

DRAFT ARKLOW AND ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017

APPENDIX B

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 2017

Wicklow County Council

**Arklow and Environs Local Area
Plan 2017-2023**

Appendix B - AA Screening Report

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This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Screening Report to inform Appropriate Assessment for the Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd. (Arup) on behalf of Wicklow County Council (WCC). It has been prepared to inform WCC, the competent authority, of the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites.

This document forms part of this initial stage of the plan making process. The draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 is being considered to assess if there is likely to be a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 sites. Following the public consultation period, any proposed amendments will be further assessed in order to assess any potential impacts arising. This proactive approach allows for the adjustment of the policies, objectives and proposals of the Plan prior to adoption. This approach will avoid significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from implementation of the LAP.

When adopted, the LAP will replace the Arklow Town and Environs Development Plan 2011 - 2017.

1.2 The Requirement for Habitats Directive Assessment

Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), also known as Appropriate Assessment, is a requirement under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Habitats Directive indicates the need for plans and projects to be subject to Appropriate Assessment if the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but is likely to have a significant effect either individually or in combination with other plans or projects on Natura 2000 sites.

1.3 The Purpose of Appropriate Assessment

The purpose of Appropriate Assessment is to identify the possible effects of implementing a plan (or project) on the conservation status of designated Natura 2000 sites within the sphere of influence of the plan (or project). Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the ‘Habitats Directive’ provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Article 2 of the Habitats Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of interest to the EU in a favourable condition. The Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken for any plan or program that is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site. Article 6 paragraph 3 states:

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

Therefore, an AA is an evaluation of the potential impacts of a plan on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, and the development, where necessary, of mitigation or avoidance measures to preclude adverse effects. In a situation where it is not possible to fully demonstrate that adverse effects on the site integrity would occur, options must be explored so that any risk of damaging designated sites is avoided.

Plans can only be adopted after having ascertained that there will be no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. Components within a plan, such as policies and objectives, can be adjusted or removed to avoid significant adverse impacts prior to implementation. The plan may also proceed if sufficient mitigation or compensation measures are in place to ensure the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening process for land use plans is now legislated for in Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Land use plans are defined in this Act, Section 177R, to include a local area plan. The competent authorities are now required to assess land use plans or proposed developments for any potential significant effects on any European Site. The competent authority is then required to determine if the next step, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, is required or if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Local Area Plan will have a significant effect on the European Site(s).

1.4 Habitats Directive Assessment Process in relation to the Preparation of the Arklow and Environs LAP

In the preparation of this report to inform AA by the competent authority the following documents have been reviewed:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009);
- European Commissions: Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission: Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of ‘Habitats Directive’ 92/43/EEC; and
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 dated 15 February, 2008.

A full bibliography of material referenced and researched in preparation of this report is included in the references section at the end of this report.

This screening report is based on available ecological information and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental impacts. It also takes into account any policies that will set the terms for future development. The results of the screening are recorded and will be made available to the public.

In any case where, following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the plan must be carried out and - in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.

When the results of the Stage 2 AA under Article 6(3) are negative or uncertain then the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive apply. That is:

- The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site; and,
- Doubts remain as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of the site linked to the plan or project concerned.

The European Commission's Methodological Guidance recommends a four-stage approach to Appropriate Assessment:

Stage 1 Screening:

Determining whether the plan 'either alone or in combination with other plans or projects' is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment:

Determining whether, in view of the site's conservation objectives, the plan 'either alone or in combination with other plans or projects' would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site. If not, the plan can proceed.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions:

Where it has not been proven that measures considered will not avoid or mitigate the adverse effect on the Natura 2000 site, then an assessment of the alternatives will be required; and if none are acceptable then stage 4 is required to be considered.

Stage 4: Assessment where no Alternative Solutions Exist and where Adverse Impacts Remain

This will involve assessment where the Plan is considered to result in adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site and no alternative solutions remain – the imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) test must be met before authorisation, permission or adoption of the Plan is agreed. This includes the agreement of compensatory measures.

1.5 Overview of Stage One Screening

The Screening Stage of the report is used to identify whether the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. This report follows European Commission (2001) guidance which recommends that screening should follow a four-step process as outlined below:

- **Step one:** Determine whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. If it is, then no further assessment is necessary;
- **Step two:** Describe the plan and other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European site;
- **Step three:** Identify the potential effects on the European site; and
- **Step four:** Assess the significance of any effects on the European site.

As the Draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 is a land use plan and not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site, this assessment will proceed to step two of the process.

1.6 Appropriate Assessment Process in Tandem with LAP Progression

As the LAP is progressed through the plan making process the appropriate assessment process will be continued by the competent authority, WCC, in tandem and will inform the decision-making process in terms of any likely significant impacts arising from the LAP on Natura 2000 sites.

