phosphorus Content Currently, Anaerobic Digestate (AD) is considered as livestock manure within the 170kg nitrogen/ha/year land application limit. However, depending on the feedstock and types and proportions used in AD production, the proportions of nutrients within this material can differ from those of livestock manures. This variation can lead to either an over or under-estimation of the nitrogen and phosphorus content of the AD. If underestimated this may lead to accumulation of nutrients (phosphorus) in soils which could be lost via surface water pathways into water bodies located within European Sites. This increased risk of pollution has the potential for associated negative effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. The effective implementation of the proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. The primary potential benefit is reducing the risk of phosphorus accumulation in soils by creating a more	Separation of Digestate to reduce Phosphorus Content It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of clarity regarding how the proposed measure will be implemented and regulated. Such gaps in clarification may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. It is considered that this proposed measure regarding feedstocks sources from outside Northern Ireland has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
nutrient needs, with a nutrient management plan must be completed and retained on farm. Record keeping and reporting of nutrient movements • The movements of AD must be recorded in the same way that slurry and manure imports and exports are recorded. This includes recording slurry and separated slurry from farms to AD plants, as well as processed digestate returning to farms. All movements must be notified to the Department to allow oversight just as with manure imports and exports. Further details available in section 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the consultation document- this refers to the proposed measures of 'Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports' and 'Extending the system to processed slurry solids and digestate movements').	balanced N and P content of digestate that is in line with crop requirements. There is also potential for secondary positive effects by reducing the risk of runoff of excess P to water bodies located within European Sites. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. There are also uncertainties as to the potential for negative effects on European Sites as, at the time of writing, it is not clear how the implementation and regulation of this measure will be undertaken. There is a risk of negative effects without greater clarity regarding the safeguards and requirements to which digestate will be subject if it is no longer subjected to the land application limits. Regulation of external digestate sources from outside Northern Ireland will be facilitated through this proposed measure. The effective implementation of this measure has the potential for positive effect on European Sites through reducing accumulation rates of nutrients in soils and secondary positive effects on the quality of water bodies upstream of and within European Sites through reducing the risk of nutrient runoff to waterbodies. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. Targeted application of Digestate to Land This proposed measures states that where the separated liquid portion has a higher phosphorus to nitrogen ratio than 1:10, then it must be applied strictly in line with crop nutrient needs, with a nutrient	Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Targeted application of Digestate to Land It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Record keeping and reporting of nutrient movements It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of clarity regarding whether the appropriate primary powers are available for this measure to be implemented. Such gaps in clarity may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure to allow recording and reporting to form the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	management plan must be completed and retained on farm. The effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. The measure helps avoid the over-application and accumulation of nutrients in soils where crop requirement is not demonstratable. There is also potential for secondary positive effects on by reducing the risk of runoff of excess Phosphorus to water bodies upstream of and within European Sites. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. Record keeping and reporting of nutrient movements This proposed measure will facilitate a whole system approach to AD plants and processed digestate by formally providing a legitimate route for the movement of processed digestate nutrients to farms. This whole system approach will allow nutrients to be focused on farms and areas where there is a need for nutrient applications. Effective implementation of this measure has potential for positive effects on European Sites. This is owed to potential for increased awareness and controls on the nutrient application requirements, decreasing the potential for the over-application of nutrients, accumulation of nutrients in the soil and the risk of runoff of excess nutrients into water bodies, thus also reducing the risk of associated effects on habitats and species. It will contribute to ensuring that nutrients are applied from digestate in areas where there is a demonstratable need and reduce nutrient loading to land and water bodies, thus reducing the risk of associated effects on habitats and species.	

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	This measure is subject to appropriate primary powers being available in the draft NAP 2027-2030 Regulations to extend to AD plants and other manure processing facilities. The overall success of this proposed measure the resultant effects on European Sites are uncertain if these powers are not available, as the strategic targeting of nutrient applications may be lost.	
Farming Approaches to Improve Nutrient Use and Water Quality		
Nutrient Stewardship Programme - a revised approach to Derogation - Replace the current Derogation with a revised approach called the Nutrient Stewardship Programme (NSP). While many of the existing environmental safeguards would remain, several important changes are proposed and set out below: **a)** Change of name: the term "Derogation" would be replaced by "Nutrient Stewardship Programme". This will reflect the higher standards of nutrient management required and the environmental benefits delivered as more farms are utilising nutrients more efficiently. **b)** Two-Tier Structure: Tier 1: Farms that already meet all requirements (current and new) would enter Tier 1, recognizing their high level of nutrient management. Tier 2: Farms that do not yet fully meet all Tier 1 Phosphorus Balance requirements could enter Tier 2 and work towards Tier 1 over time, with advisory support. **c)** Grassland Requirement: The minimum grassland requirement would be reduced from 80% to 70%. This would allow some farms to grow more arable crops, such as cereals. Additional safeguards (such as buffer strips near watercourses) on some	This proposed measure aims to rename the existing derogation to a Nutrient Stewardship Programme (NSP) with a number of changes proposed to encourage greater participation within the programme with the aim of gaining environmental benefits as the number of farms from 2019-2024 operating under a derogation remained relatively consistent at between 418-441 farms approved for derogation. Therefore, a higher proportion of farms are continuing to operate above the 170kg N per ha per year limit but are not presently under subject to the additional environmental controls which are required by those operating under a derogation agreement. The NSP aims to improve participation for high-productivity farms so that these will be subject to additional environmental protections such as the use of buffer strips on arable land. The proposal is to introduce a two-tier structure, whereby farms which meet current derogation requirements and the new proposed requirements will enter as Tier 1, reflecting their high compliance levels. Farms which cannot presently meet the Tier 1 Phosphorus Balance Requirements would enter as Tier 2 and progress towards achieving Tier 1 with advisory support. The proposed NSP will encourage the growth of further arable crops and require compliance with new phosphorus balance rules under the NSP. This will allow Tier 2 farms will be permitted to join the NSP with	This measure has potential to give rise to negative effects for European Sites due to the increased risk of nutrient loadings to water bodies from the derogation permitting higher application rates of nutrients which may impact on European Sites and in hydrologically linked Republic of Ireland European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirement, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations with derogation conditions (proposed to be revised to the NSP) placing additional requirements on land holdings operating under this. Previously the NAP Regulations meant that an application for derogation is deemed to have been granted unless it is explicitly refused. This 'deemed granted' aspect of the former derogation process can be problematic as a 'deemed grant' of permission (rather than an active approval process) can lead to situations whereby competent authorities allow activity to occur by default, without adequate scrutiny of applications. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised measure to allow NSP administration and management to inform the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
arable fields would be required to manage any risks to water quality. **d)** Phosphorus Balance Rules: Existing participants will enter Tier 1 and maintain the current limit of no more than 10 kg P per hectare per year surplus. New Tier 2 entrants will be permitted to join with a higher P surplus, provided they commit to reducing it by at least 10% over four years, or to 10 kg P per hectare per year. Compliance with the Phosphorus balance, will be assessed using a three-year rolling average, allowing for normal year-to-year variation in farming conditions. Compliance may also be demonstrated through soil testing showing stable or declining soil phosphorus under the Soil P Protocol. All farms must prepare and submit annual nutrient/fertilization accounts, as per the existing requirements, which will be checked and verified by NIEA. **e)** Clover and Leguminous Crops: Current limits on clover and leguminous crops are designed to reduce risk of elevated nitrate levels in groundwaters. This is a measure historically applied by the EU due to widespread issues in some European countries. However as most soils in Northern Ireland are less vulnerable to nutrient losses than those in European countries, the following changes are proposed: - To permit more clover and legumes which has the potential to reduce the need for chemical fertiliser and imported feed. - Targeted safeguards will be introduced in higher-risk areas if necessary.	a higher phosphorus surplus, with a commitment to reductions in this by at least 10% over four years or to 10 kg P per hectare per year. Tier 1 participants will be obliged to maintain the current limit of a maximum of 10 kg P per hectare per year. Compliance will be demonstrated through soil testing and the submission of annual nutrient and fertilisation accounts as required under the existing derogation, it will considering the three-year rolling average to allow for normal year-to-year variation in farming conditions. The NSP also proposes an amendment to the current limits on the growth of clover and leguminous crops, which were intended to reduce the risk of elevated nitrate levels in groundwaters, which has been a measure historically applied by the EU for specific issues within certain European countries. Typically, soils within Northern Ireland are less vulnerable to nutrient losses to groundwater. Therefore, this measure proposes to permit an increase in the growth of clover and legumes, which can reduce the requirements for chemical fertiliser use and reliance upon imported feed sources, as the growth of these crops provides a feed source and these can be grown using organic fertilisers. This measure has the potential to negatively impact European Sites due to increased risks of nutrient loadings to water bodies and the associated effects of this to aquatic flora and fauna. NSP farms must comply with additional controls to prevent negative effects but the effectiveness of these controls is reliant on appropriate implementation and enforcement	and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas. OEP (2026) has recommended that in relation to the organic nitrogen limits set out in the NAP Regulations, DAERA should: a) ensure that only land which is suitable for grazing or the application of manure is included in farm nitrogen loading calculations; b) where it has information that indicates farmers are or may be working above the 170 kg N/ha/year limit without a derogation, take appropriate steps to ensure those farmers understand and are complying with the regulations. In relation to nutrient management, advice, guidance and support, OEP has recommended that DAERA should consider further investment in the development of targeted approaches to the delivery of on-farm advice and support to help farmers comply with the NAP Regulations.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
f) Application to the Programme: Tier 1 farms will apply for a maximum four years, aligning with the NAP cycle, rather than applying annually. This means that those applying for entry into the scheme part way through the NAP four year revie cycle will be approved up to the end of that review period. Tier 2 farms will be required to apply for entry into the programme each year, to allow progress to be reviewed and monitored. Annual nutrient planning and reporting will be required for all participants, which will be checked and verified by NIEA. **g)** Inspections, Training and Review: Tier 1 farms, will be considered as a lower risk and will therefore have a 1% inspection rate, reflecting their higher compliance. Tier 2 farms will receive targeted training and advisory support on nutrient management. Farms in Tier 2 (considered as in-conversion) will be considered as a higher risk than those in Tier 1, and therefore will have a 5% rate of inspection. Nutrient management accounts will continue for farms operating under the programme and will continue to be subject to monitoring and review by NIEA annually. Farms which are not part of the Nutrient Stewardship Programme but which are operating over 170kg Nitrogen per hectare per year, will be considered High Risk and will be subject to the highest 10% rate of inspection. The proposed Nutrient Stewardship Programme (NSP) will bring a greater proportion of grassland farms within a structured and monitored framework than the current derogation model. By widening participation, more farms will be operating to defined nutrient management		

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
requirements, to optimise nutrient efficiency, with detailed record keeping, and increased oversight. Ensuring enhanced nutrient management across a larger cohort of farms contributes to the protection and recovery of sensitive habitats in line with DAERA's obligations under the Habitats Regulations. Review of the measure The level of uptake and impact of the NSP will be reviewed after two years, and again as part of the wider NAP review, as set out in the governance section of the consultation document. If the review concludes that the approach is not effective, then a more restrictive regulatory system will be required.		
Mitigation measures for late harvested arable crops – To introduce specific provision on implementation of mitigation measures at planting stage supported by additional guidance. Mitigation will be required on fields planted with late harvested crops, where there is a risk to a watercourse e.g. slope of the field, runoff pathways and proximity to watercourse. Such mitigation will be laid out in guidance.	The existing NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 include requirements for post-harvest measures under Part 4 Regulation 25 (Cover in Winter) and under Part 5 (Measures relating to land management). However, the Regulations presently do not have any requirements regarding the planting stage. Where late-harvested crops are cultivated, these can create a risk of nutrient and sediment losses from runoff and soil erosion. As these are late-harvested crops, there are limited options available to establish cover cropping and this coincides with the seasonal period of autumn/winter with elevated rainfall and an increased risk of runoff occurrence. This proposed measure aims to introduce mitigation requirements such as a grass filtration buffer strip on fields planted with late harvested crops where there is a risk to the watercourse from nutrient or sediment losses such as due to slope, runoff pathways and proximity to waterways. Effective implementation of this measure has potential for positive effects on European Sites. The primary potential benefit from this measure is that	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. It is recommended that the specific information regarding the mitigation measures to be included under this measure are provided as these are presently outstanding. It is also recommended that information is provided on how arable fields at risk will be determined if this will be based on guidance provided by DAERA or subject to the appropriate person of the landholding making this determination. Such gaps in evidence may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	lower quantities of nutrients and sediment should be lost through runoff into water bodies as more nutrients and sediment should be retained in the soil/within the field through the use of a buffer strip. There is also potential for positive secondary effects on the quality of water bodies within European Sites by reducing the risk of nutrient pollution of these water bodies. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
A focused approach to improving water quality - Introduce a "focused approach" to support the NAP. In focused areas, it is proposed to provide additional advisory support, education and recommendations for voluntary measures to mitigate against the risk of nutrient losses to water. In doing so it will provide additional targeted support in specific high-risk catchments, alongside the existing NAP rules that continue to apply to all farms.	It is apparent that the current one size fits all national approach to the implementation of NAP measures does not appear to be providing sufficient environmental protection in some areas based on the status and trends in water quality declining, with pressure assessments highlighting agricultural activities as a significant contributor to nutrient enrichment. As such there is a risk of agricultural activities to adversely affect the quality of water bodies located upstream of and within European Sites. Pressures from agricultural activities are a contributing factor to a significant proportion of habitats and species within European Sites not being at Favourable conservation status through nutrient pollution to water bodies and associated impacts to aquatic flora and fauna. Therefore, the objectives of the Habitats Regulations are also at risk of being breached by the NAP. DAERA have included in the draft NAP 2027-2030 a proposal to develop and implement a voluntary focused approach to support the NAP, with focused measures in high-risk areas to address nutrient related issues. The implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. The primary potential benefits on European sites include that a focused approach could reduce the volume of	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of information regarding this risk-based and geographically focused approach and that the scheme is voluntary, or where the measure does not show suitable uptake, a movement to a mandatory measure. Such gaps in information provided may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should determine how best the NAP Regulations can be 'future-proofed' in the face of ongoing and accelerating climate change. This will require an adaptive management approach, including interim reviews, that take account of new evidence and data concerning the

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	surplus nutrients in the soil and reducing the emissions to air. In turn this measure has the potential for positive secondary effects on the quality of water bodies within European Sites by contributing to a reduction in emissions to water and air (and subsequent nutrient deposition) in high-risk areas. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	impacts of climate change on nutrient management and the environment.
Nutrient Efficiency Roadmap for NI farming - Develop a Nutrient Efficiency Roadmap for Northern Ireland farming, built around an overarching mission: To enhance food security, farm profitability, and environmental outcomes by increasing nutrient security through the efficient use of nitrogen and phosphorus on NI farms.	The effective implementation of this proposed measure has potential for neutral effects on European Sites, as it will not directly result in any action.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should establish the scale of reductions in nutrient pollution necessary to improve water quality in Northern Ireland and to comply with the law. This will entail reductions from agriculture and from wastewater, among other sectors. DAERA should then ensure that measures in the NAP Regulations and their implementation are sufficient to deliver the necessary reductions from agriculture.
Utilising Technology		
Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports - The existing online system will be enhanced to ensure more up to date and accurate reporting of exports and imports of slurry and manures. Organic manure movements must be notified to DAERA as follows. All organic manure movements must be notified to DAERA by the exporter three times annually as a minimum. Movements up to the end of February, June	This measure proposes the introduction of an enhanced online IT system to record exports and imports of slurry and manures to ensure up to date and accurate reporting of movements with recording on the system required within four days of the movement. This measure is considered be neutral and the implementation unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. However, there is potential for Regulations to be	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. A more capable online system can inform the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
and October must be notified by the exporter and verified by the importer no later than the end of the subsequent month. Additionally, all exports of 15 miles or greater in a straight-line distance must be notified to DAERA within five days of the transfer. Verification by the receiving farm or operator, is required within two weeks of the receiving farm or operator being notified. This notification will be by the online system which will be enhanced. An App will also be developed so that farmers can notify and verify movements using a mobile phone, providing an alternative to logging into the online system directly. A phone line alternative to the online system and App will also be available. The five-day notification period for transfers of 15 miles or greater does not apply to transfers of separated slurry solids and poultry litter to licenced manure processing facilities. The 15 mile straight line distance is measured from the location of the holding where the slurry is stored/produced, if this is different from the location of the registered Farm Business ID. Under the 2019 NAP Regulations, Reg 27 (1) farmers are already required to … “keep sufficient records to allow the following information to be ascertained for any calendar year - …” Therefore, farmers should keep records of slurry movements on an ongoing basis and these records should be available for inspection in the current year. These records could be a log kept in a notebook or documentation from a contractor or haulier. This will be highlighted in guidance for the updated NAP.	strengthened by this measure, particularly Regulations relating to limits on the storage and spreading of slurry and manures.	

