



*A Practical Approach for Planners to
Appropriate Assessment*

Irish Planning Institute

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Conor Skehan, DIT

You can't get there from here..



***THERE IS NO RIGHT ANSWER TO A
WRONG QUESTION.....***

Take Home Messages

- **Unreasonable Appropriate Assessment without Management Plans**
- **Excessive Emphasis on Process not Outcomes**
- **Futures of shared Values and Visions**
- **Must have management plans and outcomes that are inclusive**
- **Habitat Management Plans must co-exist with other Plans and Strategies**
- **Need coordinating Integrated Rural Strategies**
- **Planners need to provide leadership**



10,000BC

4000BC

2011



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After Agriculture – a landscape of Values



- Heritage
- Habitats
- Continuity
- Agribusiness
- Scenery
- Settlement

The Scale of the Challenge



A New Reality

What we understood

Before a development or plan that will have adverse effects on a Natura 2000 site can proceed, it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist; that all reasonable alternatives have been considered and assessed, and that the least damaging option has been selected.

After *Waddensee*

the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. *“That is the case where no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of such effects”*.

An Unprecedented Burden of Proof

Acceptable level of Risk?



Road Deaths in 2009: 240 = 1
death per 1,000,000 km travelled

Assimilative Capacity?



SAC Management Plan Actions

Summary

Note: It is the responsibility of the landowner and farmer to ensure that the SAC is not damaged by any activity on their land.

	Strategy	Action required	Who to implement	
	Establish Monitoring Regime	Carry out water quality monitoring, scientific monitoring, site surveillance	County Council/EPA/NPWS/Coillte	
	Maintain blocked drains	Maintain and monitor blocked drains	Coillte	f. expertise
	Minimise impacts of peat cutting	Permit only on banks currently in use. No sawage machines	NPWS	
	Eliminate and prevent dumping	Liaise with landowner and county council to remove	landowner/ NPWS/ County Council	Additional Resources needed
	Maintain other habitats	As per 1.1 to 1.3		
1.1	Non-intervention	No active intervention for lake and rivers		
1.2	Maintain board walk	Maintain as necessary	Coillte	
1.3	Maintain display signs	Maintain as necessary	Coillte	
2.1	Carry out promotion and publicity	Promote as part of the EU LIFE project	Coillte	
3.1				
3.2	Liaise with interested parties	Initiate and maintain liaison with landowners, legal users, relevant authorities and interested parties	NPWS	
3.3				
4.1	Liaise with REPS planners	REPS Planners to consult with NPWS	REPS planners	
4.2				

SAC Management Plan Actions

- Facilitate?
 - Prepare?
 - Accommodate?
 - Anticipate?
 - Support?
 - Sustain?
- PLANNING**
- PROHIBIT**



Management Plans – a Solution?

YES!



- *If* they anticipate continued co-existence
- *If* they facilitate continuous betterment
- *If* they have measurable outcomes
- *If* they accommodate other values

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

No Habitats is an Island

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

SAC MANAGEMENT PLAN

PEATLANDS STRATEGY

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

FLOOD STRATEGY

Property Rights

Water Quality

Habitats Directive

Floods Directive

SEA Directive

Planning

IPPC Licence

Water Framework



How can we get there from here?



Integrating Rural Strategies

FOR

TOURISM

LANDSCAPE

MINERALS

FORESTRY

COMMUNITY

HABITATS

ENTERPRISE

HERITAGE

WATER QUALITY

INFRASTRUCTURE

AGRICULTURE

SETTLEMENT

FLOODING



Strategy Hierarchy

- Integrating Rural Strategy
- Thematic Strategies
 - Habitats
 - Landscape
 - Water
 - Floods
 - Settlement
- Site Strategy & Plans



The Shape of Answers

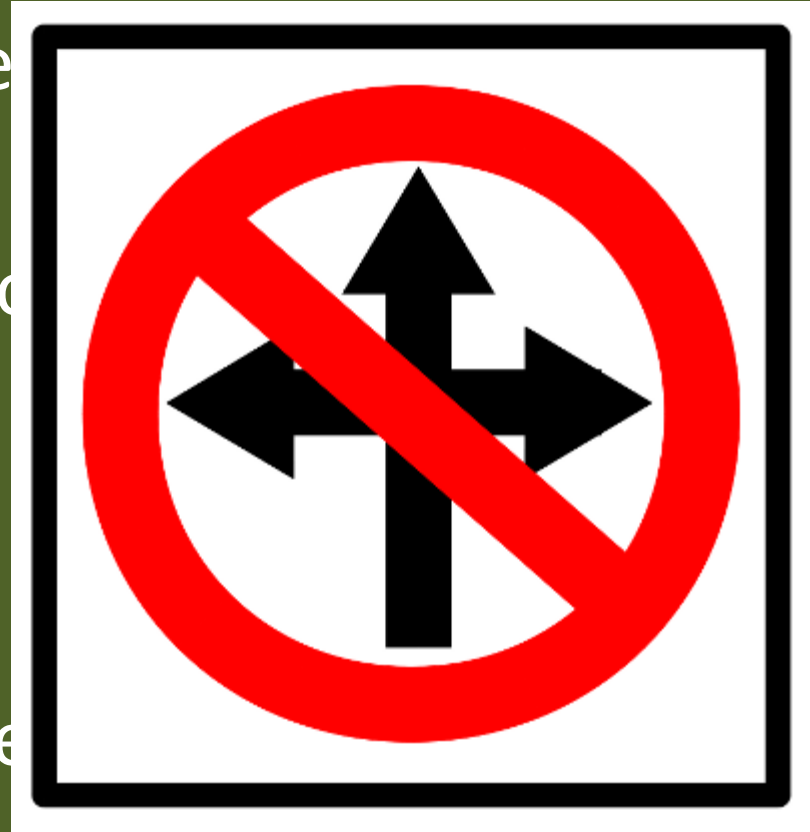
- Integrated Contexts
- Consensus and Consent
- Achievable Outcomes
- Mechanisms and Responsibility
- Co-existence, Certainty, Continuity



What would be different?

Integrating Rural Strategies

- Agriculture
- Infrastructure Corridors
- Rural Settlement
- Water Management
- Rural Economies
- Community Betterment
- Natural Systems



Where?

Strategies	National	Agency [EPA?]	Regional	County	Community	Site
Habitats	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Water	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red
Flooding	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Settlement	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow
Landscape	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Agriculture	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Forestry	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Economy	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Red
Infrastructure	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Heritage	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green

Who?

Strategies	Ecologist	Planner	Forester	Heritage Officer	Engineer	Economist	Landscape Architect	Hydrologist
Habitats	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow
Water	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green
Flooding	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green
Settlement	Red	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Landscape	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Red
Agriculture	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Forestry	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Economy	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Red	Red
Infrastructure	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Heritage	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red

Challenges

Need a Strategy of Strategies

- Co-ordinating, combining
- Balancing values

Need Strategy of Mechanisms - not plans to;-

- avoid conflict
- develop shared visions
- facilitate the future
- acknowledge values – local and large

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Questions

- How can/ought integrating rural strategies be prepared and who should do it?
- How can management be carried out with consensus and consent.
- How can the Community avoid NIMBY?
- What would be the 'tests' of a successful strategy?

