



The protection status of Tralee Bay

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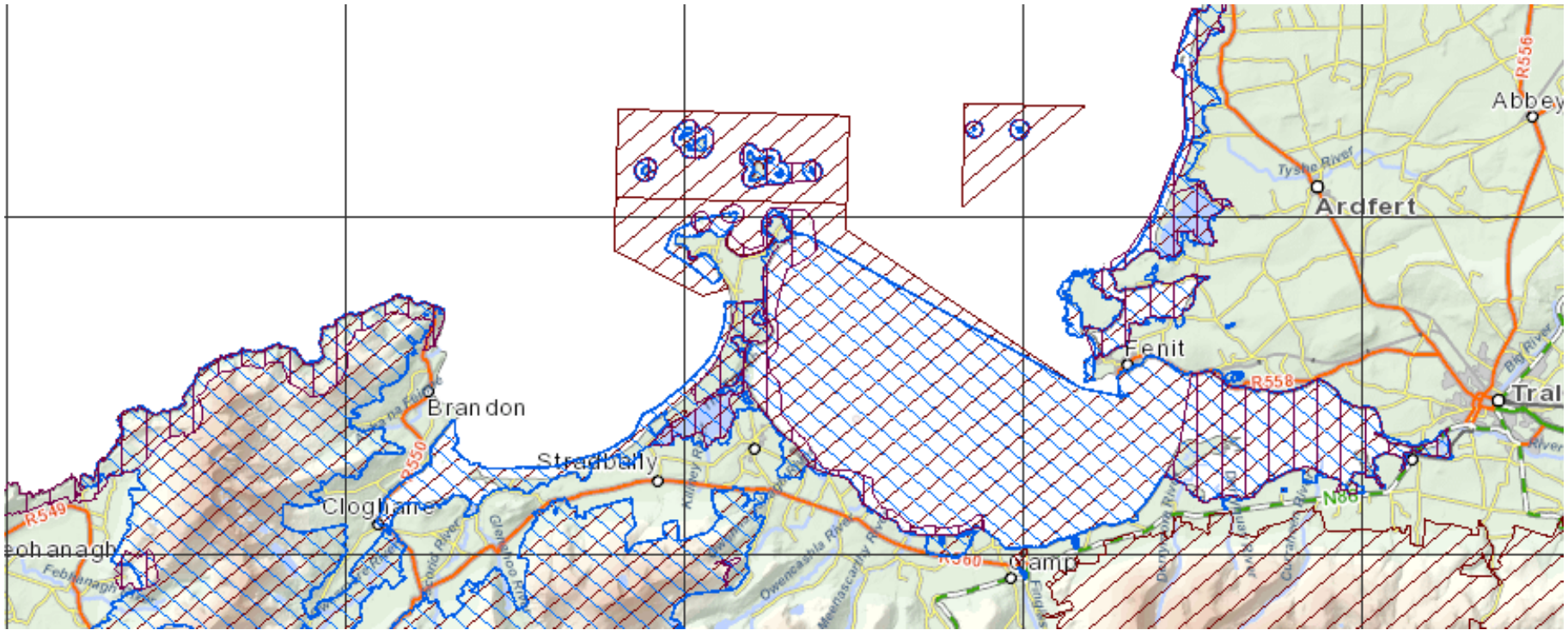
Tralee Bay



Tralee Bay



- Diverse range of habitats:
 - Estuaries
 - Lagoons
 - Saltmarsh
 - Blanket bogs
 - Floodplains
 - Rivers



- Nature Reserve
- Natural Heritage Area
- Wildfowl Sanctuary

- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar Site of International Importance

Nature Reserves

- Tralee Bay Nature Reserve
- Derrymore Island Nature Reserve
- Established under Section 15 of the Wildlife Act (1976)
- State owned land/
inland waters,
foreshore/seabed



Irish Wildlife Act (1976,2000)

- Nature reserves established by “Establishment Order”
- Species/community of scientific interest that is likely to benefit if measures are taken for its protection
- Minister is obliged to manage the reserve in accordance with general principles for the protection of the natural environment.
- Some reserves have been established on private land under agreement with landowners.
- Under Section 18, agreements may be made with private owners over whether management of the land is in accordance with the conservation of habitats and species.