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
Extending the system to processed slurry solids and digestate movements - The existing online system will be extended to include additional materials, such as digestate and processed slurry products, to give a more complete picture of how nutrients are managed across the region. Therefore, exports and imports of processed slurry solids and digestates must be notified to DAERA as follows: - All processed slurry solids and digestate movements must be notified to DAERA by the exporter three times annually as a minimum. Movements up to the end of February, June and October must be notified by the exporter and verified by the importer by the end of the subsequent month Additionally, all exports of 15 miles or greater in a straight-line distance must be notified to DAERA within five days of the transfer. Verification by the receiving AD plant, manure processing facility or farm, is required within two weeks of the receiver being notified. The five day notification period for transfers of 15 miles or greater does not apply to transfers of separated slurry solids and poultry litter to licenced manure processing facilities The additional measures for slurry and manure listed at Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports also apply.	This measure proposes that the introduction of an enhanced online IT system introduced in 'Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports' should be extended to include movements of processed or separated slurry solids and digestate. This measure is considered be neutral and the implementation unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. However, there is potential for Regulations to be strengthened by this measure, and to contribute slurry separation and digestate use regulation.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. A more capable online system can inform the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Additional measures to support environmentally sustainable farming		
Voluntary buffer strips on arable land - Introduction of a voluntary, uncultivated buffer strip alongside waterways in arable fields	Currently, there is a high risk of sediment loss associated with agricultural activities, as well as the associated loss of nutrients such as phosphate as	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	particulates or in solution, via surface water pathways into water bodies located within European Sites. The implementation of proposed measure has the potential to give rise to a positive effect on European Sites. The primary positive effect on European Sites includes a reduction of the risk of soil loss into the waterways from arable fields. The vegetation provides resistance to flow which aids in reducing the speed of overland flow and intercepts sediment. Subsequently, this measure also has the potential for secondary positive effects on the quality of water bodies within European Sites through controlling the loss of nutrients into these water ways via the surface water pathway as vegetation intercepts particulate phosphorus. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of uptake as this is a voluntary measure and the need for clarification on the cultivation and/or width of these buffer strips. Mitigation may include effective education, or where the measure does not show suitable uptake, a movement to a mandatory measure. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Awareness of existing storage requirements and how dirty water storage, rainwater and parlour washings can impact this - Raise awareness of the existing storage requirements and share best practices for making the most of on-farm storage facilities.	Currently in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, a minimum of 22 weeks slurry storage are required for farms, unless they are pig and poultry enterprises where a minimum of 26 weeks slurry storage are required. This measure intends to raise awareness of existing storage requirements and how dirty water storage, rainwater and parlour washings can impact this. The effective implementation of this proposed measure has potential for neutral effects on European Sites, as this measure is supporting and does not directly result in any action.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. Improved nutrient management advice, guidance and support is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Voluntary Liming Programme on farms with high stocking rates - Continue to raise awareness of benefits of liming on suitable land.	Currently in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, there is no requirements on the use of liming. This measure proposes to encourage a voluntary liming programme for intensive grassland farms on mineral soils with no applications of lime occurring to peat soils,	This measure is considered to potentially give rise to positive effects upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	species rich grassland, other priority habitats, and protected sites. The programme would occur for intensively managed grassland farms located on mineral soils. The rationale of this measure is to raise pH levels to effectively maximise nutrient uptake. Participation within the scheme is voluntary with farms encouraged to have an up-to-date soil analysis with any lime requirements identified based on soil testing and a farm nutrient management plan. The implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites by improving the nutrient efficiency of the soil by rising soil pH to optimum levels. This reduces nutrient losses (phosphorus and nitrogen) via emissions to air or surface water pathways by aiding the mineralisation of phosphorus, thus, improving nutrient uptake efficiency, reducing excess nitrogen in the soil, and promoting a soil structure which retains nutrients. As such there is potential for a reduced risk of pollution of water bodies located upstream of or within European Sites, this reduced risk of pollution has potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. There is potential for negative effects on European Sites. Given that there is a lack of specified guidance on the requirements surrounding appropriate conditions for the application of lime within the Regulations, there is potential for adverse effects on water quality within European Sites due to inappropriate timing of lime applications following slurry application which can lead to nitrogen loss. There is also potential for secondary negative effects on habitats and species, as despite preventing the application of lime on peat soils, species rich grassland and protected sites, the Regulation provides no guidance surrounding the requirement for	Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with a lack of guidance regarding buffer zones and suitable use of lime. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be ‘dialled up’ in high-risk areas or ‘dialled down’ in lower risk areas.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	any buffer or exclusion area for agricultural areas surrounding these sensitive areas. There is potential for wind-blown deposition to transport the applied lime off-site onto these sensitive soils, which can lead to a reduction in the species diversity of a sensitive area.	
Revised silage bale storage requirements - Strengthen the regulatory framework to ensure best practices are followed and to mitigate against the risk of pollution when silage bales are stored in fields.	Following crop cutting, effluent is produced as the crop wilts. Silage effluent represents a very potent source of pollution, and therefore the collection and storage of silage should aim to avoid this effluent from entering water bodies, including groundwater. There is generally lower risk of effluent when silage is stored in bales than when it is stored in pits, owing to a higher dry matter percentage. The current requirements regarding the making and storage of silage are set out in Regulation 24, Part 4 Storage Requirements of the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. For silage bales, this stipulates that these must have impermeable membranes, must be stored at least 10m from any waterway, and bales should not be unwrapped/opened within 10m of any waterway that effluent escaping from the bales could enter. The proposed measure seeks to include an amendment that silage bales should not be stored in areas where there is an increased risk of runoff into waterways and should be stored in a manner to reduce the risk of effluent seepage and runoff to waterways. The manner in which silage bales are wrapped and must not be located within 10 metres of a waterway remains unchanged. The implementation of the proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites. The requirements on the location of silage bales has the potential to reduce the risk of the loss of effluent to water bodies located upstream of and within European Sites, as well as compaction or rutting of soils and the	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are associated with a lack of clarification regarding the enforcement of this. As the stacking of silage bales can increase the risk of effluent seepage, it is recommended that DAERA consider controls on the number of bales which can be stacked. Such gaps in clarification may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	development of nutrient accumulation zones in storage areas. As such, this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites through reducing the risk that water quality of downstream within European Sites may be adversely impacted by the loss of silage effluent. This improved control of nutrient loss also gives rise to potential positive secondary effects on the water dependent habitats and species within European Sites as there is a lower risk of adverse impacts associated with depleted water quality on these flora and fauna.	
Technical Amendments		
Definition of Appropriate Person - Amend the definition of appropriate person to align the wording so that it is consistent with the wording used for storage requirements already used within the Regulations. It is proposed that in paragraphs (c) and (d) of the definition that 'livestock manure' will be replaced with 'Organic Manure'. Thereby, reference to the appropriate person will be extended to include those who have control of all organic manures and not just livestock manure.	The amendment proposed is a technical amendment to update the regulations to either provide clarity or to expand the scope of the regulations. There is not considered to be any potential for effects on European Sites from the implementation of this measure.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Definition of Farmyard manure - The definition of farmyard manure will be amended to include any stackable organic matter that can be used as a fertiliser.	The amendment proposed is a technical amendment to update the regulations to either provide clarity or to expand the scope of the regulations. There is not considered to be any potential for effects on European Sites from the implementation of this measure.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Updating terminology - The NAP regulations currently refer to 'Fertilisation Account' and 'Fertilisation Plans', it is proposed to amend these to 'Nutrient Management Account' and 'Nutrient Management Plans' which are	The amendment proposed is a technical amendment to update the regulations to either provide clarity or to expand the scope of the regulations. There is not considered to be any potential for effects on European Sites from the implementation of this measure.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
more reflective of the terminology used across the industry.		
Covering of Lagoons - Following the consultation in 2019, it was agreed that the provisions within Schedule 6, paragraph 12 the reference to 'Any slurry storage tank' should not include lagoons. The 2019 NAP Regulations do not accurately reflect this, and it is proposed that this should be corrected as part of the regulatory review.	Currently, lagoons are required to be covered in a manner which minimises emissions of odour and ammonia. The implementation of this proposed amendment will mean that lagoons will not require covering in a manner which minimises emissions of odour and ammonia. The implementation of this measure may have potential for direct negative effects on European Sites through increased nitrogenous gases emissions from lagoons (and subsequent deposition) due to the removal of the covering which reduced these emissions. There is also potential for secondary negative effects on the quality of water bodies within these European Sites through the potential for lagoons overfilling and / or seep following rainfall entering them directly. This increased risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites.	This measure is considered to give rise to a range of negative effects on European Sites due to the proposed removal of lagoon coverings. Mitigation proposed includes requiring lagoons coverings to be retained.
Definition of heavy rain - Currently the definition of heavy rain simply states "more than 4mm of rain per hour", this may be difficult for some to interpret. To improve clarity, it is proposed to include "when a Met Office weather warning for rain is in operation". This amendment makes clear to operators, especially when considering the restriction on applying fertiliser when heavy rain is falling or forecast within 48 hours. Heavy rain will now be defined as either more than 4mm of rain per hour or when a Met Office weather warning for rain is in operation.	The amendment proposed is a technical amendment to update the regulations to either provide clarity or to expand the scope of the regulations. There is not considered to be any potential for effects on European Sites from the implementation of this measure.	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.

<table>
<tr><th>Proposed NAP Measure</th><th>Assessment of Effects</th><th>Summary and Requirement for Mitigation</th></tr>
<tr><td>Phosphorus content of livestock diets – The existing table within the NAP Regulations will be updated from four values to just two to reflect the most up to date data. It is proposed that all manufactures of animal feed will be required to label the product to show % Phosphorus content. The changes will be as follows:<table><tr><td>Agricultural Product</td><td>Phosphorus Content (% fresh weight)</td></tr><tr><td>Ruminate Concentrates</td><td>0.47 (or actual declared content)</td></tr><tr><td>All other concentrates</td><td>0.43 (or actual declared content)</td></tr></table></td><td>The proposed measure aims to amend the existing information supplied in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 regarding the Phosphorus content of animal diets based on recent research which has demonstrated that there has been a reduction in diet Phosphorus content[16], whilst ensuring that productivity remains. The NAP Regulations will be amended from four values to two values to reflect this work. The measure also proposes that manufacturers of animal feed will be required to include labelling to show the % Phosphorus content, however DAERA has indicated that this cannot be regulated under the NAP and is subject to wider EU Regulations. There is not considered to be any potential for effects on European Sites from the implementation of this measure.</td><td>This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.

It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Implementation – including inspections/enforcements</td></tr>
<tr><td>False or misleading information provisions - Extend the existing duty not to provide false or misleading information so that it applies not only to the controller, but also to the appropriate person.</td><td>This is an administrative amendment that aims to strengthen the burden of proof regarding the supply of information to DAERA. There is not considered to be any potential for effects on European Sites from the implementation of this measure</td><td>This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.

It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Increased inspections based on risk - This proposal introduces a revised approach to inspections which aims to make them more targeted, efficient and fair, so that effort is focused on the farms and activities that present the greatest risk to the environment.</td><td>The SEA and HRA team raised concerns that the existing measures set out in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, which should lead to positive effects on European Sites, are not being fully implemented or are not being implemented correctly based on the available evidence base (including DAERA reporting of compliance with NAP measures and the lack of continued improvements in water quality). As such there is currently a risk to water quality in European Sites under the existing measures. It is thought that the current inspection rate of 1% of farm</td><td>This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site.

Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with time and resource constraints limiting the ability of DAERA to increase inspection rates.

The implementation and effectiveness of this increase in the inspection rate should be reviewed by DAERA during this NAP cycle.</td></tr>
</table>

[16] AFBI. (2025). Phosphorus Content of Livestock Diets.

Proposed NAP Measure	Assessment of Effects	Summary and Requirement for Mitigation
	businesses inspected, in part, on a risk-based approach, plus 5% of derogation farms, may contribute to this lack of proper implementation. It was recommended that a greater number of annual inspections is needed to support better implementation of the measures. The measure proposes to focus on farms which are not part of the NSP but that operate at over 170 kg Nitrogen per hectare per year will be considered as High Risk and subject to a 10% inspection rate. Farms in Tier 1 of the NSP are considered to be a lower risk and will be subject to a 1% inspection due to higher compliance. Farms in Tier 2 of the NSP are considered as higher risk compared to Tier 1 farms and will be subject to a 5% rate of inspection. The implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for neutral effects on European Sites as it will not directly result in any action. However, there is potential to strengthen the existing Regulations to be carried forward from the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, particularly those in Part 7 (Enforcement).	The Department shall consider making amendments to Regulation 65 of the Habitats Regulations to align 'Duties of DAERA with respect to European sites' with Part 7 of the NAP Regulations to provide a statutory basis for imposing restrictions on activities which have or will deteriorate a European site and entering into a management agreement as part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration. OEP (2026) has recommended that DAERA should materially increase the current inspection rates and the number of random inspections. It should ensure inspection rates are sufficient to provide a credible picture of compliance, and assess whether such compliance means the NAP Regulations will deliver the intended outcomes.

5.6 In-Combination Effects

The assessment of in-combination effects with other plans or projects is a crucial and often difficult aspect of Article 4(3) assessment, particularly at a plan or policy level. This step aims to consider the principles and priorities within which the NAP Regulations are being developed and to identify at this early stage any possible in-combination effects of the existing and proposed NAP Regulations with other plans and projects and these are shown in **Table 5-7**. In theory, there are many other plans/ projects that interact with or have the potential to combine pressures and threats to European Sites; however, the in-combination assessment is a matter of applying a practical and realistic approach.

In line with EC guidance (2021), a stepwise approach has been taken to consideration of in-combination effects as follows:

- Identify plans / projects that might act in combination;
- Identify the types of effect that might occur;
- Define boundaries of the assessment;
- Identify pathways of effect; and
- Impact prediction and assessment.

Table 5-7 Assessment of In-Combination Effects

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Plans (International)		
Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2016) To strengthen the global response to the threats of climate change by keeping this century's global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions, including those associated with agriculture.	The Paris agreement and its implications have informed the NAP Regulations, particularly the measures which aim to reduce the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
EU Green Deal 2050 In response to the challenges facing Europe, the European Green Deal was adopted for the EU in December 2019. Termed a new growth strategy based on clean products and technologies, the European Green Deal is committed to working towards a climate-neutral society by 2050. It has an action plan/ roadmap of actions, of which the key objectives are to: increase the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy; as well as to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It also aims to support innovation of industry to increase circularity.	• Increased resilience in habitats and species; • Improved habitat and species protection; and • Improved air and water quality.	The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) takes a combined and ambitious approach towards sustainability and aligns agriculture with the European Green Deal, which sets out to create an inclusive, competitive, and environmentally friendly future for Europe. In this regard, the main thrust of the Green Deal is positive and would not be expected to conflict with the NAP Regulations.
EU Farm to Fork Strategy The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally friendly. The Farm to Fork Strategy aims to accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system that should: • Have a neutral or positive environmental impact; • Help to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts; • Reverse the loss of biodiversity; • Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food; and	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The Strategy commits to reducing nutrient losses by at least 50%, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility. This will reduce the use of fertilisers by at least 20% by 2030. This EU mandated target for reducing nutrient losses would likely give rise to a reduction in nitrate discharges thus protecting water courses from agricultural activity. There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, fostering competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promoting fair trade.		
EU National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) Directive Directive (EU) 2016/2284 (replacing 2001/81/EC) '*on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants*' sets national emission reduction commitments for Member States and the EU for five important air pollutants: nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, sulphur dioxide, ammonia and fine particulate matter. The new NEC Directive, which entered into force in December 2016, sets 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments for five main air pollutants.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; and • Alterations to air quality.	Ammonia emissions have been non-compliant with the NEC for 7 out of the last 9 years, driven by driven by increased animal numbers and fertiliser nitrogen use. The main thrust of the Directive is positive and there is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and revised Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 The new Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet. In the context of the post-COVID-19 pandemic, it aims to build resilience to future threats, including climate change, security of food supplies, forest fires, outbreaks of disease and combating the illegal trade in wildlife. It aims to increase the Natura 2000 network and will launch an EU restoration plan by the end of 2021. To enable implementation, it also aims to allow better tracking of progress, improving knowledge transfer and emphasising 'respect for nature' in public and business decision-making.	• Increased resilience in habitats and species; • Improved water quality; and • Improved air quality	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Strategy is to halt the loss of habitat and species.
The European Green Deal 2019 The European Green Deal is a plan to make the EU's economy sustainable. The growth strategy outlines transformation of the EU to a resource-efficient and competitive economy where: There are no net emissions of GHGs by 2050; Economic growth is decoupled from resource use; and No person and no place is left behind.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions, including those associated with agriculture.	The Green Deal and its implications have informed the NAP Regulations, particularly the measures which aim to reduce the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Therefore, there is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
The Deal provides an Action Plan to: Boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean circular economy and restore biodiversity and cut pollution.		
EU Methane Strategy 2020 The EU Methane Strategy forms part of the European Green Deal. It recognises the importance of methane as the second biggest contributor to climate change, and aims to tackle methane emissions to reach 2030 climate targets and the 2050 climate neutrality goal, as well as contributing to the Commission's zero-pollution ambition.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to methane emissions, including those associated with agriculture.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to a reduction in methane emissions.
EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change The Adaptation Strategy recognise how important impact assessment is for climate proofing, identifies the key priorities for action and how EU policies can encourage effective adaptation action.	• Alterations to agricultural practises vulnerable to climate change.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change 2021 [COM(2021)82] The Strategy outlines a long-term vision for the EU to become a climate-resilient society, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by 2050, and complements the EU's goal of becoming climate neutral by this date.	• Alterations to agricultural practises vulnerable to climate change.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005 Develop a framework for a low carbon economy which will be achieved through a National Mitigation Plan (to lower GHG emissions) and a National Adaptation Framework (to provide for responses to changes caused by climate change). This includes: • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Agreement of national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.	• Alterations to agricultural practises vulnerable to climate change.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
• Commitment to meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparation of a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.		
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (COM(2013) 249 final) Aims to develop preserve and enhance healthy green infrastructure to help stop the loss of biodiversity and enable ecosystems to deliver their many services to people and nature. The greater the scale, coherence and connectivity of the green infrastructure network, the greater its benefits. The EU Strategy on green infrastructure aims to outline how to deploy such a network and encourages action at all levels.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
WHO Air Quality Guidelines – global update (2005) Objectives seek the elimination or minimisation of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon air quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
WHO global air quality guidelines: particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide (2021) The main objective of these updated global guidelines is to offer health-based air quality guideline levels, expressed as long-term or short-term concentrations for six key air pollutants: PM2.5, PM10, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon air quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive [2008/50/EC] & 4th Daughter Directive of the Air Quality Framework Directive [2004/107/EC] Sets air quality standards for protection of human health and the environment. Address air pollution at the level of zones, while the complementary NEC Directive addresses total emissions	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition.	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon air quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Industrial Emissions Directive [2010/75/EU] Aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT)	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon air quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
National Emissions reduction Commitments (NEC) Directive [2016/2284/EU] This Directive seeks to limit the national emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment. Implements at the EU level obligations under the Geneva Convention and Gothenburg Protocol.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon air quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Geneva Convention (1979) on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) International agreement with the aim of limiting problems of air pollution on a broad regional basis.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon air quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection [COM/2006/231] and Report on its implementation [COM/2012/046] Strategy for the protection of soils across the EU. The 2012 report outlines implementation of the Strategy and ongoing activities, the blocking of progress on the proposed framework Directive, current soil degradation trends and future challenges.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon soil health and potential runoff effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive [96/61/EC], as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	• Habitat degradation or improvement;	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
To achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources.	• Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	positive effects upon soil health and potential runoff effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), (as amended by Decision 2455/2001/EC and Directives 2008/32/EC, 2008/105/EC and 2009/31/EC. Aims to improve water quality and quantity within rivers, estuaries, coasts and aquifers. Aims to prevent the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetland by setting out a timetable until 2027 to achieve good ecological status or potential. Member States are required to manage the effects on the ecological quality of water which result from changes to the physical characteristics of water bodies. Action is required in those cases where these “hydro-morphological” pressures are having an ecological impact which will interfere with the ability to achieve WFD objectives. The following Directives have been subsumed into the Water Framework Directive: • The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive • Sampling Drinking Water Directive • Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive • Shellfish Directive • Freshwater Fish Directive • Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive • Dangerous substances Directive	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon soil health and potential runoff effects to water quality and habitats through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) Establishes a framework whereby the necessary measures are undertaken to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020. Requires the development and implementation of marine strategies in order to protect and preserve the marine environment, prevent its deterioration or, where	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon soil health and potential runoff effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
practicable, restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected. It aims to prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution as defined in Article 3(8), so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.		Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Groundwater Directive [80/68/EEC] and Daughter Directive [2006/118/EC] Aims to protect groundwater from pollution by controlling discharges and disposals of certain dangerous substances to groundwater. Made under the Water Framework Directive, the Daughter Directive aims to prevent and limit inputs of pollutants to groundwater.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon soil health and potential runoff effects to water quality and habitats effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Sewage Sludge Directive [86/78/EEC] The Directive promotes the use of sewage sludge in agriculture but regulates its use to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and people.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon potential runoff effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive [91/271/EEC] The Directive's objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors and concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of domestic waste water, mixture of waste water and waste water from certain industrial sectors.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects water quality through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
Use and Disposal of Animal By-products (Commission Regulation 2011/EU142)	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
The Regulation lays down strict rules for the collection, transport, storage, handling, processing and use or disposal of all animal by-products not intended for human consumption.	• Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	
Nitrates Directive [91/676/EEC] The Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Alterations to air quality.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon potential runoff and airborne nutrient effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Environmental Quality Standards Directive (Directive 2008/105/EC) (also known as the Priority Substances Directive), as amended by Directive 2013/39/EU. Establishes environmental quality standards (EQS) for priority substances and certain other pollutants as provided for in Article 16 of the Water Framework Directive and aims to achieve good surface water chemical status in accordance with the provisions and objectives of Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Alterations to air quality	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon potential runoff and airborne nutrient effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
Seventh Environmental Action Programme to 2020 of the European Community The Programme guides European environment policy until 2020, and sets out a vision beyond that, of where it wants the EU to be by 2050. Objectives seek to make the future development of the EU more sustainable. It identifies key objectives: • To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; • To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; • To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Alterations to air quality	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
• Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: • To make the Union's cities more sustainable; and • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.		
Environmental Liability Directive [2004/35/EC] Establishes a framework for environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. Relates to environmental damage caused by occupational activities (listed in Annex III), and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Alterations to air quality	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon potential runoff and airborne nutrient effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resource [COM(2012/673] The Blueprint aims to improve implementation of existing water policy, to integrate water considerations into other policy areas and indicate where further measures may be necessary for water efficiency and adaptation to climate change.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon potential runoff through proposed agricultural practises and standards.
Plans (Northern Ireland)		
Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity. The strategy sets out the proposals for action to help halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems up to 2020.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
• Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society • Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable development • To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity • Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services • Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.	• Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Nature Recovery Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032 A strategy for Northern Ireland which sets out the changes needed to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment, to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and deliver a nature positive future for Northern Ireland. There are five strategic objectives associated with the strategy. • Well Protected Nature and Accelerated Restoration • Reduction of the Pressures on Biodiversity • Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Nature-Friendly Policies and Practice • Nature Valued and Mainstreamed across All of Government and Society • Building Strong, Integrated Evidence and Knowledge to Enable Action and Reporting for Nature	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
UK Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework Succeeds the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and ‘conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach’. Sets out the UK’s response to the CBD’s ‘Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020’ and its 20 ‘Aichi Targets’ (2010), and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011).	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
	• Introduction or spread of invasive species	
Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, and amendment Regulations These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and the Minister to designate special areas of conservation (endangered species and habitats of endangered species) as a contribution to an EU Community network to be known as NATURA 2000. Protects certain birds, plants, animals, marine life and their habitats, including Natura 2000 sites, through creating criminal offences and changing planning requirements.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate, targeted and effective implementation of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 Amended the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 by giving protection to a wider range of plants, animals and birds, and providing additional enforcement powers and increased penalties for wildlife related offences. The Act also introduced a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Covers several environmental issues, including pollution prevention control, assessment and management of air quality, and designation of areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs).	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to the Department considering aligning Section 43 of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
		2002' with Part 7 of the NAP Regulations to provide a statutory basis for imposing restrictions on activities which have or will deteriorate an ASSI (which underpins the reasons for designation as a European site) and entering into a management agreement as part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.
DAERA Conservation Management Plans for SACs Series of Management Plans for SACs in Northern Ireland, determining the pressures and threats to habitats and species at the sites, and identifying the management actions required to address these pressures.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to inclusion of appropriate, targeted and effective implementation of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration in a future iteration of any relevant SAC Management Plan.
UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) Provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the natural environment in the UK and a new way of estimating our national wealth. Northern Ireland covered in Chapter 18.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to ecosystems, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Northern Ireland Species Action Plan Freshwater Pearl Mussel, 2005 To assist delivery of the NI Biodiversity Strategy, for the protection and enhancement of NI Priority Species.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to the Annex II species, freshwater pearl mussel, through proposed agricultural practises and standards.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
	• Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Delivering Our Future, Valuing Our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy (SALMS) For Northern Ireland 2016 Linked to the 'Going for Growth' Strategy, which specifically recommended the development of a strategic land management policy. Outlines how the ambitions in this strategy could be achieved in a way which improves farm incomes and environmental performance simultaneously.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to give rise to positive effects upon soil health and potential runoff effects through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate, targeted and effective implementation of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.
Northern Ireland's second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP2) 2019 – 2024 The NICCAP2 contains the NICS Departments response to the risks and opportunities relevant to Northern Ireland, as identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 (CCRA 2017). It sets out preparation for climate change impacts that are already happening and puts in place plans for future impacts.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions, including those associated with agriculture.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation. It is noted through consultation that OEP (2026) advises under 'impacts of climate change on nutrient loss' that DAERA should determine how best the NAP Regulations can be 'future-proofed' in the face of ongoing and accelerating climate change. This will require an adaptive management approach, including interim reviews, that take account of new evidence and data concerning the impacts of climate change on nutrient management and the environment.
Northern Ireland's draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027 The draft Climate Act Plan is required under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and sets out the policies and proposals required to achieve the necessary reductions in emissions and the	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions, including those associated with agriculture.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation. It is noted through consultation that OEP

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
actions needed to enable this to happen. This Climate Action Plan focuses on meeting the first carbon budget 2023-2027.		(2026) advises under 'impacts of climate change on nutrient loss' that DAERA should determine how best the NAP Regulations can be 'future-proofed' in the face of ongoing and accelerating climate change. This will require an adaptive management approach, including interim reviews, that take account of new evidence and data concerning the impacts of climate change on nutrient management and the environment.
(Northern Ireland) Sustainable Energy Action Plan, 2012-2015 and beyond (2012) The Action Plan outlines the various initiatives being undertaken by the Northern Ireland Executive and includes a statement of leadership from the Executive, demonstrating a united and long-lasting commitment to sustainable energy. This Plan builds from the Strategy Energy Frameworks, 2010. Building energy markets. Ensuring security supple. Enhancing sustainability and development of competitive energy markets. Increasing the level of electrify and heat from renewable sources.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) Programme 2017 The UK Government is required, under the Climate Change Act, to publish a CCRA every 5 years, setting out the risks and opportunities facing the UK from climate change.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
UK National Air Pollution Control Programme (APPCP) 2019 Programme required under The National Emission Ceilings Regulations 2018. The APPCP sets out how the UK can meet the legally binding 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. There is potential for positive in-combination effects upon air quality through the proposed agricultural measures and standards, subject to appropriate implementation.
Making Ammonia Visible (Annex to the SALMS for NI) 2017 Linked to the 'Going for Growth' Strategy, which specifically recommended the development of a strategic land management policy. Aim is to satisfy the joint need of bringing ammonia emissions	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. There is potential for positive in-combination effects upon ammonia emissions through the

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
from agriculture down to a level that lets an expanding sector deliver the ambition laid down in the “Going for Growth” report, while allowing Priority Habitats to recover.		proposed agricultural measures and standards, subject to appropriate implementation.
Draft Ammonia Strategy for Northern Ireland (in development) The draft Ammonia Strategy consultation sets targets for 2030 and beyond for ammonia reduction, and proposes three pillars as part of a strategic approach to addressing ammonia: • An ambitious and verifiable ammonia reduction programme for implementation on farms; • A programme of restoration and management of our most valuable habitats to alleviate the symptoms of ammonia and nitrogen exceedance; and • A revised Operational Protocol for the assessment of impacts from atmospheric nitrogen pollution.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects envisaged with the NAP Regulations. There is potential for positive in-combination effects upon ammonia emissions through the proposed agricultural measures and standards, subject to appropriate, targeted and effective implementation of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2022 statistical bulletin This statistical bulletin is updated annually and outlines key NI figures from the GHG Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.	• Alterations to air quality and nutrient deposition	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects envisaged with the NAP.
Environmental Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020 Plan for the agriculture and forestry sector to reduce GHG emissions. Focus on supporting the implementation of on-farm efficiency measures designed to reduce the carbon intensity of food products, while simultaneously improving productivity and profitability.	• Reduction in practices giving rise to greenhouse gas emissions, including those associated with agriculture.	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland 2014-2020 & Annual Implementation Report 2019 The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) is supported through Pillar 2 of the EU Common Agricultural Policy	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;	Subject to the appropriate implementation of the NAP Regulations, it is not considered that there is potential for in-combination effects to arise, however in the absence of mitigation or appropriate consideration of potential adverse

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
(CAP), focussed on improving the structural and environmental performance of agriculture and promoting local/rural development	• Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	effects upon European Sites, adverse in-combination effects may occur and cannot be excluded.
Going for Growth Strategy 2017 The Strategy is a strategic action plan for the agri-food sector. Includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing, and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	Subject to the appropriate implementation of the NAP Regulations, it is not considered that there is potential for in-combination effects to arise, however in the absence of mitigation or appropriate consideration of potential adverse effects upon European Sites, adverse in-combination effects may occur and cannot be excluded.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 2015 This planning policy sets out the Department's regional planning policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland under the reformed two-tier planning system. The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The SPPS has been subject to SEA and mitigation measures recommended. Subject to the appropriate implementation of the NAP Regulations, it is not considered that there is potential for in-combination effects to arise, however in the absence of mitigation or appropriate consideration of potential adverse effects upon European Sites, adverse in-combination effects may occur and cannot be excluded.
The Regional Development Strategy 2035 – Shaping Our Future Updates the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 The strategy aims to take account of the economic ambitions and needs of the Region, and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the Region to be met.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and	The RDS has been subject to AA and mitigation measures recommended. Subject to the appropriate implementation of the NAP Regulations, it is not considered that there is potential for in-combination effects to arise, however in the absence of mitigation or appropriate consideration of potential adverse effects upon European Sites, adverse in-combination effects may occur and cannot be excluded.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
	• Introduction or spread of invasive species	
UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Agenda 21 The strategy aims to take account of the economic ambitions and needs of the Region, and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the Region to be met.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009, and amendment Regulations 2018 Implement EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC on the risk and management of flood risk in Northern Ireland.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff)	Given the nature of the regulations, which focus on flooding, there is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
NI Flood Risk Management Plan, 2021-2027 The NI Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is a key requirement of the Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) and is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff)	Given the nature of the plan, which focuses on flooding, there is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 Implements the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) in Northern Ireland, designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater. Revokes and replaces the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, to reflect new	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
arrangements for sewerage services set out in the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.	• Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 Bans the use of sewage sludge from treatment plants in agriculture, unless certain requirements are met including specified pH levels, no fruit or vegetable harvesting and no soil and groundwater pollution.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 Transpose the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) into NI legislation. Places a responsibility on NI to try to ensure that all inland and coastal waters reach at least “good status” (or good ecological potential for artificial or heavily modified water bodies); Implementation of management planning at river basin level, to achieve this target, linking with other key policy areas such as agriculture, land use, biodiversity, tourism and flood protection through a river basin management plan (RBMP). This sets out a programme of measures to be implemented over 6-year cycles aimed at improving water body status.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff)	River basin management plans arising from the regulations are subject to screening for appropriate assessment. Subject to the appropriate implementation of the NAP Regulations, it is not considered that there is potential for adverse in-combination effects to arise. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate, targeted and effective implementation of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.
Water Framework Directive (Classification, Priority Substances and Shellfish Waters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 Transpose Directive 2013/39/EU which revised environmental standards for some priority substances and added a further twelve additional substances to the list of priority substances introduced by the original Priority Substances Directive (2008/105/EC).	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
• Consolidate all the current legislation which set out the Water Framework Classification Schemes. • Consolidate all the current legislation which set out the Water Framework Classification Schemes. Sets environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines standards required for Shellfish waters.	• Introduction or spread of invasive species	
Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (NI) 2003 Establishes construction and storage standards for silage making and storage, slurry storage systems and agricultural fuel oil stores, with aim of reducing water pollution.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff)	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 Regulates waste on land, abandoned vehicles, noise nuisance, noise abatement zones, sulphur content of oil fuel used in furnaces and engines, cable burning, and pollution of the atmosphere and water. Other aspects have been revoked.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 Aim to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption from private supplies by ensuring that the water meets water quality standards and revoke and replace the 2009 Regulations (as amended).	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017	• Habitat degradation or improvement;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Aim to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption from private supplies by ensuring that the water meets water quality standards and revoke and replace the 2009 Regulations (as amended).	• Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	
The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 Require regular testing of bathing waters, to ensure that they are of high enough quality for the general public to bathe in; • Require a Profile to be prepared for each designated bathing water site, giving detailed information on the physical characteristics and assessing the pollution risk to each site; • Set quality standards for a number of issues, the most important of which relate to coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which can indicate the mount of sewage or other faecal contaminants present.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (including updates) Sets out the waste management regime covering waste carrier registration and identifying and remedying contaminated land.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 and amendment Implement the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) in Northern Ireland. Implement the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) in Northern Ireland. Brings into force rules to force polluters to prevent and repair damage to water systems, land quality, species and their habitats and protected sites. The polluter does not have to be prosecuted first, so remedying the damage should be faster.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 and amendments Introduces classification systems in line with EU developments, makes it an offence to discharge listed substances without an authorisation, controls issuing and reviewing authorisations and consents. Covers enforcement, codes of practice and penalties.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Protection of Water Against Agricultural Nitrate Pollution (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004 Implement the requirement of the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) to formulate an “Action Programme”, for the protection of water from nitrate pollution from agricultural activities. Establishes that an Action Programme must be established and applied throughout the territory of Northern Ireland.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and amendment Regulations 2007 Sets out a control regime for regulating the abstraction of water from underground strata and waterways and for constructing, altering or operating impounding works.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (including amendments up to 2004) Revokes and replaces the Water Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and makes provision for discharge consents. Enables the DoE to set water quality objectives and prevent pollution from anti-pollution works.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
NI Water Our Strategy 2021-2046	• Habitat degradation or improvement;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Strategy for the provision of a high-quality water supply. The Strategy covers a longer-term view over a quarter of a century (2021-2046).	• Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 Establishes government-owned companies' obligations for water supply, drinking water quality, trade effluent and sewage disposal, water and sewerage charges and customer service.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Waste Management Plan 2013 – 2020 The Waste Management Plan 2013-2020 outlines how it will efficiently manage waste for the Councils it represents with the overall goal of creating a system that 'meets the region's needs and contributes towards economic and sustainable development'. Subject to review every five years the Plan details how NI will fulfil its statutory obligations under the EU Waste Framework Directive and The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff).	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) Local Biodiversity Action Plans are a way of encouraging people to work together and deliver a programme of continuing action for biodiversity at a local level. They set out practical steps that aim to help protect biodiversity, enhance and improve biodiversity where possible, and promote biodiversity at a local level.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to biodiversity, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Nature conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI 1985) Amenity Lands Order (NI 1985 Provides for designation of the finest landscape areas as either Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Parks land and takes steps to manage them for both conservation and recreation.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 The Order allows for Monuments to be protected by taking them into State Care, or by Scheduling, and also places restrictions on searching for archaeological material. The purpose of designation is to ensure that policies are created, and action taken to: • Conserve or enhance the natural beauty or amenities of that area; • Conserve wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena within it; • Promote its enjoyment by the public; and • Provide or maintain public access to it.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species;	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
County Development Plans and Local Development Plans Development Plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where building should be allowed. Each Council must prepare a development plan for their area in consultation with the local community.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	County and local development plans are subject to appropriate assessment, with mitigation applied as required. Subject to appropriate implementation it is not considered that the NAP Regulations would have any potential to give rise to significant adverse in-combination effects. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Living With Water in Belfast 2020 Aims to deliver a new, strategic, long-term approach to drainage and wastewater management to protect from flooding, provide a cleaner and greener environment and support growth of the Greater Belfast area.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation, as the programme also seeks to deliver

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
	• Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff)	benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.
Plans (Republic of Ireland)		
Eighth Environmental Action Programme (2021-2030) The 8th EAP aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and regenerative economy. It recognises that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on the healthy ecosystems within which we operate and sets out six priority objectives (i) climate neutrality by 2050 (ii) reducing vulnerability to climate change (iii) circular economy (iv) zero-pollution ambition (v) enhancing natural capital and (vi) reducing environmental and climate pressures.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Disturbance to habitats/ species	As the EAP is aimed at environmental action protection, there are no potential in-combination effects envisaged.
The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) and Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012) The overarching sustainable development policy document in the EU. During the 2009 review the EU noted a number of unsustainable trends that require urgent action including a decrease in high energy consumption in the transport sector in line with the 2020 Strategy. At national level, Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012) has followed the model used in the EU SDS.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	Among the sustainable agriculture measures specified in the Our Sustainable Future national document is promoting sustainable pasture-based farming and soil management contributing to sustainable energy requirements. As such, there is no potential for in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 The primary purpose of this Directive and the various pieces of national legislation that have enacted through the implementation of River Basin Management Plans, is to achieve good status for all water	• Improved Water Quality; • Improved habitats; and • Increased resilience in habitats and species	No risk of adverse in-combination effects as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve ecological status and includes achievement of objectives of the Habitats and Birds Directives. The third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027 was published together with a NIS including mitigation to offset negative effects.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
bodies, with no deterioration in water body status. The RBMP sets out the PoM to achieve the objectives of the WFD.		Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation of NAP Regulations.
Water Services Strategic Plan Irish Water has prepared a Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP, 2015), under Section 33 of the Water Service No. 2 Act of 2013 to address the delivery of strategic objectives which will contribute towards improved water quality and WFD requirements. The WSSP forms the highest tier of asset management plans (Tier 1) which Irish Water prepare, and it sets the overarching framework for subsequent detailed implementation plans (Tier 2) and water services projects (Tier 3). The WSSP sets out the challenges we face as a country in relation to the provision of water services and identifies strategic national priorities. It includes Irish Water's short-, medium- and long-term objectives and identifies strategies to achieve these objectives. As such, the plan provides the context for subsequent detailed implementation plans (Tier 2) which will document the approach to be used for key water service areas such as water resource management, wastewater compliance and sludge management. The WSSP also sets out the strategic objectives against which the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme is developed. The current version of the CIP outlines the proposals for capital expenditure in terms of upgrades and new builds within the Irish Water owned asset	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The WSSP has undergone SEA and AA, which highlighted the need for additional plan/project environmental assessments to be carried out at the tier 2 and tier 3 levels. No likely significant in-combination effects are envisaged.
Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, under the Floods Directive The Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for the implementation of the Floods Directive 2007/60/EC which is being carried out through a Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme. As part of the directive Ireland is required to undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, to identify areas of existing or potentially significant future flood risk and to prepare flood hazard and risk maps for these areas. Following this,	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Disturbance; • In-combination impacts within the same scheme	CFRAM Studies and their product Flood Risk Management Plans, have undergone appropriate assessment. Any future flood plans will have to take into account the design and implementation of water management infrastructure as it has the potential to impact on hydro morphology and potentially on the ecological status and favourable conservation status of water bodies. The AA of the CFRAMs considered the potential for impacts from hard engineering solutions and how these might affect hydrological

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are developed for these areas setting objectives for managing the flood risk and setting out a prioritised set of measures to achieve the objectives. The CFRAM programme is currently being rolled out and Draft Flood Risk Management Plans have been prepared. These plans have been subject AA.		connectivity and hydro morphological supporting conditions for protected habitats and species. No likely significant in-combination effects are envisaged.
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023 - 2027 The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) protects family farm incomes, supports the rural economy, ensures the production of high-quality safe food for consumers and protects rural landscapes and the environment. The CAP consists of a Two Pillar Structure: • Pillar 1 Income Support (The main schemes include the Basic Payment Scheme and Greening); and • Pillar 2 Infrastructure, Environment and Development Support (The main schemes include GLAS, EIP-AGRI and TAMS). The CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) includes the preparation of a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and a Needs Assessment.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The evolution of the CAP has been increasingly concerned with sustainability from an environmental perspective. It has helped to reduce the pollution of waters by nitrates, through rural development measures (in particular, agri-environment measures, support for investments in storage of manure, and training) and cross-compliance (including the introduction of the Nitrates Directive, establishment of buffer strips along water courses). In this regard, no likely significant in-combination effects are envisaged.
Fifth Nitrates Action Programme 2022-2025 and Sixth Nitrates Action Programme 2026-2029 Existing requirements within Fifth NAP and proposed measures that are prescribed in the Sixth NAP that apply to farming practices and the protection of water include: • Limits on farm stocking rates; • Limiting the application of fertilisers; • The application of 'closed periods' preventing the application of organic and chemical fertilisers during environmentally vulnerable parts of the season; Minimum storage requirements for livestock manures;	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	There is no potential for adverse in-combination effects with the NAP Regulations. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation of the NAP in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as the programme also seeks to deliver benefits to water quality, through proposed agricultural practises and standards. Potential beneficial in-combination effects could be delivered subject to appropriate implementation.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
• Requirements regarding maintenance of green cover in tillage lands; Requirements for farmers to maintain adequate records; • Knowledge transfer to farmers and farming advisors on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP); • Nutrient Management Planning (NMP) is required from farmers to maximises the value of chemical and organic nutrient inputs; • Cattle are prevented from entering watercourses on farms with a grassland stocking rate of 170 kg N/ha or above - water courses to be fenced 1.5 metres from the top of the river bank or water's edge; • Phosphorus build-up is permitted on farms with stocking rates of 130 kg N/ha or above to optimise soil productivity; • Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) is a requirement for all derogation farmers from 2020; • Better policy alignment, with particular reference to the Farm 2 Fork and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 both of which have set ambitious targets for the agricultural sector; • Climate action measures, in particular the Climate Action Plan 2019, and specifically Action 109 on the improvement of on-farm slurry management; Biodiversity measures such as those in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021; and • Nitrates derogation and the potential to seek a new derogation for DAFM approved farms and units. • Proposals to subject farm level derogation applications to project level screening for appropriate assessment and appropriate assessment as required		
Food Vision 2030 - A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems This ten-year strategy is the successor to the current Food Wise 2025 plan and aims to make Ireland a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems over the next decade. Some of the key high-level targets	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species;	This strategy aims to increase the value of Irish agri-food exports from €14.2 billion in 2020 up to €21 billion by 2030. The strategy aims to achieve this intensification through sustainable steady value growth in a climate smart, environmentally sustainable agri-food sector.