Wildfowl Sanctuary

- Lough Gill
- Established under Section 24 of the Wildlife Act
- Control of Hunting
- Species listed under Open Seasons Order



Special Protection Areas

- Tralee Bay Complex SPA (Inner Tralee Bay/Barrow/Lough Gill)
- Magharees Islands SPA
- Natura2000
- European Birds Directive (1979)



Special Protection Areas

- Area used regularly by >1% of Irish population of Annex 1 species
- Area used regularly by >1% of a regularly occurring migratory species
- Area used regularly by
- >20,000 waterfowl/seabirds



Birds Directive (1979)

- A clear, unqualified obligation to avoid pollution or deterioration of the habitats of SPAs or any disturbance affecting birds within them
- Obligation on member states did not depend on the habitat having been first designated
- Now disruption can be allowed on the basis of “*imperative reasons of overriding public interest*” in line with the Habitats Directive

Special Areas of Conservation

- Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC
- Magharee Islands SAC
- Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC



Special Areas of Conservation

- Aimed at the protection of natural habitats of European importance (Annex I)
- Conservation of individual species of European importance (Annex 2)
- Natura2000
- European Habitats Directive (1997)



Special Areas of Conservation

- Lagoon
- Marram dunes
- *Salicornia* mudflats
- European Otter
- Petalwort



Habitats Directive (1997)

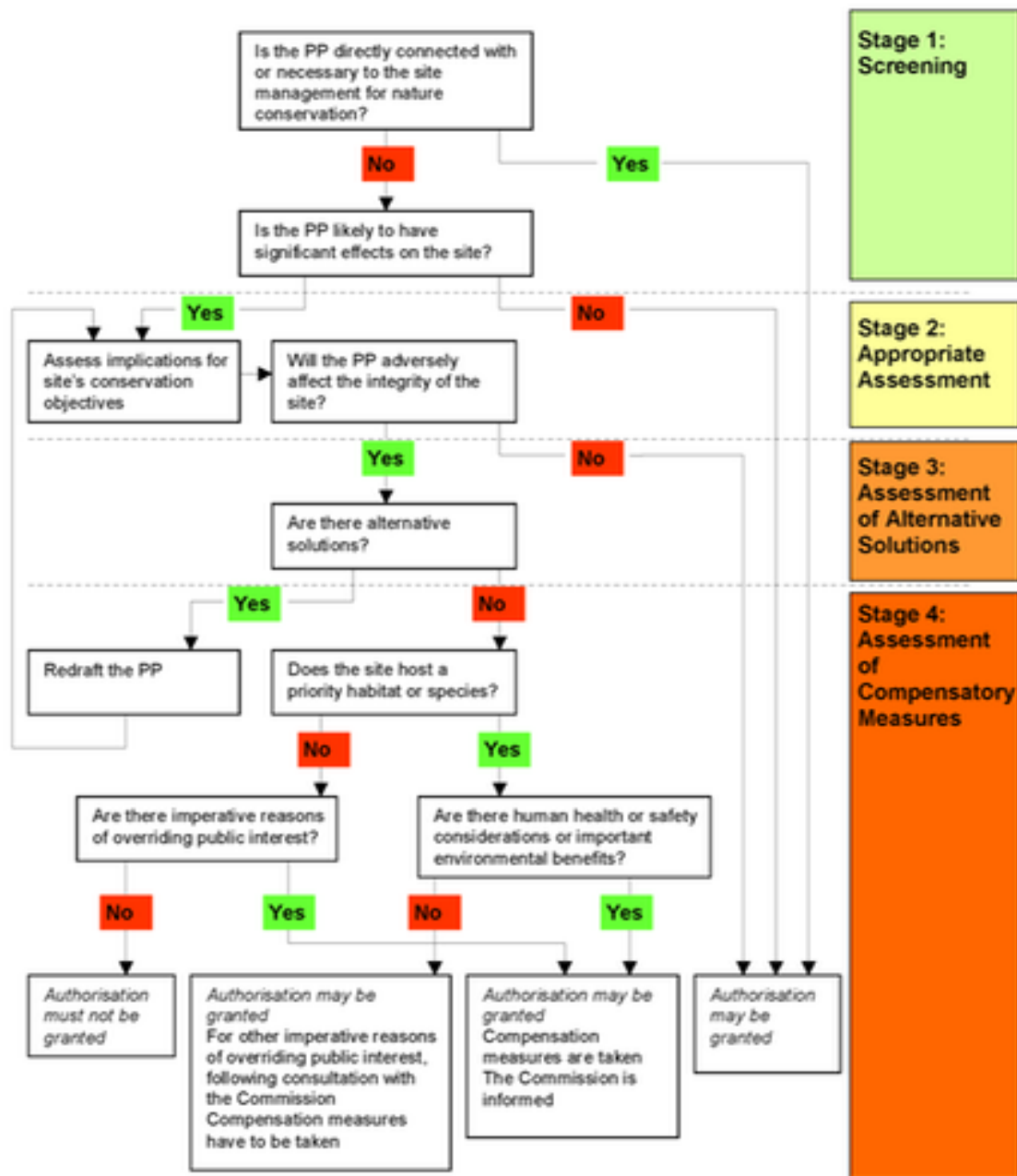
- Management Plans tailored to the ecological requirements of a particular site
- Contractual Measures
- Landowners
- Any overriding interest adversely interfering with an SAC or SPA has to be a *public* interest
- Definition of overriding interest is largely determined by member states.