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
outlined in the strategy of relevance to the NAP Regulations include the following: • Biogenic methane reduction of a minimum of 10% by 2030 (based on 2018 data); • Nitrous Oxide: Emissions associated with chemical fertiliser use to reduce by more than 50% by 2030; • Water Quality: The Strategy commits to reduce nutrient losses from agriculture to water by 50% by 2030; • Biodiversity: It is envisaged that by 2030, 10% of farmed area will be prioritised for biodiversity, spread across all farms throughout the country; • Air Quality: Ammonia emissions to reduce to 5% below 2005 levels by 2030 The Programme for Government called for an ambitious blueprint for the sector for the years ahead, adding value sustainably into the future, with a strategic focus on environmental protection. It is also a key deliverable for agriculture under the Government's Our Rural Future, Ireland's Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.	• Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The Strategy commits to reduce nutrient losses from agriculture to water by 50% in 2030 in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy. The AA concluded that the adoption of Food Vision 2030 would not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites. However, over the period of previous agri-food strategies (Food Harvest 2020 and Food-Wise 2025), dairy cow numbers increased by 24.5% and milk production increased by 41%. This intensification also increased the total nitrogen load discharged to Irish Waters. As such, there is a concern that the intensification of the agri-food sector may result in additional nitrogen losses over the lifetime of the Food Vision 2030 period. However, it is noted that the intensification is not projected to significantly increase herd numbers and, as such, any additional nitrogen loading to water may be modest. Potential for cumulative impacts resulting in adverse effects on European sites between the Food Vision 2030 and the NAP Regulations cannot be ruled out.
Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. An Ireland which is built on the interdependence of urban and rural areas. An Ireland which recognises the centrality of people, the importance of vibrant and lived-in rural places, and the potential to create quality jobs and sustain our shared environment.	• Habitat degradation or improvement; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Release of contaminated material (soils, runoff); and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The AA for Our Rural Future concluded that the policy would not have LSE on a European site. Policy 126 is to Implement Ag Climatise which includes for actions to both reduce nitrogen use (see later in this table). As such likely significant in-combination effects associated with the NAP Regulations can be excluded.
Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	• Habitat loss or destruction;	The Rural Development Plan (RDP) was subject to its own AA. Mitigation in the RDP requires that Appropriate

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Provides a new suite of rural development measures designed to enhance the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, achieve more sustainable management of natural resources and ensure a more balanced development of rural areas. Includes provisions under GLAS; Bio-Energy; nutrient management planning; 'Carbon Navigator' software tool	• Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	Assessment is to be carried out for all individual building, tourism or agricultural reclamation projects, stakeholder engagement and site-based monitoring. With the required mitigation in the RDP, no significant in-combination impacts are predicted.
Action Plan for Rural Development (2019) Action Plan for Rural Development sets out the Government's approach for rural places in Ireland to grow and adapt through supportive measures which encourage innovation and build on the existing strengths of rural communities in Ireland.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The Action Plan for Rural Development includes over 230 actions focussed on developing the rural economy. No significant in-combination impacts are predicted.
Climate Action Plan 2019 The plan focusses on energy, transport, waste, agriculture and buildings. The plan includes new governance structures necessary to implement changes and sets out specific targets for each sector. Specifically, Action 102 of the Plan focusses on the implementation of a suite of measures to improve nitrogen use efficiency as follows: • Establish an industry group to promote new 'environmentally friendly' branding and standards on low emissions fertilisers to improve awareness;	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	Agriculture was responsible for 35.4% of greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland in 2019 mainly methane from livestock, and nitrous oxide due to the use of nitrogen fertiliser and manure management. With the Climate Action Plan Measures scenario, emissions from agriculture are projected to decrease to approximately 19 Mt CO_{2eq} by 2030 which is an 11.3% reduction over the period 2020-2030. This assumes that the Teagasc Greenhouse Gas Marginal Abatement Cost Curve[17] measures are adopted and fully implemented including the de-coupling of N_2O

[17] https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2018/An-Analysis-of-Abatement-Potential-of-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions-in-Irish-Agriculture-2021-2030.pdf

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
• Develop a blueprint for low N use suitable to all productivity levels and develop implementation options; • Reduce nitrogen fertiliser use through the inclusion of clover in grassland swards; • Improve adoption of Low Emissions Slurry Spreading equipment; and • Complete research in respect of potential food residues arising from certain fertiliser formulations (e.g. protected urea) which will allow industry to have confidence in the widespread use of these products which lower N_2O emissions.		emissions from production via nitrogen use efficiency and the use of low emission fertilisers and spreading techniques. It is considered that there is potential for positive in combination effects as it supports long term reductions in fugitive losses of nitrogen.
Ag-Climatise This is the National 'Climate & Air Roadmap' for the Agriculture Sector. The roadmap sets an ambitious vision for a 'climate neutral agriculture sector by 2050' and includes 29 actions with specific and challenging targets aimed at reducing the environmental footprint and further building on the strong credentials of Irish Agriculture. One of the key tasks listed is to reduce nutrient loss to the environment and contribute to improved water quality and biodiversity.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; and • Alterations to air quality.	Ag-Climatise includes for actions to both reduce nitrogen use and to achieve a target of 90% of all slurry spread by low emissions slurry spreading by 2027. This LESS technology has co-benefits for reducing both nitrate losses to ground and water as well as losses of ammonia to atmosphere. It is considered that there is potential for positive in combination effects as it supports long term reductions in fugitive losses of nitrogen.
National Development Plan 2018-2027 The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF). This will guide national, regional, and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species	The NDP is a high level budgetary and finance document which identifies priorities for capital investment. Given the nature of the capital investment the majority of the projects referenced and funded under the NDP have been or will be subject to EIA/AA. The NDP does not confer planning, it identifies strategic need. There is no potential for significant in-combination effects.
National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan)	• Habitat loss or destruction;	It is a policy[18] of the National Planning Framework to ensure the resilience of natural resources and cultural assets.

[18] http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/towards_a_national_planning_framework_december_2015.pdf , Appendix II – Page 2

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
The National Planning Framework is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years and it will focus on ensuring compatibility between future growth of cities/ towns within Ireland alongside environmental sustainability. It is intended that the National Planning Framework will both provide the focus to guide and inform future planning and set the framework for integrated investment decisions. It is intended that the national policy will be detailed through the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies in order to set out long term national, regional and local development frameworks from within which sectors will work together to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic are being subject to the AA process.	• Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alteration to air quality; • Disturbance.	Linkage to wider policies such as for European Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive is recognised and the need to set high level planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of the natural environment. The NPF has been subject to AA and includes clear policy on avoidance of impacts to European sites. The NPF has a focus on the sustainable development of rural areas which is aligned with agricultural practices supported in the NAP Regulations. There is no potential for significant in-combination effects.
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies The three regional strategies seek to interpret and implement the NPF at a regional level.	• Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The three regional strategies include clear policy and supporting actions to avoid and minimise impacts on European sites. They include similar commitments to only implement the policy base within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment as greater detail is known through the planning hierarchy. There is no potential for significant in-combination effects.
Biodiversity Climate Adaptation Plan [arising from the National Climate Adaptation Framework] The framework provides strategic focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. There is a requirement for each government department to prepare sectoral plans. The DCHG completed this in relation to Biodiversity. The Biodiversity CAP sets out the key challenges for biodiversity and the actions needed to increase resilience of our native flora and fauna to the effects of climate change.	• Increased resilience in habitats and species • Introduction or spread of invasive species • Improved Water quality	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the plan is to protect biodiversity and improve the understanding of the link between climate change and environmental impacts. The actions and priorities arising from the plan are important for resilience in the longer term. Positive in combination effects as it supports resilience to climate change and there is no potential for significant in-combination effects.
National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	• Improved habitat and species protection	As the BAP is aimed at environmental protection, there are no in-combination effects though it is noted that the BAP cites agricultural intensification as a current threat to

NAP Regulations In-Combination with…	Key Types of Effects	Assessment of Effects
Ireland's third iteration of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), for conserving and restoring Ireland's biodiversity covering the period 2023 to 2030. The aims are to achieve Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity through addressing issues ranging from improving the management of protected areas to increasing awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.		biodiversity. Objective 4 is to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. Given the positive nature of the Action Plan, there is no potential for significant in-combination effects.
National Raised Bog Management Plan The current NPWS programme for the restoration of raised bogs throughout Ireland, as detailed within the National Raised Bog Management Plan, will deliver ecological benefits for both the raised bog habitats and watercourses downstream of these bogs, through blocking of drains within these sites alongside other measures. This will result in an overall decrease in the sediment loads of the watercourses within the catchments supporting raised bog SACs in addition to restoration of the condition of the raised bog habitats themselves.	• Decrease sediment loads and acidity in catchments downstream of bogs to be restored • Improved condition of raised bog habitats	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the plan is to restore raised bog sites. The actions and priorities arising from the plan are important for resilience in the longer term.

6.0 Mitigation and Monitoring

6.1 Iterative Development of the Draft NAP 2027-2030 and the SEA

The iterative development of the draft NAP 2027-2030 and its associated HRA and SEA involved the consideration of earlier versions of the proposed changes to the NAP, and interim appraisal of the potential for effects on European sites, from its implementation. The SEA and HRA team provided feedback to DAERA where the potential for adverse environmental effects on site integrity was identified, and recommended omissions, changes to strengthen measures, and additional measures for inclusion in the draft NAP 2027-2030.

The proposed measures contained in the draft NAP 2027-2030 have been developed following this feedback and significant policy, technical and stakeholder consideration, including the need to address the limitations of previous proposals which did not secure political or sectoral acceptance. Tetra Tech is advised that the NAP development process followed clearly defined Terms of Reference, and measures are now proposed following consideration and agreement of proposals by the NAP Stakeholder Task and Finish Group, which included membership from organisations across farming, agri-food, the environment and DAERA officials.

6.2 HRA Mitigation

The outcomes of the assessment of existing measures to be carried forward, as set out in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, and the assessment of the proposed changes to the draft NAP 2027-2030 are provided in Section 5.5.

The draft NAP 2027-2030 is an Action Programme required under the Nitrates Directive (91/676EEC) and its domestic implementing regulations - the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 - aims to protect water quality from nitrate pollution from agricultural sources and promote the use of good agricultural practices. Given the whole territory approach of the NAP Regulations in NI, all farms are subject to its measures.

In general, the assessment of these measures indicates that the potential for effects on the environment from their implementation are largely positive, reflecting their nature as protective measures. However, measures within the draft NAP 2027-2030 also effectively prescribe agricultural activities, such as the application of organic manures and chemical fertilisers. Consideration of the baseline environment shows that the status and trends in water quality and conservation condition of European sites are declining, and there is evidence that agricultural activities in NI are a significant driver of these declines. Of that there is no doubt.

As stated previously, the Minister’s foreword to the NAP consultation document states that our water quality has been impacted by excess nutrients in recent years. In its Review of implementation of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (2019) in Northern Ireland (OEP, 2026), the OEP states that pollution by nutrients from agriculture and wastewater is a longstanding, severe and chronic problem that affects the economy, society and environment of Northern Ireland; and in its Nutrients Action Programme Implementation Report for 2020–2023 (DAERA, 2024), DAERA states that nutrient enrichment of the aquatic environment, known as eutrophication, has been a long recognised problem.

This NAP Implementation Report (DAERA, 2024) indicates that, despite initial improvements in water quality in the five years following the introduction of the first iteration of the NAP, this has not been sustained and there is no evidence of clear and consistent recovery of water quality to meet the objectives of the WFD Regulations, or to the levels necessary to restore and maintain European Sites and their qualifying interests to favourable conservation status. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the existing measures to

be carried forward, as set out in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, are sufficiently effective and/or sufficient to provide improvements and protection against further deterioration in water quality. The proposed changes to the draft NAP 2027-2030 could largely be viewed as beneficial to water quality. However, without effective implementation and enforcement of measures, there is insufficient evidence that the implementation of the suite of other proposed measures together with existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 will be sufficient to halt and reverse the continued declines in water quality.

Therefore, the NAP is at risk of contravening the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The status and trends of water quality in NI are declining, with pressure assessments highlighting agricultural activities as a significant contributor to nutrient enrichment. Monitoring data indicates that, with the best of intentions, the previous NAP regimes and their associated Regulations are not working effectively, as they are either not being implemented correctly, or targeted sufficiently in the right places, or not adequately enforced.

Release of agricultural nutrients under previous iterations of the NAP in addition to other significant sources of nutrient pollution, ranging from major urban wastewater treatment facilities to domestic septic tanks are contributing to a longstanding, severe and chronic problem that affects the economy, society and environment of Northern Ireland. Toxic algal blooms in Lough Neagh are only the most visible evidence of the widespread pollution now affecting the majority of rivers, loughs and coastal areas.

The NAP plays an essential role in reducing excess nutrients from agriculture. It provides the framework for how nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are managed on farms, helping to reduce pollution risks while supporting efficient nutrient use and farm productivity. The OEP has evaluated the effectiveness of the NAP Regulations in limiting nutrient pollution from agriculture and how the NAP Regulations interrelate with legal duties owed under separate legal regimes (OEP, 2026). Their report sets out the objectives and provisions of the regulations and assess their application in practice and how they may affect compliance with wider legal duties. In so doing, OEP considers whether they provide a sound basis for achieving the environmental outcomes set by DAERA and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The NAP is inherently and *prima facie* a good thing, deliberately constructed to strengthen compliance, improve accountability and target the key agricultural pressures contributing to nutrient loss. This includes measures aimed at reducing phosphorus surpluses across intensive sectors, improving nutrient management, and introducing more robust controls and verification requirements for slurry movements. Simply because its previous iterations have not been sufficiently effective in halting or reversing chronic pollution of our water environment is not good cause to revoke NAP Regulations already in force, or to not set about revising better Regulations going forwards.

There are compelling reasons to maintain the effects of the Nutrient Action Plan and its implementing Regulations. The Advocate General of the CJEU, in her Opinion in the An Taisce joined cases (C-531/24 and C-895/24) notes that to repeal such measures would create a legal vacuum which would be incompatible with the Member State's obligation to adopt measures to implement the Nitrates Directive; that all restrictions on the application of nitrates by farms contained in the NAP would cease to apply until further notice without being replaced, and this could also undermine the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive (paragraph 183, (CJEU, 2026)).

DTA (2026) outlines the principal objective of the Habitats Directive, and points to first principles, stating that:

> *"the preamble to the Directive describes the 'main aim of the Directive being to promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements' and continues 'this Directive makes a contribution to the general objective of sustainable development'. It is therefore clear that the Directive, when understood as a whole, seeks to deliver biodiversity outcomes in a manner which takes account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements, with reference to the general objective of sustainable development.*

Article 2 is clear that measures taken pursuant to the Directive shall be designed to maintain or restore natural habitats and species to a favourable conservation status, but is also clear and explicit that such measures shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics. […]

Article 2 is therefore highly significant to how the Directive should be interpreted and applied; it is an overarching provision which applies to all measures taken pursuant to the Directive and it therefore should be forefront and central, unless the Directive itself explicitly provides for an exception to this overarching provision.

It is therefore unhelpful to read Article 6 in isolation, as it needs to be correctly understood within the context of Article 2. Article 6 should be interpreted in a manner which provides protection to designated site network whilst respecting Article 2 and taking account of social, economic and cultural requirements."

At face value, the existing NAP measures as well as those proposed in this cycle should have minor positive effects and lead to improvements. However, as the NAP is what effectively licences agricultural activities, such as the land spreading of slurry, there are also potentially significant negative effects identified. Therefore, Tetra Tech has proposed a mechanism to address the activities which are contravening the Habitats and Water Framework Directive Regulations which is recommended for inclusion within the NAP to ensure compliance through this and subsequent cycles of the NAP, known as the Pathway to Compliance approach.

The mitigation measures proposed in subsequent subsections of this RIAA are measures intended to take affirmative actions to 'move things in the right direction' with respect to halting, reversing and restoring water quality. The principal HRA mitigation recommendations are twofold:

- To better implement and enforce NAP measures; and.
- A Pathway to Compliance approach

The Pathway to Compliance Approach is recommended for inclusion within the draft NAP 2027-2030 by Tetra Tech to ensure that the NAP is in line with the objectives and requirements of the Habitats Regulations and WFD Regulations. This Pathway should be developed and implemented by DAERA to inform an evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.

The Pathway to Compliance should be commenced within the timeline specified in the draft NAP, to work with other aligned initiatives already commenced or in preparation by DAERA and/or its executive agency NIEA, to ensure protection for water quality restoration and achievement of conservation objectives of European sites where agricultural activities are found to be a significant contributing cause. This recommendation also includes ensuring that the necessary powers are available to alter, restrict, or prevent certain agricultural activities from occurring in some temporal or spatial situations, to ensure that the NAP does not contravene the objectives of the WFD Regulations or the Habitats Regulations.

OEP recommendations, following their review of effectiveness of the NAP Regulations in limiting nutrient pollution from agriculture and assessment of their application in practice, and how the NAP Regulations interrelate with legal duties owed under separate legal regimes and how they may affect compliance with wider legal duties (OEP, 2026), have been reviewed and incorporated into these mitigation measures where appropriate or applicable.

These mitigation measures are detailed in Section 6.2.1 *et seq*. Mitigation measures to prevent adverse effects on site integrity identified from the assessment of the existing measures to be carried forward, as set out in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, is detailed in Section 6.2.3. Mitigation measures to

prevent adverse effects on site integrity identified from the assessment of proposed changes to the draft NAP 2027-2030 are detailed in Section 6.2.4.

6.2.1 Improved implementation and enforcement of NAP measures

One of the main reasons for the possibility of adverse effects on site integrity associated with implementation of the draft NAP 2027-2030 relates to the possibility of a continuation of the *status quo*, that meaning a risk of failure to implement and enforce effectively, the existing and proposed measures in a manner that is appropriate, for fully achieving the NAP requirements to protect water from nutrient pollution and eutrophication by agricultural sources and to ensure future sustainability of the agriculture sector in NI.

DTA Ecology Ltd expresses this point well in its report on the application of the Habitats Directive to derogation decisions under the Nitrates Directive (DTA, 2026), commissioned by the OEP –

> *"Habitat deterioration in the context of Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive can reasonably be expected to occur when water quality exceeds a given environmental standard. Where such a standard is exceeded 'appropriate steps' to avoid associated deterioration may require active improvement until the standard is achieved. An approach which maintains the status quo in terms of water quality will simply maintain the habitat in a deteriorated state (even though water quality has not deteriorated); an approach which delivers some improvement will contribute to avoiding deterioration, but deterioration of the habitat is not avoided until water quality falls within the relevant environmental standard, after which the deteriorated habitat can reasonably be expected to recover."*

Following consideration of the earlier versions of the proposed changes to the NAP and existing measures to be carried forward from the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, the SEA & HRA teams provided feedback to DAERA that the evidence (including DAERA reporting on compliance with NAP measures and the lack of continued improvements in water quality) indicates that NAP measures are not being fully implemented or are not being implemented correctly to date. Low inspection rates contribute to uncertainty as to the technical effectiveness of existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 when considered both individually or together, and to what degree these measures are not sufficient or to what degree they are not being effectively implemented. The SEA and HRA team recommended that a greater Departmental resource is required to undertake a greater number of annual inspections, needed to ensure better implementation of the measures required by the draft NAP 2027-2030; and that the inspection rate, and any subsequent enforcement or punitive measures, should reflect the risk to water quality and declining conservation status of European sites, from agricultural activities in NI. Sufficient inspection and effective enforcement, in combination with support, education and advice to farmers, will be required to improve the implementation of NAP measures in the draft NAP 2027-2030 to ensure a level of certainty beyond reasonable scientific doubt that adverse effects on site integrity will not continue to occur and that things will move in the right direction under the next NAP cycle.

DAERA have included in the consultation document for the draft NAP 2027-2030 a proposal to increase the number of inspections in focused areas. The current inspection rate is 1% of farm businesses inspected, in part, on a risk-based approach, plus 5% of derogation farms. In the draft NAP 2027-2030 it is proposed to increase the inspection rate to 10% of farms deemed as high risk through non-involvement with the voluntary NSP. It is acknowledged that the ability to increase inspection rates would likely be subject to additional funding and resourcing and that this can take time to put into place. As there are currently over 26,000 farms in Northern Ireland, an increased inspection rate may still represent only a small proportion of farms that will be inspected annually.

Although the increase in the inspection rate is a move in the right direction, owing to the current issues with compliance with existing measures, the level of enforcement achieved by this proposed measure may remain insufficient to ensure comprehensive compliance and deliver the required environmental improvements. DAERA should review the implementation and effectiveness of this measure during the

lifetime of the draft NAP 2027-2030 cycle, and forward plan increased recruitment of inspection, enforcement and advisor/education staff to increase inspection rates, compliance with NAP measures and enforcement of NAP measure breaches significantly over future NAP cycles or otherwise provide sufficient incentive for compliance with NAP measures.

Several measures are noted as being either advisory or voluntary in nature rather than mandatory within the proposed measures of the draft NAP 2027-2030, therefore the degree of potential environmental benefits gained from these measures is not guaranteed and will depend on the levels of uptake and compliance. To ensure that the maximum environmental benefits can be delivered by the proposed measures of the draft NAP 2027-2030, it is Tetra Tech's recommendation that these measures are mandatory with details on enforcement provided to ensure compliance with the suite of measures and to provide a level of certainty required to satisfy the requirement of appropriate assessment, insofar as no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of adverse effects on site integrity. Should these measures remain as voluntary within the draft NAP 2027-2030, it is recommended that DAERA review the efficacy of these measures as part of the mid-cycle review (noted as every two years within the consultation document for specific measures) and consider that these measures should become mandatory at this stage if these are not achieving the required aim to provide a level of certainty required to satisfy the requirement of appropriate assessment, insofar as no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of adverse effects on site integrity.

6.2.2 Pathway to Compliance

Following an initial assessment of earlier versions of the proposed changes to the draft NAP 2027-2030, and consideration of the status and trends in water quality and biodiversity and pressures from agricultural activities in Northern Ireland, the SEA team provided feedback to DAERA that a one size fits all national approach to the implementation of NAP measures does not appear to be providing sufficient environmental protection in some areas. The status and trends of water quality in Northern Ireland are declining, with pressure assessments highlighting agricultural activities as a significant contributor to nutrient enrichment. The draft NAP 2027-2030 is therefore at risk of contravening the objectives of the WFD Regulations. A significant proportion of habitats and species within European sites are not at favourable conservation status, and pressures from agricultural activities are a contributing factor including through water pollution and nutrient deposition. Without changing the way in which the agricultural regulatory regime operates and is enforced, the draft NAP 2027-2030 will continue to risk contravening the objectives of the Habitats Regulations without a meaningful wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.

Mellander *et al.* (2025) reports on an International Catchment Science Conference to present and share the latest science relating to water quality, soil-runoff and soil health/climate, and discuss the challenges of achieving both agricultural and environmental goals. The conference was attended by approximately 200 scientists, policy makers, regulators, advisors and farmers gathered over three days in November 2023.

Delegates concluded that accountable management of the agricultural landscape requires a multi-actor, multidisciplinary and multiscale approach with collaboration between the scientific community, policy makers and farmers. Importantly there should be a focus on linking research, technology, education, information, engagement and innovation. The following key actions and requirements were identified:

- long-term monitoring, high-temporal and high-spatial resolution data collection,
- combining temporarily and spatially rich datasets,
- long-term planning horizons to be adopted by key institutional stakeholders,
- mitigation strategies to adapt to changing climate and agricultural practices, and

- an adequate advisory support and training for farmers.

The SEA and HRA teams recommended a Pathway to Compliance approach for DAERA to include within the draft NAP 2027-2030, which should be developed and implemented through the draft NAP 2027-2030, including an initial outline of what this should comprise in order to to inform an evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.

The SEA team further considered and developed this approach as outlined in the following steps and illustrated in **Figure 6-1**.

STEP 1: IDENTIFICATION OF RISK AREAS

Actions:

- Undertake a scientific and geographic-based exercise to identify the problem areas across Northern Ireland catchments.
- Identify (Quantify and Qualify) the areas that are not suffering from excessive nutrient losses to water or air and delaying the achievement, maintenance or restoration of conservation targets in relation to qualifying interest features of European sites and as such are not a concern from a Habitats Regulations perspective.
- Identify (Quantify and Qualify) where there are problems from a Habitats Regulations perspective and areas upstream that may be contributing to these issues e.g., identifying sensitive catchments where a river is failing in status due to nutrients, and assessing towards the catchment level (characteristics, slopes, soils, hydrology, runoff risk, etc.), incorporating farm-level evidence (type, derogated (proposed to be replaced by the NSP), etc.).
- Undertake a data gap exercise between the WFD River Basin Management Plan / monitoring data and NAP evidence base and requirements. Identify further requirements and responsibilities.
- Carry out a prioritisation exercise to inform a ranking of areas based on risk. Highest risk would be where WFD water bodies or European sites are failing in quality due to nutrients. This risk characterisation could split the risk areas into groups. An example approach could be similar to the mitigation proposed for the RoI 5th Cycle NAP Interim Review. This categorised four risk groups that were informed by data available from the EPA's Water Monitoring Programmes: Maintenance; Consistent and Sustained Recovery; Stable but not Recovering; and Declining due to Nutrient Pollution from Agricultural Activities.

Example Inputs for Step 1:

- Water quality data e.g., WFD monitoring.
- Designated site data e.g., DAERA Site Condition Assessment monitoring.
- Catchment characteristics e.g., data on soil types, hydrology, slopes, runoff risk.
- Farm-level characteristics e.g., whether farm operates under a derogation agreement.

Outcomes:

- Deprioritise areas of lower risk where the effective implementation and enforcement of NAP measures should provide enough protection.
- Prioritise areas of higher risk that require focused measures, which may need to be regional or localised in their approach to address water quality related issues.
- Grouping of areas into Risk Categories.

STEP 2: FOCUSED MEASURES

Actions:

- For high-risk areas identified in Step 1, investigation is needed on more focused, or stringent measures at a regional / local level to inform an evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk area. This may include measures such as different manure nitrogen limits, stocking densities or farming types, influenced by detailed farm-level data (e.g., farm soil nutrient status). Identify the needs of a deeper toolbox of measures for the NAP, based on farm / field-level data.

Example Inputs for Step 2:

- Water body / catchment scale data e.g., soil nutrient / water status.
- Consideration of a range of focused measures, depending on the risks identified in Step 1 and applicability to Risk Categories identified. These could include changes to farming practices such as to nutrient limits, stocking density or farming type, or could incentivise the use of land to alternative forms to reduce risk e.g. willow crop growing.

Outcomes:

- Identification of more focused or stringent measures that are needed to mitigate the risk in higher risk areas.

STEP 3: ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE POWERS

Actions:

- Determine if any changes are needed to legislation to implement more focused or stringent measures for high-risk areas. DAERA will need to ensure that they have the legislative powers required to make these changes. Aligning Regulation 65 of the Habitats Regulations and Section 43 of The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 with Part 7 of the NAP Regulations to provide a statutory basis for imposing restrictions on activities and entering into a management agreement have been suggested in Table 5-6 and Table 5-7 respectively.
- Determine the economic and equality implications of introducing focused measures for certain areas / farms, and any resources necessary to deal with this (e.g. grant aid or sustainability payments).

Example Inputs for Step 3:

- DAERA will need to consider the existing primary powers and any requirement for legislative change to enable the implementation of focused measures within identified high risk areas.
- DAERA will need to consider any economic or equality issues associated with the introduction of focused measures.

Outcomes:

- Legislative power for DAERA to bring in any additional measures that are needed for high-risk areas. This strengthens the effectiveness of the focused measures on the ground in these areas.
- Implementation of a requirement for focused measures for high-risk areas. Potential for initial development and delivery of a project implementing focused measures in high-risk areas across Northern Ireland, this may include an initial pilot project phase before it is rolled out across the province.

STEP 4: MONITORING AND REVIEW

Actions:

- High-risk areas where more focussed or stringent measures are applied are likely to require additional monitoring that is beyond the current NAP permissions to inform an evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk area.
- Identify responsibilities for the monitoring.
- Remedial action will be required where monitored results are not achieving the desired outcomes within the required timeframes. The appropriate measures and their strength should be reviewed on a regular and frequent basis, aligning with monitoring periods.
- Should the monitoring results indicate that the measures put in place are not achieving the desired outcomes despite remedial action, a prohibition of the damaging activity is then introduced.

Example Inputs for Step 4:

- DAERA will need to consider the need for additional monitoring to track and evaluate the focused measures implemented within identified high-risk areas and identify the body(s) responsible.
- DAERA will need to consider the need for additional compliance action (inspection and enforcement) and advisory support.

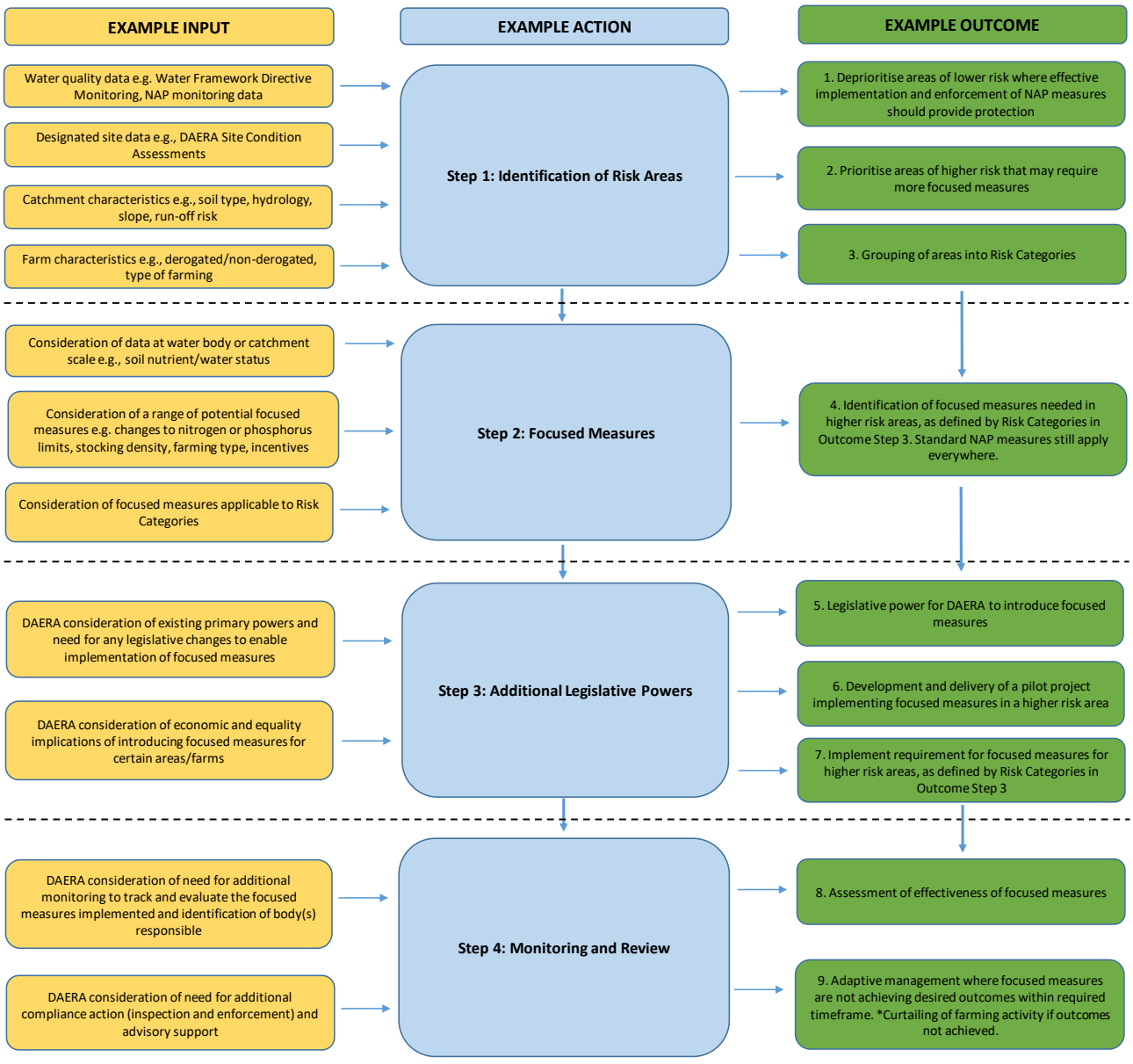
Outcomes:

- Assessing and informing the effectiveness of the focused measures. Building the evidence base to show that implementation is working sufficiently effective to halt and reverse the consistent and persistent decline in water quality including within European site catchments.
- Ability to adaptively manage the Pathway to Compliance approach where focused measures applied are not achieving the required outcomes. Curtailing of farming activities if outcomes are not achieved regarding the WFD and Habitats Regulations, subject to an assessment of the wider water body / catchment contributing sources.

In some areas, no problems may be identified, and farms in these areas will be subject to the standard measures in the NAP Regulations and to undergo monitoring and review. Where farms are identified as being located in at-risk areas through this Pathway to Compliance approach, it will be necessary to introduce focused measures to contend with the risks posed from agricultural activities. Where subsequent monitoring and assessment shows that the focused measures are achieving the desired objectives (e.g., reversal in deterioration trends, good status of catchment/water body water quality, favourable conservation status of designated sites), no further action will be needed, with maintenance of focused measures, as required. However, where subsequent monitoring and assessment shows that the focused measures are not achieving the desired objectives, strengthened and/or additional focused measures will be required. This will be subject to an assessment of the wider catchment/water body contributing sources/pressures (depending on the geographical scale at with the Risk Categories have been defined).

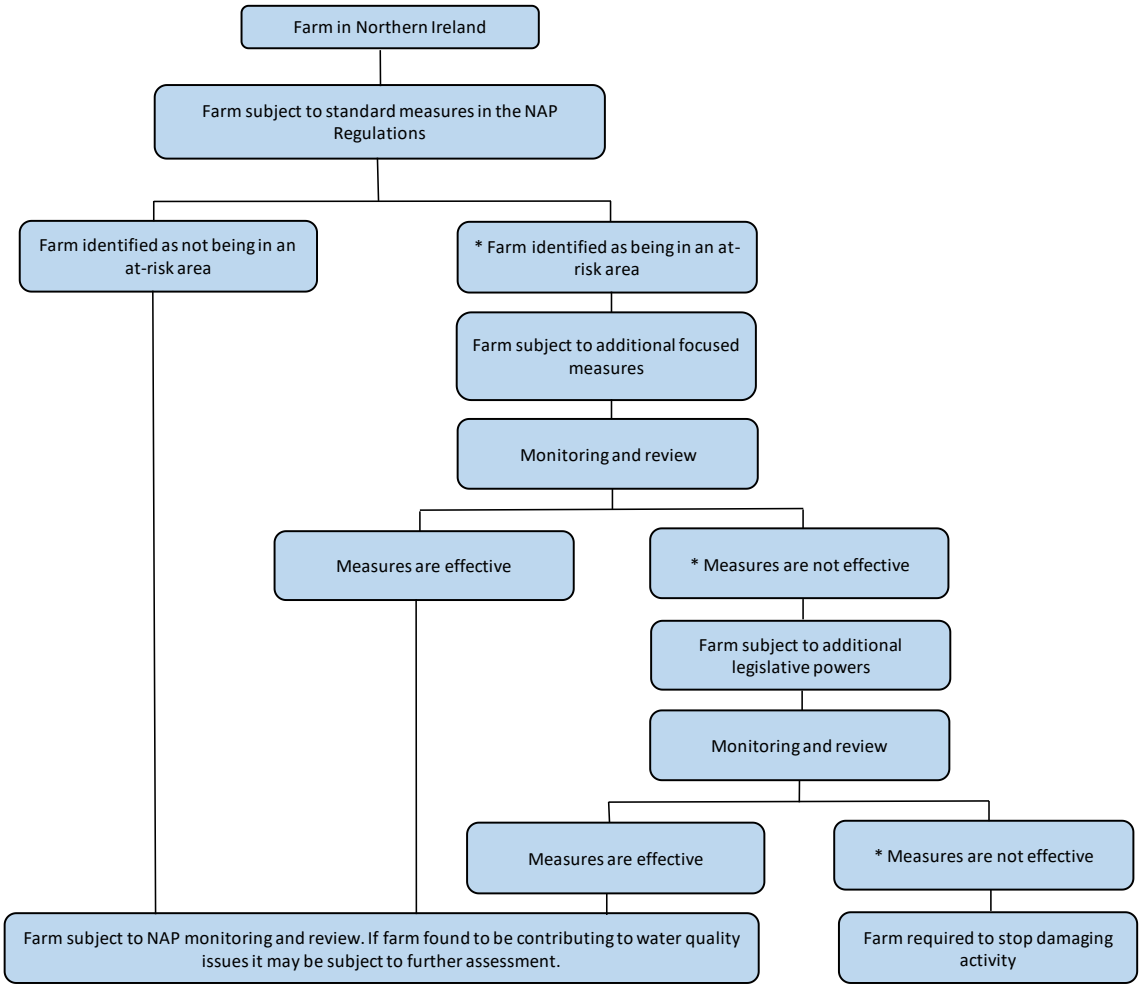
Adaptive management, which is a systematic approach for improving and adjusting conservation action by learning from management outcomes, is recognised in EC (2021), which also notes that such additional measures may require a legal agreement to secure them (refer back to Step 3 above). Additional focused measures have the potential to take many forms, with some examples provided in **Figure 6-1**; these could include incentives so that farmers do not lose out financially (e.g., through Farm Sustainability payments) and could include measures that have associated benefits for biodiversity and flood risk management.

Where subsequent monitoring and assessment shows that the additional focused measures are still not effective in achieving the desired outcomes, the farming activity(s) causing this risk may need to be curtailed until this can be rectified. The Decision Tree in **Figure 6-2** illustrates how the recommended focused approach would play out for individual farms.



*Subject to assessment of wider catchment/water body contributing sources/pressures

Figure 6-1 Recommended focused risk-based approach



* In at risk area and contributing to breaches of other Directives
**Subject to assessment of wider catchment/water body contributing sources/pressures

Figure 6-2 Decision Tree illustrating the recommended focused risk approach

The SEA and HRA teams have recommended to DAERA that the Pathway to Compliance approach as outlined above is included within the draft NAP 2027-2030 to signify the commitment to this strengthened protection, to help develop a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and to ensure that the NAP is in line with the objectives and requirements of the Habitats Regulations (and WFD Regulations).

6.2.3 Recommended amendments to existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

The assessment of existing measures to be carried forward, as set out in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 is provided in Section 5.5. Mitigation measures have been recommended where the potential for negative or uncertain effects on European Sites from the implementation of measures has been identified. These mitigation measures aim to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible offset negative or uncertain effects on the environment that have been identified due to continued implementation of the existing measures to be carried forward, as set out in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. These are summarised in **Table 6-1**.

In addition, in its Review of implementation of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (2019) in Northern Ireland (OEP, 2026), the OEP has evaluated the effectiveness of the NAP Regulations in limiting nutrient pollution from agriculture and how the NAP Regulations interrelate with legal duties owed under separate

legal regimes. It has made twelve recommendations to increase the likelihood of the regulations meeting their intended environmental outcomes; to help DAERA apply the NAP Regulations more effectively; and to inform the consideration by the Department and the Northern Ireland Executive of how best to revise and improve them. The OEP recommendations fall broadly under three headings:

- ensuring the NAP Regulations are implemented effectively and complied with;
- ensuring the sufficiency of their technical provisions; and
- understanding the reductions in nutrient loss required to achieve the desired overall environmental outcomes.