Appropriate Assessment

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

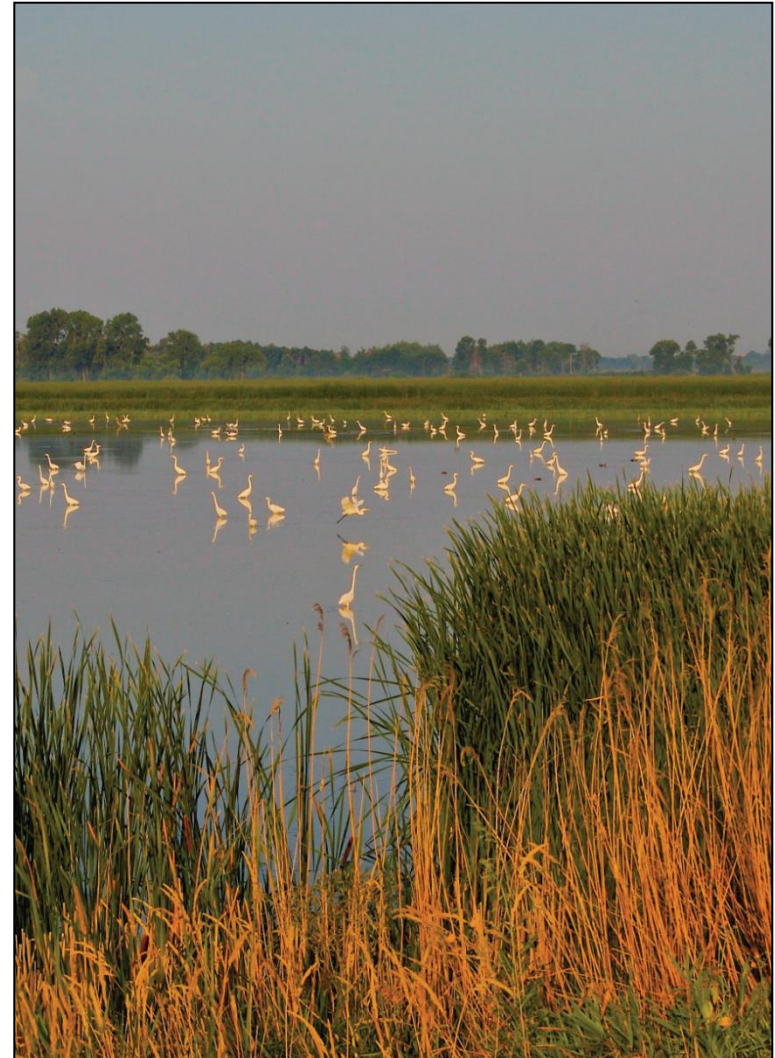
Appropriate Assessment

- Applicant provides a Screening Statement
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
 - Comprehensive ecological impact assessment of both direct and indirect impacts of the project on the site in view of the site's conservation objectives
- Competent authority carries out Appropriate Assessment



Ramsar

- Ramsar Convention signed in 1971 in Iran
- Wetland habitats of international importance
- Ireland ratified in 1985
- 138 countries, over 1300 sites
- Ramsar site 440 – Tralee Bay SAC



Ramsar

- “Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation.”
- “Maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development.”



Ramsar

- No legal obligations under Irish law
- Outreach Programme (Awareness, education, advocacy)
- Establishment of a clear policy framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands

Marine Protected Areas

- 130 marine/coastal SACs
- However, 78 of these designated on the basis of terrestrial habitats
- Annex II species include Bottlenose Dolphin, Harbour Porpoise, Common Seal, Grey Seal
- Annex IV species include Leatherback Turtle
- 19 sites under OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic

Marine Protected Areas

- “No legislation is currently used to underpin protected areas established to fulfil commitments under international conventions”
- Lough Hyne is a designated Nature Reserve and is therefore Ireland’s one and only Marine Reserve
- No Natural Heritage Areas have been established for marine habitats to date