These recommendations are listed in **Table 6-2** and illustrated in **Figure 6-3.**

Table 6-1 Recommended amendments to existing measures in the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
Part 2 - General	
4 - Duty to prevent water pollution	DAERA should strengthen the NAP Regulations through mitigation measures proposed within the SEA assessment of individual Regulations. In particular, it is recommended that inspection and enforcement measures are strengthened, and that further controls are placed on derogated land holdings, including through a risk-based assessment at application stage, which should consider a landholding's proximity and hydrological connectivity to any European Site to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives.
5 - Duty to comply with NAP Regulations	The significance of positive effects on European Sites will be influenced by timely updates on NAP guidance and the COGAP. Mitigation through continued monitoring and appropriate implementation of safeguards within the NAP Regulations is required. It is recommended that DAERA strengthen the NAP Regulations through mitigation measures proposed within the SEA assessment of individual Regulations. Inspection and enforcement measures should be strengthened, and further controls placed on derogated land holdings, including through a risk-based assessment at application stage, which should consider a derogated landholding's proximity and hydrological connectivity to any European Site to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives.
6 - Exemptions Granted by DAERA	This measure has the potential for both positive and negative impacts on European Sites. Appropriate consideration and mitigation measures should be implemented when authorising and conducting exempt activities. It is recommended that DAERA strengthen the NAP through mitigation measures proposed within the SEA assessment of individual Regulations. Inspection and enforcement measures should be strengthened, and further controls placed on derogated land holdings, including through a risk-based assessment at application stage, which should consider a derogated landholding's proximity and hydrological connectivity to any European Site to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives.
Part 3 – Prevention of water pollution from the application of fertilisers	
7 - Closed spreading periods	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European Sites through reduced nutrient loadings to water bodies. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that the Regulations specify how crop requirements are assessed and verified, similar to Regulations 9, 10, and 11. It is recommended that inspection rates

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
	are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported, particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. The significance of positive effects on European Sites will be influenced by appropriate compliance and enforcement, particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Sites to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives.
8 - Land application restrictions	Potential negative effects are limited to agricultural lands where digestate from anaerobic digestors are applied or where NAP Regulations relating to LESSE and application rates are not applicable. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported, particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
9 - Livestock manure nitrogen limits and excretion rates for nitrogen and phosphorus	This measure has potential to give rise to a number of positive effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency. There is potential for negative impacts in areas of greater nutrient mobilisation risk or where non-compliance is an issue. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives. It is recommended that DAERA review the process by which derogation applications are granted or refused under Regulations 39 and 40 which should consider a prospective derogated landholding's proximity and hydrological connectivity to any European Sites. This should be a risk-based approach, with derogation granted only for situations where it is determined that this decision will not adversely affect the Conservation Objectives of any European Sites. This may be affected by the baseline water quality and current trends within the catchment, soil types and a European Site's conservation status. The granting of a rate of 250kg nitrogen/hectare/year should also be reviewed, with the maximum permitted loading based on a risk assessment.
10 - Nitrogen fertiliser application limits to grassland	Regulations 9, 10, and 11 refer to the current calculation of limits for chemical fertiliser and organic manures that may be applied in relation to crop requirement for nitrogen for grass and other crops by using values set out in AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) January 2019 and the Schedules to these Regulations. The updated Regulations should refer to the most up to date version of the AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209), which is currently 2023. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives.
11 - Nitrogen fertiliser application limits to areas other than grassland	Regulations 9, 10, and 11 refer to the current calculation of limits for chemical fertiliser and organic manures that may be applied in relation to crop requirement for nitrogen for grass and other crops by using values set out in AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) January 2019 and the Schedules to these Regulations. The updated Regulations should refer to the most up to date version of the AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209), which is currently 2023. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
	measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site to ensure there are no adverse impacts to Conservation Objectives.
12 - Application of anaerobic digestate	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through increased nutrient use efficiency and reduced nutrient loadings to water. However, an exemption for certain holdings exists which may exacerbate water quality issues for European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. Furthermore, it is recommended that there is cross-border communication regarding the use of phosphorus indices, as an alternative system is currently used in RoI and so without this mitigation, there may be negative impacts to the Conservation Objectives of European Sites in RoI.
13 - Limits on the land application of chemical phosphorus fertiliser	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through increased phosphorus use efficiency and reduced phosphorus loading to water. However, the significance of these positive effects depends on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue in certain situations for hydrologically linked RoI European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. Furthermore, it is recommended that there is cross-border communication regarding the use of phosphorus indices, as an alternative system is currently used in RoI and so without this mitigation, there may be negative impacts to the Conservation Objectives of European Sites in RoI.
14 - Limits on land application of high phosphorus organic manures	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through increased phosphorus use efficiency and reduced phosphorus loading to water. However, the significance of positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to an exemption which applies in certain situations and for hydrologically linked RoI European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. Furthermore, it is recommended that there is cross-border communication regarding the use of phosphorus indices, as an alternative system is currently used in RoI and so without this mitigation, there may be negative impacts to the Conservation Objectives of European Sites in RoI.

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
15 - Land management	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites through reduced nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies. However, the significance of these positive effects depends on appropriate implementation, and negative effects may continue due to a difference in the distance required from water bodies for supplementary feeding sites versus supplementary drinking water points. A scientific rationale for a lower distance of 10m from any waterway stipulated for drinking points than is given for supplementary feeding sites should be provided as this is not clarified in the Regulation. It is recommended that this is clarified by DAERA, or that both are set at 20m where a risk is identified. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
16 - Fertilisation Plans	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Part 4 – Storage requirements	
17 - Storage for livestock manure and silage effluent	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing manure seepage and silage effluent from entering water bodies. However, the significance of these positive effects depends on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to non-compliance. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. It is also recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. DAERA should consider whether storage capacity requirements vary with differing climatic conditions across Northern Ireland.
18 - Storage capacity of pig and poultry manure	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing manure seepage from entering water bodies. However, the significance of these positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue due to non-compliance issues. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
19 - Storage of slurry	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing slurry seepage from entering water bodies and nitrogenous gas emissions to the atmosphere. However, the significance of these positive effects depend on appropriate implementation and negative effects may continue in cases where exemptions apply and where non-compliance is an issue. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. Older slurry and silage facilities are exempt from required standards under these Regulations. It is recommended that DAERA reconsider the exemptions for older slurry

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
	and silage facilities, these should either be brought to current standards or inspected to ensure that they are compliant.
20 - Storage of farmyard manure (FYM)	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient pollution to water bodies through inappropriately stored FYM. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
21 - Storage of poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient pollution to water bodies through inappropriately stored poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
22 - Storage of dirty water	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient pollution to water bodies through inappropriately stored dirty water. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are significantly increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. It is also recommended that DAERA consider specifying minimum storage requirements for dirty water, and/or a closed period under Regulation 8.
23 - Calculations of livestock manure storage capacity	This is considered to be neutral, subject to correct implementation and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
24 - Making and storage of silage	This measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects for European Sites by preventing water pollution from inappropriately produced and stored silage. However, the risks for negative effects may continue in cases where exemptions apply and where non-compliance is an issue. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. Older silage facilities are exempt from required standards under these Regulations, DAERA should reconsider the exemptions for older silage facilities, these should either be brought to current standards or inspected to ensure that they are compliant.
25 - Cover in winter	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies from exposed soil following crop harvesting. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirements within the NAP Regulations. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
	consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
Part 5 - Measures relating to land management	
26 - Crop management	This measure has potential to give rise to positive effects for European Sites by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution to water bodies from exposed soil following crop harvesting. DAERA should consider defining a time window instead of the subjective 'as soon as possible' phrasing, subject to appropriate conditions e.g., meteorological or soil conditions, and/or provide clear specification through updated NAP guidance. Misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the current Regulation may result in adverse impacts to the Conservation Objectives of European Sites.
Part 6 – Record keeping and compliance monitoring	
27 - Records required	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
28 – True Records	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
Part 7 – Enforcement	
29 - Responsibility for enforcement	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
30 - Serving notices	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
31 - Appeals	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
32 - Offences	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
	transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site.
33 - Penalties	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is recommended that inspection rates are increased, and enforcement measures consistently applied and transparently reported. Particularly in areas of close proximity and which are hydrologically connected to any European Site. It is recommended that the statutory maximum fine amount is specified in this Regulation, or that the legislation that specifies this amount is referenced. to encourage compliance.
Part 8 - Powers, duties and Functions of the Department	
34 – NAP Reporting	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is recommended that DAERA include regular and transparent reporting of derogated land holdings within the NAP Implementation Reports with regard to their impacts to any European Site.
35 – NAP Review	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is recommended that DAERA include regular and transparent reporting of derogated land holdings within the NAP Implementation Reports with regard to their impacts to any European Site.
Part 9 - Miscellaneous	
36 - Transitioning from previous Regulations	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
37 - Necessary amendments to other legislation	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
38 - Revoking other Regulations and saving provisions	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Part 10 - Derogation from measures governing the limits on land application of livestock manure	
39 - Additional measures relating to derogated farms	This measure has potential to give rise to negative effects for European Sites due to the increased risk of nutrient loadings to water bodies from the derogation permitting higher application rates of nutrients which may impact on European Sites and n hydrologically linked Republic of Ireland European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirement, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations with derogation conditions placing additional requirements on land holdings operating under this.
40 - Administrative process by which DAERA will grant or refuse applications for derogation.	This is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects for any European Site. However, it is recommended that DAERA review the process by which derogation applications are granted or refused. It is recommended that a risk-based approach is taken, with derogation granted only for situations where it is determined that this decision will not adversely affect water quality status, attainment of the Conservation Objectives, or the integrity of any European Site. This may be affected by the baseline

NAP Regulation	Mitigation Measures
	water quality, current trends within the catchment, soil types, and the European Site's conservation status. The granting of a limit of 250kg nitrogen/hectare/year should also be reviewed, with the maximum permitted loading based on a risk assessment which should consider potential impacts to European Sites.

Table 6-2 Recommendations of the OEP following its review of Review of implementation of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (2019) in Northern Ireland

No.	OEP Recommendation
#1	*Derogations and Habitats Regulations Assessment* DAERA should ensure that the derogation process under the NAP Regulations meets its legal obligations and supports intended outcomes for protected sites under the Habitats Regulations, including: a) providing clarity on how it ensures there is sufficient scrutiny of applications within the 28-day window for refusal, and considering whether an active approval process should be implemented; b) considering and clarifying how its legal duties under the Habitats Regulations interrelate with the NAP Regulations.
#2	*Nutrient Management Advice, Guidance and Support* DAERA should consider further investment in the development of targeted approaches to the delivery of on-farm advice and support to help farmers comply with the NAP Regulations.
#3	*Effectiveness of inspections and enforcement* DAERA should materially increase the current inspection rates and the number of random inspections. It should ensure inspection rates are sufficient to provide a credible picture of compliance, and assess whether such compliance means the NAP Regulations will deliver the intended outcomes.
#4	*Nitrogen loading calculations* In relation to the organic nitrogen limits set out in the NAP Regulations, DAERA should: a) ensure that only land which is suitable for grazing or the application of manure is included in farm nitrogen loading calculations; b) where it has information that indicates farmers are or may be working above the 170 kg N/ha/year limit without a derogation, take appropriate steps to ensure those farmers understand and are complying with the regulations.
#5	*Agricultural water pollution events* DAERA should review how it monitors and enforces compliance with laws relating to water pollution from agriculture under the NAP Regulations, the Water Order (Northern Ireland) 1999 and the cross-compliance framework governing area-based agricultural payments. This should include: a) setting out its intended approach to ensure there is clarity for the agricultural sector regarding which compliance and enforcement tools may be used when breaches and incidents occur; b) ensuring that the combination of the frequency of inspections and the financial or other penalties that may be imposed following detection of breaches is sufficient to incentivise compliance.
#6	*Manure Nitrogen Limits* DAERA should review the evidence relating to the current 170 kg N/ha/year nitrogen limit and, if necessary, bring forward proposals to revise this limit to ensure the protection and restoration of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

No.	OEP Recommendation
#7	*Nutrient loss due to farm nutrient surpluses* DAERA should consider proposing mandatory phosphorus and nitrogen balance targets at both the individual farm and national levels, to require better nutrient management and drive improvements throughout the agri-food sector. This could include the introduction of limits on both the phosphorus and crude protein content of concentrated animal feeds to help control farm-level nutrient surpluses.
#8	*Nutrient loss from agricultural soil* DAERA should consider proposing additional mandatory requirements for soil analysis, and that all applications to land of both organic manure and chemical fertilisers are based on crop needs.
#9	*Nutrient loss from application of organic manure and chemical fertiliser* DAERA should consider options to strengthen the existing NAP Regulations related to 'closed periods' and the timing and location of organic manure applications to land. This should include reassessing farmyard dirty water management controls where current measures appear impractical, and winter applications are increasing the risk of nutrient losses to water.
#10	*Emissions of ammonia and nitrous oxide to the air* DAERA should consider extending the NAP Regulations to reflect a broader, more integrated approach that addresses nutrient losses to air alongside water pollution.
#11	*Impacts of climate change on nutrient loss* DAERA should determine how best the NAP Regulations can be 'future-proofed' in the face of ongoing and accelerating climate change. This will require an adaptive management approach, including interim reviews, that take account of new evidence and data concerning the impacts of climate change on nutrient management and the environment.
#12	*Overall assessment for environmental outcomes* DAERA should establish the scale of reductions in nutrient pollution necessary to improve water quality in Northern Ireland and to comply with the law. This will entail reductions from agriculture and from wastewater, among other sectors. DAERA should then ensure that measures in the NAP Regulations and their implementation are sufficient to deliver the necessary reductions from agriculture.

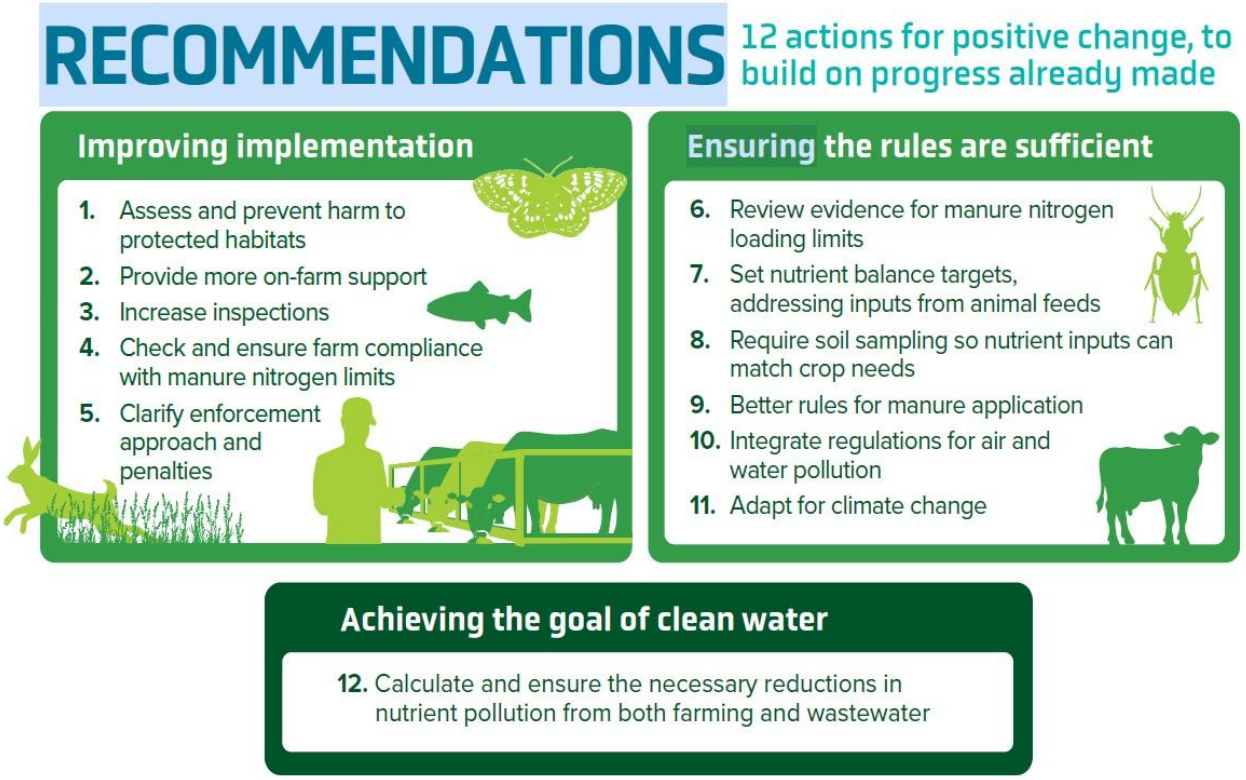


Figure 6-3 Illustration of the Twelve OEP Recommendations (© OEP, 2026)

6.2.4 Recommended amendments to the draft NAP 2027-2030

The assessment of proposed changes to the draft NAP 2027-2030 is provided in Section 5.5. Mitigation measures have been recommended where the potential for negative or uncertain effects on European Sites from the implementation of proposed measures has been identified. These mitigation measures aim to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible offset negative or uncertain effects on the environment that have been identified due to the implementation of these additions and amendments. These are summarised in **Table 6-3**.

Table 6-3 Recommended amendments to the draft NAP (2027-2030)

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
Nutrient Management – Balanced Nutrient Use, Fertiliser and Manure Controls	
Limit chemical phosphorus fertilizer availability through an advisory approach	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation and uptake of this advisory measure. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of uptake and enforcement of the measure to ensure that chemical phosphorus fertiliser is applied appropriately. Mitigation may include increased inspection rates, effective education, or where the measure does not show suitable uptake, a movement to a mandatory measure. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
	to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Reducing the Northern Ireland average phosphorus surplus	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation and enforcement. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects may arise from the stated limits not being strict enough and a lack of a robust checking and monitoring protocol to assess this. Robust monitoring is required to inform whether the lower limits will need to be set in the subsequent NAP (2031-2034). Potential adverse effects may also arise from a lack of clarity regarding whether there are additional requirements on land holders to support the implementation, including the requirements for high phosphorus and low phosphorus holdings, as well as a lack of advice to landholder on how this measure may impact other management plans. This may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. Mitigation may include an appropriate level of monitoring, increased inspection rates and effective enforcement. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Dairy cow nutrient excretion values – based on milk yield	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of guidance to farmers. Mitigation can be delivered through the delivery of clear guidance to farmers prior to the introduction of the new banded rates. Improved nutrient management advice, guidance and support is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Updated poultry nutrient excretion figures	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with the new poultry figures not reflecting the best scientific knowledge. Mitigation can be delivered through considering all best available scientific evidence and transparently reporting this evidence base.
Standard values for separated manures and slurries	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any positive or negative effects upon any European Site. Potential effects are limited to those associated with standard values not reflecting the methods utilised or best scientific knowledge.

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
	Notwithstanding the fact that these effects are considered to be insignificant, the previously proposed mitigation of considering all best available scientific evidence and transparently reporting this evidence base can be applied to this NAP measure also.
Updated chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland	Currently under the NAP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, farms have a maximum amount of available nitrogen from chemical fertiliser and organic manures (other than livestock manures) that can be applied on the grassland area. These are 272kg nitrogen/ha/year for dairy farms and 222kg nitrogen/ha/year for other farms (apart from nitrogen in livestock manure). This proposed measure is for an update of the current chemical nitrogen fertiliser limits for grassland, with use based on actual grass growth and soil requirements to reduce the potential for excess nitrogen losses. Effective implementation of this proposed measure has the potential for positive effects on European Sites, due to a reduced risk of nitrogen loss into water bodies following land application for less productive holdings. This reduced risk of pollution has the potential for associated positive effects on water dependent habitats and species within these European Sites. The review should allow for any updates to account for current advances in understanding of soil nutrient management. It is recommended that the requirement for soil sampling and analysis is extended to all categories of grassland production to ensure that nitrogen and other nutrients are applied in accordance with crop and soil requirements and prevent nutrient accumulation or nutrient losses from occurring. Furthermore, clarification should be provided as to whether the regular soil testing will also include nitrogen, as presently this focuses on testing as a minimum for phosphorus, potassium and soil pH. The inclusion of nitrogen would ensure that excessive nitrogen accumulation subject to the level of grass crop production is prevented.
Allowance for processed organic fertilisers	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with a lack of uncertainty regarding RENURE materials and their use under specific circumstances. Mitigation can be delivered through considering all best available scientific evidence and transparently reporting this evidence base.
Storage Requirements – Application of Manures and Ammonia Implications	
Reduced slurry application volumes in February and early October	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with slurry application and a lack evidence that the new maximum volume of slurry which can be applied during these periods will not oversupply nutrients beyond the expected crop uptake. Such gaps in evidence may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure.

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
Clearer definition of Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality.
Tiered move to increased use of LESSE	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with the introduction of this measure not occurring until 2027. Mitigation should include an earlier introduction of this measure and consider the extension of the use of mandatory LESSE for all slurry spreading, or a ban on the use of splash plates on slurry tankers.
Pre-Notification of new slurry and silage storage	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Clarify cover requirements for new above-ground stores	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Adverse effects are limited to those related to nutrient losses from above ground stores modified before December 2019. Mitigation may include an appropriate level of monitoring, increased inspection rates and effective enforcement.
Limit the use of unprotected granular urea fertilisers	It is considered that this measure has potential to give rise to both positive and negative effects on European Sites. Positive effects may arise from the reduction of ammonia and N_2O emissions. Negative effects may arise from long-term use and potential accumulation of urease inhibitors in soils. Mitigation may include increased inspection rates and effective enforcement, and it is recommended that the use of protected urea fertiliser is implemented on a year-round basis to reduce emissions of ammonia and nitrous oxide to deliver the maximum possible benefits. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be ‘dialled up’ in high risk areas or ‘dialled down’ in lower risk areas.
Anaerobic Digestate Measures	Separation of Digestate to reduce Phosphorus Content It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of clarity regarding how the proposed measure will be implemented and regulated.

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
	Such gaps in clarification may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. It is considered that this proposed measure regarding feedstocks sources from outside Northern Ireland has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Targeted application of Digestate to Land It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Record keeping and reporting of nutrient movements It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of clarity regarding whether the appropriate primary powers are available for this measure to be implemented. Such gaps in clarity may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure to allow recording and reporting to form the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Farming Approaches to Improve Nutrient Use and Water Quality	
Nutrient Stewardship Programme – a revised approach to Derogation	This measure has potential to give rise to negative effects for European Sites due to the increased risk of nutrient loadings to water bodies from the derogation permitting higher application rates of nutrients which may impact on European Sites and in hydrologically linked Republic of Ireland European Sites. Mitigation comprises of existing legislative requirement, namely compliance with the NAP Regulations with derogation conditions (proposed to be revised to the NSP) placing additional requirements on land holdings operating under this. Previously the NAP Regulations meant that an application for derogation is deemed to have been granted unless it is explicitly refused. This 'deemed granted' aspect of the former derogation process can be problematic as a 'deemed grant' of permission (rather than an active approval process) can lead to situations whereby competent authorities allow activity to occur by default, without adequate scrutiny of applications. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised measure to allow NSP administration and management to inform the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
Mitigation measures for late harvested arable crops	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. It is recommended that the specific information regarding the mitigation measures to be included under this measure are provided as these are presently outstanding. It is also recommended that information is provided on how arable fields at risk will be determined if this will be based on guidance provided by DAERA or subject to the appropriate person of the landholding making this determination. Such gaps in evidence may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
A focused approach to improving water quality	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of information regarding this risk-based and geographically focused approach and that the scheme is voluntary, or where the measure does not show suitable uptake, a movement to a mandatory measure Such gaps in information provided may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Nutrient Efficiency Roadmap for NI farming	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.
Utilising Technology	
Enhanced online system for recording slurry and manure exports and imports	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. A more capable online system can inform the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Extending the system to processed slurry solids and digestate movements	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. A more capable online system can inform the evidence base to correctly target a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
Additional measures to support environmentally sustainable farming	
Voluntary buffer strip on arable land	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with lack of uptake as this is a voluntary measure and the need for clarification on the cultivation and/or width of these buffer strips. Mitigation may include effective education, or where the measure does not show suitable uptake, a movement to a mandatory measure. It is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Awareness of existing storage requirements and how dirty water storage, rainwater and parlour washings can impact this	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. Improved nutrient management advice, guidance and support is considered to be part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Voluntary liming programme on farms with high stocking rates	This measure is considered to potentially give rise to positive effects upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with a lack of guidance regarding buffer zones and suitable use of lime. This can be clarified and appropriately addressed through the finalised NAP to allow the measure to form part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration and as such can be 'dialled up' in high-risk areas or 'dialled down' in lower risk areas.
Revised silage bale storage requirements	It is considered that this proposed measure has potential to give rise to a range of positive impacts upon European Sites, subject to appropriate implementation. In particular for freshwater and estuarine European Sites which have Conservation Objectives relating to water quality. Potential adverse effects are associated with a lack of clarification regarding the enforcement of this. As the stacking of silage bales can increase the risk of effluent seepage, it is recommended that DAERA consider controls on the number of bales which can be stacked. Such gaps in clarification may be appropriately addressed through the finalised measure.
Technical Amendments	
Definition of Appropriate Person	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Definition of Farmyard manure	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.

Proposed Measure	Mitigation Measures
Updating terminology	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Covering of Lagoons	This measure is considered to give rise to a range of negative effects on European Sites due to the proposed removal of lagoon coverings. Mitigation proposed includes requiring lagoons coverings to be retained.
Definition of heavy rain	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Phosphorus content of livestock diets	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Implementation – including Inspections/Enforcements	
False or misleading information provisions	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. It is therefore envisaged that mitigation is not required.
Increased inspections based on risk	This measure is considered to be neutral and unlikely to give rise to any significant positive or negative adverse effects upon any European Site. Potential adverse effects are limited to those associated with time and resource constraints limiting the ability of DAERA to increase inspection rates. The implementation and effectiveness of this increase in the inspection rate should be reviewed by DAERA during this NAP cycle. The Department shall consider making amendments to Regulation 65 of the Habitats Regulations to align 'Duties of DAERA with respect to European sites' with Part 7 of the NAP Regulations to provide a statutory basis for imposing restrictions on activities which have or will deteriorate a European site and entering into a management agreement as part of a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration.

7.0 Conclusions

The Stage 2 appraisal for HRA presented in this RIAA has considered the potential of the NAP to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites, within both Northern Ireland (in the UK National Network of Sites) and in applicable areas of the Republic of Ireland (within the Natura 2000 network of sites), with regard to their qualifying interests, associated conservation status and the overall site integrity, alone and in combination with other relevant plans and programmes.

In considering the potential for adverse effects, it has been noted that the NAP is a strategic and high-level plan, which may inform the preparation of other strategies. It does not determine the precise location of any measures or designate or allocate specific land uses, nor does it preclude the consideration of alternatives. In light of this and where necessary, a precautionary approach has been adopted in the Stage 2 appraisal to ensure that the measures proposed by the NAP are adequately assessed.

Where actual or potential for adverse effects on integrity have been identified, mitigation to address these effects has also been identified (as set out in Section 6). Given the significant deterioration of water quality and freshwater systems that has occurred in Northern Ireland, the principles and objectives of the Habitats Directive and particularly Article 6 when read within the context of Article 2, and the fact that the NAP is inherently and *prima facie* a good thing, deliberately constructed to strengthen compliance, improve accountability and target the key agricultural pressures contributing to nutrient loss, measures have additionally been proposed in the context of Article 6(2) to avoid habitat deterioration from past pressures and nutrient enrichment in addition to measures to be adopted as part of this NAP. To do otherwise would be to set in motion an approach which maintains the status quo in terms of water quality, and which will either deliver some improvement and contribute to avoiding further deterioration but will ultimately maintain Northern Ireland's habitats within its European sites in a deteriorated state.

In light of the above, it is logical to conclude that the conservation status of habitats and species vulnerable to agricultural emissions are unlikely to stabilise or improve and may well become more unfavourable as time goes on in the absence of measures or initiatives being taken or proposed to be initiated by Government as Article 6(2) proactive measures which are preventative in nature and which involve the taking of appropriate steps to avoid habitat deterioration.

The mitigation and monitoring measures set out in this report propose both mitigation measures and a Pathway to Compliance to set a course towards a wider suite of Article 6(2) restorative measures to prevent ongoing deterioration. This is consistent with OEP (2026) who note that NAP Regulations form part of a wider suite of measures to address nutrient pollution in Northern Ireland, but that it is currently difficult to see which different measures are intended to combine together to deliver Northern Ireland's overall objectives for nutrient pollution and water quality.

Unless these mitigation measures are implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of European sites will occur for the reasons set out in this RIAA; and this would be contrary to the obligations of the Habitats Regulations.

With the implementation of the mitigation and monitoring measures outlined which largely relates to the nature of derivative policies and initiatives, the draft NAP 2027-2030 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other relevant plans or programmes.

In light of the conclusions of the assessment contained in this RIAA, the authors are of the view, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the adoption of the NAP alone, or in combination with other plans and programmes, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Accordingly, and in light of the conclusions of the assessment contained here, the competent authority can conclude, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the adoption of the NAP, alone or in combination with other relevant plans and programmes, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

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Appendix A

European Sites Assessed for Adverse Effects in this RIAA

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK9020301	Antrim Hills SPA	[A082] Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus)* [A098] Merlin (Falco columbarius)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [8120] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii)* [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix in Arroo Mountain SAC, which is defined by 20 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths in Arroo Mountain SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alpine and Boreal heaths in Arroo Mountain SAC, which is defined by 14 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs in Arroo Mountain SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* in Arroo Mountain	Version 1 31st August 2016	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
			SAC, which is defined by 17 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation in Arroo Mountain SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets.			
UK0030318	Aughnadarragh Lough SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly population to favourable condition	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000115	Ballintra SAC	[4030] European dry heaths [8240] Limestone pavements	To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths in Ballintra SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Limestone pavements* in Ballintra SAC, which is defined by 12 attributes and targets	Version 1 15th April 2019	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030319	Ballykilbeg SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly population to favourable condition	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0016599	Ballynahone Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030083	Banagher Glen SAC	[9180] Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines. [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles and Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030084	Bann Estuary SAC	[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation • Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria • Embryonic shifting dunes to favourable condition	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK9020290	Belfast Lough Open Water SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK9020101	Belfast Lough SPA	[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)* [A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition	Version 3 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000623	Ben Bulben, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [5130] *Juniperus communis* formations	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 21st December 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		on heaths or calcareous grasslands [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites) [6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6430] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7230] Alkaline fens				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8120] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*) [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri)* [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*				
UK0030089	Binevenagh SAC	[6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [8120] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine	To maintain each in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii)* [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation				
UK0016609	Black Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)* [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds in Boleybrack Mountain SAC, which is defined by 18 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix in Boleybrack Mountain SAC, which is defined by 20 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths in Boleybrack Mountain SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) in Boleybrack	Version 1 17th August 2016	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
			Mountain SAC, which is defined by 13 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs in Boleybrack Mountain SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets.			
UK0030097	Breen Wood SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91D0] Bog woodland	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles and Bog Woodland to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC	[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1160] Large shallow inlets and bays [1170] Reefs [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 2 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Large shallow inlets and bays in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 2 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 3 attributes and targets.	Version 1 3rd March 2015	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[2190] Humid dune slacks [21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland) [5130] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites) [7230] Alkaline fens [1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)* [1395] Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii)	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ('white dunes') in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 7 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Machairs in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 11 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 8 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 11 attributes and targets.			

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
			To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alkaline fens in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petalwort in Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC, which is defined by 5 attributes and targets.			
UK9020161	Carlingford Lough SPA	[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)* [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)* [A046] Light-bellied goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition	Version 3 1st August 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE004078	Carlingford Lough SPA (RoI)	[A046] Light-bellied goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A999] Wetland and waterbirds	To maintain each feature in favourable condition	Version 1 22nd August 2013	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via the Newry River and other contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
IE000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [6230] Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7230] Alkaline fens [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 17th December 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation				
IE002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines in Carlingford Shore SAC, which is defined by 6 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Carlingford Shore SAC, which is defined by 6 attributes and targets.	Version 1 15th July 2013	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via the Newry River and other contributing watercourses
UK0030110	Carn Glenshane Pass SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Blanket Bog to favourable condition.	Version 2.1 10th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030116	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)* [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		Ranunculion fluitantis and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation				
UK9020291	Copeland islands SPA	[A194] Artic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A013] Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000979	Corratirrim SAC	[8240] Limestone pavements*	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Limestone pavements* in Corratirrim SAC, which is defined by 12 attributes and targets.	Version 1 17th April 2019	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030321	Cranny Bogs SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000129	Croaghonagh Bog SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (* if active bog) in Croaghonagh Bog SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets.	Version 1 15th May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
						within NI subject to NAP
IE000584	Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC	[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 5th September 2016	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		formation (*Cratoneurion)* [8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [6216] Slender Green Feather-moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus)*				
UK0016603	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2.1 11th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation				
UK0030322	Curran Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030323	Dead Island Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030324	Deroran Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0016620	Derryleckagh SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Transition mires and quaking bogs and Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles to favourable condition	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2170] Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. argentea (*Salicion arenariae)* [2190] Humid dune slacks [1365] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina)*	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by 2 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by 5 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Humid dune slacks in Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC, which is defined by 11 attributes and targets	Version 1 9th July 2012	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
IE004151	Donegal Bay SPA	[A003] Great Northern Diver G*avia immer* [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A065] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A144] Sanderling *Calidris alba* [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 17th May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via the contributing watercourses
IE000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	[1130] Estuaries [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries in Dundalk Bay SAC, which is defined by 2 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide at Dundalk Bay SAC, which is defined by 2 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Dundalk Bay SAC, which is defined by 6 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand in Dundalk Bay	Version 1 19th July 2011	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via the contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi)*	SAC, which is defined by 10 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows in Dundalk Bay SAC, which is defined by 10 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows in Dundalk Bay SAC, which is defined by 10 attributes and targets.			
IE004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)* [A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)* [A052] Teal (*Anas crecca*) [A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A054] Pintail (*Anas acuta*)	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 19th July 2011	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via the contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A065] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)* [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)* [A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)* [A141] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A142] Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) [A143] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A156] Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica)*				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)* [A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus)* [A184] Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds				
IE002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	[3180] Turloughs	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunmuckrun Turloughs SAC, which is defined by 15 attributes and targets.	Version 1 22nd January 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE001125	Dunragh Lough/Pettigo Plateau SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* in Dunragh Lough/Pettigo Plateau SAC, which is defined by 20 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths in	Version 1 16th May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
			Dunragh Lough/Pettigo Plateau SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets.			
IE000138	Durnesh Lough SAC	[1150] Coastal lagoons [6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Coastal lagoons in Durnesh Lough SAC, which is defined by 12 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) in Durnesh Lough SAC, which is defined by 10 attributes and targets.	Version 1 5th Oct 2016	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Generic 23rd March 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK 9020320	East Coast (NI) Marine pSPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)* [A001] Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)*	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species. To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species. To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained;	Version 1 April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A192] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii)* [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)* [A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea)* [A013] Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus)* A063] Eider (Somateria mollissima)	To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species; and To ensure that the following are maintained in the long term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species.			
UK0016615	Eastern Mournes SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths [6150] Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the European dry heaths, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, Active blanket bogs, Alpine and boreal heaths, Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands, Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation, Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels to favourable condition.	Version 2 11th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation				
UK0016611	Fairy Water Bogs SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030068	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC	[3180] Turloughs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Turloughs to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0016606	Garron Plateau SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7230] Alkaline fens [1528] Marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus)* [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Garron Plateau • Active Blanket Bog • Alkaline fen (upland) • Marsh saxifrage Saxifraga hirculus L	Version 2 12th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* • Northern Atlantic wet heath • Natural dystrophic lakes and pools • Transition mires and quaking bogs to favourable condition.			
UK0016610	Garry Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030169	Hollymount SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion alvae), Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		incanae, Salicion albae)				
UK9020221	Killough Bay SPA	[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	[3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp*. [7210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*. [7210] Caricion davallianae [7230] Alkaline fens [1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 16th December 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030045	Largalinny SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and	Version 2	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		Blechnum in the British Isles	Blechnum in the British Isles to favourable condition	1st April 2015		within NI subject to NAP
UK9020042	Larne Lough SPA	[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)* [A192] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii)* [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)* [A046] Light-bellied Brent goose (*Branta bernicla)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 4 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030180	Lecale Fens SAC	[7230] Alkaline fens	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Alkaline Fens to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE004057	Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA	[A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A184] Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 12th October 2022	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000163	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC	[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters containing	Version 1	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion)* [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)* [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)* [1421] Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum)*	very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 18 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 13 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)* in Lough Eske	11th September 2019		as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
			and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 13 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 6 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Killarney Fern (*Vandenboschia speciosa)* in Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, which is defined by 16 attributes and targets.			
UK9020031	Lough Foyle SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A037] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 4 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)* [A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A052] Teal (Anas crecca) [A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A063] Eider (Somateria mollissima) [A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)* [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)* [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A143] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A149] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) [A160] Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) [A162] Redshank *(Tringa totanus*) [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds				
IE004087	Lough Foyle SPA (RoI)	[A001] Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A037] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A043] Greylag Goose *(Anser anser*) [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 23 September 2014	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via the River Foyle and contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope)* [A052] Teal (*Anas crecca)* [A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A063] Eider (Somateria mollissima) [A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)* [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)* [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)* [A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A143] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica)* [A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) [A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A184] Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus)* [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds				
IE001976	Lough Gill SAC	[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites) [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 15th December 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		(Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)* [1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus)* [1096](Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri)* [1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis)* [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)* [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*				
IE002164	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (* if active bog) in Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets.	29th May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030047	Lough Melvin SAC	[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea*	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*, Molinia meadows on	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		uniflorae and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* [6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)* [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinia caeruleae), Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles, Salmon Salmo salar to favourable condition.			
IE000428	Lough Melvin SAC (RoI)	[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* [6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)* [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)* [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Generic 23rd March 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via various contributing watercourses including the lough itself.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
IE002135	Lough Nageage SAC	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)*	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of White-clawed Crayfish in Lough Nageage SAC, which is defined by 7 attributes and targets.	Version 1 3rd December 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via minor contributing watercourses
UK9020091	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA	[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)* [A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)* [A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A037] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii) [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A059] Pochard (*Aythya ferina)* [A061] Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula)* [A062] Scaup (*Aythya marila)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 4 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A067] Goldeneye Bucephala clangula [A004] Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficolis*) [A017] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A048] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A050] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A051] Gadwall *(Anas strepera*) [A052] Teal *(Anas crecca*) [A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A056] Shoveler *(Anas clypeata*) [A125] Coot *(Fulica atra*) [A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) Waterfowl assemblage				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
IE004049	Lough Oughter Complex SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) [A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus)* [A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 12th October 2022	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation [91D0] Bog woodland [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 26th November 2021	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE002287	Lough Swilly SAC	[1130] Estuaries [1150] Coastal lagoons [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [6410] *Molinia* meadows on	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Version 1 19th July 2011	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via minor contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)* [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles				
IE004075	Lough Swilly SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)* [A028] Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) [A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) [A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) [A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope)* [A052] Teal (*Anas crecca)* [A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A056] Shoveler (*Anas clypeata)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 19th July 2011	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via minor contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A062] Scaup (Aythya marila) [A067] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)* [A125] Coot (*Fulica atra*) [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)* [A143] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)* [A164] Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia)* [A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus)*				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)* [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)* [A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)* [A999] Wetland and Waterbirds				
IE000168	Magheradrumman Bog SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix in Magheradrumman Bog SAC, which is defined by 20 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (* if active bog) in Magheradrumman Bog SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets.	Version 1 15th May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0016621	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	[7210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae.* [1092] White-clawed Crayfish	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara formations, White-clawed Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes, Alkaline fens, Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		(*Austropotamobius pallipes)* [3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp. [7230] Alkaline fens	Caricion davallianae to favourable condition.			
UK0016613	Magilligan SAC	[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2170] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. Argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2190] Humid dune slacks [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)* [1395] Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Dunes with Salix repens ssp. Argentea (Salicion arenariae), Embryonic shifting dunes, Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes), Humid dune slacks, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes), Marsh Fritillary Euphydryas aurinia, Petalwort Petalophyllum ralfsii to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0030199	Main Valley Bogs SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0016619	Monawilkin SAC	[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites) [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) and the Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030211	Moneygal Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0030214	Montiaghs Moss SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Marsh-Fritillary Butterfly Euphydryas aurinia to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0016612	Murlough SAC	[2150] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea)* [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [2170] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2110] Embryonic shifting dunes [1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)* [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1365] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina)*	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the - Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) - Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) - Dunes with Salix repens ssp. Argentea (Salicion arenariae) - Embryonic shifting dunes - Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) - Marsh Fritillary Euphydryas aurinia	Version 4 24th March 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	- Harbour (Common) Seal Phoca vitulina to favourable condition.			
UK0030224	North Antrim Coast SAC	[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior)*				
UK0030399	North Channel SAC	[1365] Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE002012	North Inishowen Coast SAC	[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland) [4030] European dry heaths	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by Seawater at low tide in North Inishowen Coast SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in North Inishowen Coast SAC, which is defined by 6 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts in North Inishowen Coast SAC, which is defined by the following list of 8 attributes and targets.	Version 1 24th November 2014	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior)* [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in North Inishowen Coast SAC, which is defined by 9 attributes and targets. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Machairs in North Inishowen Coast SAC, which is defined by 11 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Otter in North Inishowen Coast SAC, which is defined by 7 attributes and targets.			
UK9020271	Outer Ards SPA	[A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 4 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A169] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)				
UK0030233	Owenkillew River SAC	[91D0] Bog woodland [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)* [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 27th July 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030236	Peatlands Park SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		Blechnum in the British Isles [91D0] Bog woodland				
UK0016607	Pettigo Plateau SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4030] European dry heaths [3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 13th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK9020051	Pettigo Plateau SPA	[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030055	Rathlin Island SAC	[8330] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1170] Reefs [1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts		13th October 2017		
UK9020011	Rathlin Island SPA	[A103] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus)* [A199] Guillemot *(Uria aalge*) [A200] Razorbill (*Alca torda)* [A188] Kittiwake *(Rissa tridacyla*) [A009] Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus)* A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A184] Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 3 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A204] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) Seabird Assemblage				
UK0030244	Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay SAC	[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030365	Red Bay SAC	[1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time to favourable condition.	Version 2 20th March 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030361	River Faughan and Tributaries SAC	[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)* [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 27th July 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE002301	River Finn SAC	[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) in River Finn SAC,	Version 1 31st May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	which is defined by 18 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix in River Finn SAC, which is defined by 20 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs in River Finn SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Transition mires and quaking bogs in River Finn SAC, which is defined by 13 of attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) in River Finn SAC, which is defined by 6 attributes and targets To restore the favourable conservation condition of Otter in River Finn SAC, which is defined by 7 attributes and targets.			within NI subject to NAP and is hydrologically connected to NI via minor contributing watercourses

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0030320	River Foyle and Tributaries SAC	[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)* [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 27th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030360	River Roe and Tributaries SAC	[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)* [3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 27th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030268	Rostrevor Wood SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and	To maintain each feature in favourable condition	Version 2	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		Blechnum in the British Isles		1st April 2015		within NI subject to NAP
UK9020021	Sheep Island SPA	[A017] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030383	Skerries and Causeway SAC	[1170] Reefs [1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [8330] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [1365] Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena)*	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the - Reefs - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, and - Submerged and partially submerged sea caves - Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) to favourable condition.	Version 2 20th March 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK9020302	Slieve Beagh - Mullaghfad – Lisnaskea SPA	[A082] Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus)*	To maintain the Hen Harrier in favourable condition.	Version 3 1st April 2014	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [4030] European dry heaths [3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 11th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE004167	Slieve Beagh SPA (RoI)	[A082] Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus)*	To maintain the Hen Harrier in favourable condition.	Version 1 23rd September 2022	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030277	Slieve Gullion SAC	[4030] European dry heaths	To maintain European dry heaths in favourable condition.	Version 2 11th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
IE004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	[A103] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus)* [A346] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax)	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 1 12th October 2022	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0016618	Strangford Lough SAC	[1150] Coastal lagoons [1160] Large shallow inlets and bays [1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1365] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina)* [1170] Reefs [1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	To maintain or restore where appropriate the features to favourable condition.	Version 4 20th March 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK9020111	Strangford Lough SPA	[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)* [A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	Version 4 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea)* [A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)* [A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica)* [A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)* [A048] Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A143] Knot (Calidris canutus) [A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)* [A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)* [A017] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A050] Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A051] Gadwall *(Anas strepera*)				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A052] Teal (*Anas crecca)* [A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A054] Pintail *Anas acuta* [A056] Shoveler *Anas clypeata* [A067] Goldeneye Bucephala clangula [A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)* [A125] Coot *(Fulica atra*) [A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)* [A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) [A141] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) [A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina) A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)				

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[A169] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) Waterfowl Assemblage				
IE001992	Tamur Bog SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix in Tamur Bog SAC, which is defined by 20 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs (*if active bog) in Tamur Bog SAC, which is defined by 19 attributes and targets. To restore the favourable conservation condition of Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion in Tamur Bog SAC, which is defined by 16 attributes and Targets.	Version 1 29th May 2017	RoI	Lies within 15km of the NI border and as such in proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0016608	Teal Lough SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 13th October 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0030384	The Maidens SAC	[1170] Reefs [1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1364] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 20th March 2017	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030325	Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030326	Tully Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030291	Turmennan SAC	[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Transition mires and quaking bogs to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK0030296	Upper Ballinderry River SAC	[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)* [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation				
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [1355] Otter *Lutra lutra* [3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and Blechnum in the British Isles	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus)*	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 3 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
UK0030300	West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [8240] Limestone pavements [7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [9180] Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines. [7230] Alkaline fens [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites) [6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)* [3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Version	NI/RoI	Identified Impact Pathway
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*				
UK0030303	Wolf Island Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Version 2 1st April 2015	NI	In proximity to agricultural lands within NI subject to NAP

Appendix B

Qualifying Interests of Special Conservation Interests of Screened European Sites, their Conservation Status and their Sensitivity to NAP Effects

Appendix B, Table 1 Qualifying Features of Screened in SACs in Northern Ireland (including SACs in the Republic of Ireland found within 15km of the border/hydrologically linked to NI watercourses), their Conservation Status and Trend and their sensitivity to NAP Effects[19],[20]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0030318	Aughnadarragh Lough SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030319	Ballykilbeg SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016599	Ballynahone Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030083	Banagher Glen SAC	[9180] Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines.	(Mixed ashwoods) Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

[19] Note, the spatial data for the third Article 17 report for RoI submitted in 2025 is not presently available from the NPWS website to provide information on specific designated sites

[20] The reporting has moved from the previous Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting) to the Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024, however the spatial data for the individual sites is not presently available from DAERA to provide information on specific designated sites

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Favourable - Recovered	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030087	Bann Estuary SAC	[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Favourable - Recovered	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016609	Black Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	(Lowland Raised Bog) Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030097	Breen Wood SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91D0] Bog woodland	(Wet Woodland)	Unfavourable/inadequate - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
			Unfavourable - Recovering				
UK0030110	Carn/Glenshane Pass SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030116	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	(River) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030321	Cranny Bogs SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	(Lowland Raised Bog) Unfavourabl	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
			e - Un-classified				
UK0016603	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	(Wet Heaths) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	(Montane heaths) Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)	Favourable -Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Favourable -Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030322	Curran Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030323	Dead Island Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0030324	Deroran Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016620	Derryleckagh SAC	[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	(Fens) Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
	Derryleckagh SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016615	Eastern Mournes SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	(Wet Heath) Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[6150] Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016611	Fairy Water Bogs SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030068	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC	[3180] Turloughs	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016606	Garron Plateau SAC	[1528] Marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus)*	Unfavourable - Recovering	Favourable -Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*	(Oligotrophic Lakes) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	(Wet heath) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7230] Alkaline fens	(Fens) Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016610	Garry Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Favourable - Recovered	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0030169	Hollymount SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	(Wet Woodland) Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0030045	Largalinny SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030180	Lecale Fens SAC	[7230] Alkaline fens	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030047	Lough Melvin SAC	[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea*	(Mesotrophic Lakes) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		uniflorae and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*					
		[6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	(Purple Moor-grass and rush pastures) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016621	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)*	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*.	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7230] Alkaline fens	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
	Magilligan SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0016613		[1395] Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2170] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. Argentea (Salicion arenariae)	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[2190] Humid dune slacks	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030199	Main Valley Bogs SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016619	Monawilkin SAC	[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites)	(Calcareous Grassland) Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0030211	Moneygal Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030214	Montiaghs Moss SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
	Murlough SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Favourable -Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by	Favourable - Recovered	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0016612		seawater at low tide					
		[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1365] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina)*	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous	Unfavourable – Un-classifed	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		vegetation (grey dunes)					
		[2150] Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea)*	Unfavourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2170] Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030224	North Antrim Coast SAC	[1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior)*	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/inadequate - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		areas, in Continental Europe)					
UK0030399	North Channel SAC	[1351] Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Unknown - Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030233	Owenkillew River SAC	[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Favourable - Unclassified	Favourable - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	(River) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030236	Peatlands Park SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91D0] Bog woodland	(Wet Woodland) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016607	Pettigo Plateau SAC	[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*	(Oligotrophic Lakes) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Favourable - Unclassified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	(Wet heath) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030055	Rathlin Island SAC	[1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1170] Reefs	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/inadequate - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	(Coastal vegetated shingle) Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	(Maritime cliff and slopes) Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[8330] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030244	Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay SAC	[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		incanae, Salicion albae)					
UK0030365	Red Bay SAC	[1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030361	River Faughan and Tributaries SAC	[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Favourable - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK0030320	River Foyle and Tributaries SAC	[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Favourable - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	(River) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030360	River Roe and Tributaries SAC	[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Favourable - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

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		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	(River) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030268	Rostrevor Wood SAC	[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
	Skerries and Causeway SAC	[1110] Sandbanks	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes

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UK0030383		which are slightly covered by sea water all the time					
		[1170] Reefs	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1351] Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena)*	Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unknown - Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[8330] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Favourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh SAC	[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030277	Slieve Gullion SAC	[4030] European dry heaths	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016618	Strangford Lough SAC	[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1150] Coastal lagoons	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1160] Large shallow inlets and bays	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1170] Reefs	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable/inadequate - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	(Coastal vegetated shingle)	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
			Favourable - Un-classified / Unfavourable - Un-classified				
		[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	(Coastal vegetated shingle) Favourable - Un-classified / Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

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		Puccinellietalia maritimae)					
		[1365] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina)*	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable/inadequate - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0016608	Teal Lough SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030384	The Maidens SAC	[1110] Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1170] Reefs	Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/inadequate - unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1364] *Halichoerus grypus* (Grey Seal)	Favourable - Maintained	Favourable - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

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UK0030325	Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030326	Tully Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable - No Change	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030291	Turmennan SAC	[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	(Fens) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030296	Upper Ballinderry River SAC	[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Favourable – Un-classified	Favourable - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion*	(River) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		fluitantis and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation					
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	[1355] Otter *Lutra lutra*	Favourable - Un-classified	Favourable - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	(Eutrophic Standing waters) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

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		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and Blechnum in the British Isles	(Oakwood) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	(Wet woodland) Unfavourable - Unclassified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK0030300	West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	(Eutrophic Standing Waters) Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet	(Wet heath) Unfavourabl	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		heaths with *Erica tetralix*	e - Un-classified				
		[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites)	(Calcareous Grassland) Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	(Purple Moor-grass and rush pastures) Favourable - Maintained	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - deteriorating	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[7230] Alkaline fens	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[8240] Limestone pavements	Favourable - Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[9180] Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines.	(Mixed Ashwoods) Unfavourabl	Unfavourable/bad - stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

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			e - No change				
UK0030303	Wolf Island Bog SAC	[7110] Active raised bogs	Unfavourable – Un-classified	Unfavourable/bad - Improving	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		formation (*Cratoneurion*)					
		[8120] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE000115	Ballintra SAC	[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[8240] Limestone pavements	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE000623	Ben Bulben, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	[1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[5130] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[6430] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7230] Alkaline fens	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[8120] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		(*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)					
		[8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
UK0030089	Binevenagh SAC	[6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[8120] Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii)*					
		[8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*					
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC	[1065] Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1160] Large shallow inlets and bays	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1170] Reefs	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[1395] Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[2190] Humid dune slacks	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[5130] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7230] Alkaline fens	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[6230] Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7230] Alkaline fens	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE000979	Corratirrim SAC	[8240] Limestone pavements*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE000129	Croaghonagh Bog SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE000584	Cuilcagh – Anierin Uplands SAC	[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Improving	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[6216] Slender Green Feather-moss (*Hamatocaulis vernicosus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[6230] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[8110] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		Galeopsietalia ladani)					
		[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1365] Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		vegetation (grey dunes)					
		[2170] Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. argentea (*Salicion arenariae)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[2190] Humid dune slacks	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	[1130] Estuaries	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[1310] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	[3180] Turloughs	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE001125	Dunragh Lough/Pettigo Plateau SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000138	Durnesh Lough SAC	[1150] Coastal lagoons	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[6410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		vegetation of *Chara spp*.					
		[7210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*.	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7210] Caricion davallianae	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7230] Alkaline fens	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC	[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE000163		[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1421] Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[7220] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE001976	Lough Gill SAC	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1095] Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1096](Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1099] River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Unknown - Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[91E0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE002164	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC	[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000428	Lough Melvin SAC (RoI)	[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		uniflorae and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*					
		[6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE002135	Lough Nageage SAC	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[91D0] Bog woodland	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable – Stable	Yes	Yes
IE002287	Lough Swilly SAC	[1130] Estuaries	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1150] Coastal lagoons	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[6410] *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
IE000168	Magheradrumman Bog SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE002012	North Inishowen Coast SAC	[1014] Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate – Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[2130] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[4030] European dry heaths	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE002301	River Finn SAC	[1106] Salmon (*Salmo salar)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Inadequate - Stable	Yes	Yes
		[1355] Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Favourable - Improving	Yes	Yes
		[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		(*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)					
		[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Stable	Yes	Yes
IE001992	Tamur Bog SAC	[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes
		[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Bad - Deteriorating	Yes	Yes

Appendix B, Table 2 Qualifying Features of SPAs found in Northern Ireland (including SPAs in the Republic of Ireland found within 15km of the border/hydrologically linked to NI watercourses), their Conservation Status and Sensitivity to NAP Effects[21],[22]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK9020301	Antrim Hills SPA	[A082] Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Unknown, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A098] Merlin (Falco columbarius)	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Unknown, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020290	Belfast Lough Open Water SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020101	Belfast Lough SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

[21] Note, the spatial data for the Article 12 report for RoI submitted remains as submitted in 2019

[22] The reporting has moved from the previous Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting) to the Habitats Regulations Reporting for the period 2019 to 2024, however the spatial data for the individual sites is not presently available from DAERA to provide information on specific designated sites

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020161	Carlingford Lough SPA	[A046] Light-bellied goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020291	Copeland islands SPA	[A013] Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Unknown, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A194] Artic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK 9020320	East Coast (NI) Marine pSPA	[A001] Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*)	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A013] Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Unknown, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A063] Eider (Somateria mollissima)	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A192] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea)*	Site not included in Assessment	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK9020221	Killough Bay SPA	[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020042	Larne Lough SPA	[A046] Light-bellied Brent goose (*Branta bernicla)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A192] Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020031	Lough Foyle SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A037] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-Term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A052] Teal (Anas crecca)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A063] Eider (Somateria mollissima)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A149] Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A160] Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A162] Redshank *(Tringa totanus*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	Favourable - Un-classified	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020091	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA	[A004] Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficolis*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A017] Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A037] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-Term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increase	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A051] Gadwall *(Anas strepera*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A052] Teal *(Anas crecca*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A056] Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A059] Pochard (*Aythya ferina)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A061] Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A062] Scaup (*Aythya marila)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A067] Goldeneye Bucephala clangula	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A125] Coot *(Fulica atra*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		Waterfowl assemblage	(water fowl) Unfavourable - Un-classified	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK9020271	Outer Ards SPA	[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A169] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020051	Pettigo Plateau SPA	[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK9020011	Rathlin Island SPA Rathlin	[A009] Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A103] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Unknown, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A184] Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A188] Kittiwake *(Rissa tridacyla)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A199] Guillemot *(Uria aalge)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A200] Razorbill (*Alca torda)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A204] Puffin (Fratercula arctica)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		Seabird Assemblage	Favourable - Un-classified	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020021	Sheep Island SPA	[A017] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
UK9020302	Slieve Beagh - Mullaghfad	[A082] Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Unknown, Long-term Unknown	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
	– Lisnaskea SPA						
UK9020111	Strangford Lough SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A017] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-Term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A050] Wigeon (Anas penelope)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increase	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A051] Gadwall *(Anas strepera*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A052] Teal (*Anas crecca)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A054] Pintail *Anas acuta*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A056] Shoveler *Anas clypeata*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A067] Goldeneye Bucephala clangula	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A125] Coot *(Fulica atra*)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A141] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Stable, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A169] Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Stable	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-term Decreasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		[A194] Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea)*	Favourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
		Waterfowl Assemblage	(Water fowl) Favourable - Un-classified	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus)*	Unfavourable - Un-classified	Short-Term Increasing, Long-term Increasing	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE004078	Carlingford Lough SPA (RoI)	[A046] Light-bellied goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A999] Wetland and waterbirds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE004151	Donegal Bay SPA	[A003] Great Northern Diver G*avia immer*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A065] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A144] Sanderling *Calidris alba*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable/Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A052] Teal (*Anas crecca*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A054] Pintail (*Anas acuta*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A065] Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A137] Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A141] Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A142] Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A156] Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A184] Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
IE004057	Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA	[A183] Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A184] Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
IE004087	Lough Foyle SPA (RoI)	[A001] Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Stable	Yes	Yes
		[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable/Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A037] Bewick's Swan (Cygnus columbianus bewickii)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A043] Greylag Goose *(Anser anser*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A046] Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A052] Teal (*Anas crecca)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A063] Eider (Somateria mollissima)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A140] Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A142] Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A184] Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE004049	Lough Oughter Complex SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable/Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
IE004075	Lough Swilly SPA	[A005] Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable/Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A028] Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Stable	Yes	Yes
		[A038] Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A043] Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A048] Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A050] Wigeon (*Anas penelope)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A052] Teal (*Anas crecca)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A053] Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A056] Shoveler (*Anas clypeata)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A062] Scaup (Aythya marila)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A067] Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A069] Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Fluctuating, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A125] Coot (*Fulica atra*)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A130] Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A143] Knot (Calidris canutus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Unknown	Yes	Yes
		[A149] Dunlin (Calidris alpina)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A160] Curlew (Numenius arquata)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A162] Redshank (*Tringa totanus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A164] Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A179] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A182] Common Gull (*Larus canus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
		[A191] Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A193] Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A395] Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features	Northern Ireland Feature Condition Status and Trend (Based on 2024/2025 DAERA Summary Feature Condition Status)	Overall UK Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Overall RoI Conservation Status and Trend (Based on 2019 Article 17 Reporting)	Sensitive to NAP inputs from agricultural runoff	Sensitive to NAP inputs from airborne nutrient deposition
		[A999] Wetland and Waterbirds	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
IE004167	Slieve Beagh SPA (RoI)	[A082] Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Decreasing, Long-Term Decreasing	Yes	Yes
IE004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	[A103] Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus)*	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Increasing, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes
		[A346] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax)	Site not included in Assessment	N/A	Short-Term Stable, Long-Term Increasing	Yes	Yes