This report contains the findings of the assessment which was carried out on the draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023. It also contains recommendations for modifications to objectives and/or policies where applicable to prevent any risk of impact to all Natura 2000 sites arising from implementation of the plan.

1.7 Data Sources

This screening report of Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 for potential significant effects on a European or Natura 2000 site is based on a review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Eastern River Basin District River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2013 (National River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021 currently in preparation) from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2013a and 2013b);
- National Biodiversity Data Centre - Biodiversity Maps;
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022;
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 Natura Impact Statement; and
- Ecological reports and EIS reports for proposed developments within LAP lands.

1.8 Consultation

The draft plan and this Screening Report for the plan will be placed on public display and will be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process. Submissions will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final plan and accompanying final Appropriate Assessment reporting.

2 Description of the plan and other plans and projects

2.1 Introduction

This is the second step of the Stage One Screening process and provides a description of the plan and other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European or Natura 2000 site.

2.2 Description of the Draft Arklow And Environs Local Area Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023

The purpose of the plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the settlement of Arklow and its environs for the 2017-2023 period. The plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

The plan provides for, and controls, the physical, economic and social development of the settlement, in the interests of the overall common good and in compliance with environmental controls. The plan includes a written statement, maps and appendices, indicating development objectives. These objectives set out where land is to be developed and for what purposes (e.g. housing, shopping, employment, etc.), objectives for phased development, community facilities and services, infrastructure and amenities and the protection of built and natural environment. It informs decisions on where public services such as roads and water infrastructure are to be provided, and affects the type of buildings that can be constructed and the use to which land can be put. It affects many facets of daily economic and social life, in terms of where one can live, what services and facilities are available and where job opportunities are to be sited. Should any discrepancy arise between the written statement and maps, the written statement shall take precedence.

The plan shall only include objectives that are settlement specific and achievable, and avoid those that are aspirational or are best dealt with in the annual budget, road works programme, etc. The role of a land use plan is to put in place framework within which development can occur, but does not decide what works actually get done by either private individuals or public bodies. The delivery of objectives will be determined by the initiation of private development or by the allocation of public funding through the annual budgetary process, which is a separate process to any land use plan.

Chapter 2 of the plan outlines the keys factors – legal / statutory, environmental, historical – that have influenced the plan outcome. Subsequent chapters set out the objectives in relation to a number of distinct land uses and activities, such as employment, community, tourism and heritage.

A key aim of a Local Area Plan is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of a settlement and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision. The vision and development strategy must be consistent with the 'Core Strategy' of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of Arklow. The Vision for Arklow and Environs as outlined in the plan includes the following eleven themes as detailed below:

1. Policy Consistency

To be consistent, as far as practicable, with higher order national, regional and county development objectives, in particular the County Wicklow Development Plan and Core Strategy and manage the spatial development of the settlement in an efficient sustainable manner;

2. Land Use Framework

To provide an integrated land use and transportation framework for the growth of the settlement, that aims to reduce the distance people need to travel by car to places; to provide housing at appropriate locations for current and future generations, to revitalise the economy of the town and; to allow improvements of social and community facilities;

3. Balanced Housing

To enhance existing housing areas and to provide for high quality new housing, at appropriate locations and to ensure the development of a range of house types, sizes and tenures in order to meet the differing needs of all in society and to promote balanced communities;

4. Vibrant Core

To maintain and enhance the viability and vibrancy of Arklow town centre, to ensure that the core town centre remains at the heart of the community and provides a wide range of uses including retail, employment, commercial, social, recreational and residential in a consolidated and accessible manner;

5. Sustainable Communities

To support and facilitate social and community development and in particular, to create increased access and links between new and existing housing areas to community facilities, including schools, playing pitches, health facilities, etc. and the town centre;

6. Employment Activity

To facilitate and encourage the growth of a broad range of employment, enterprise and economic activity in the settlement, to support the port and manufacturing employment tradition in the settlement;

7. Enhance Tourism

To develop the tourism potential of the area as a visitor / tourist destination in itself and in its role as a 'gateway' to surrounding attractions;

8. Infrastructure

To protect and improve the settlement's transport, water, waste, energy, communications and maritime infrastructure having regard to our responsibilities regarding the protection of the environment;

9. Unique Heritage

To recognise, protect and strengthen the unique character, built heritage, seaside location, maritime history and natural environment of the area, ensuring that this heritage can continue to contribute positively to the overall quality of life, biodiversity, recreation and tourism role of the settlement;

10. Adapt To Climate Change

To address the climate change challenge, directly in the areas of flooding and renewable energy, and indirectly by integrating adaptation to climate change and sustainable development into the plan objectives; and

11. High Quality Design

To ensure a high quality living environment for existing and future residents. To promote high quality design so that new developments complement their surroundings, are well connected to neighbourhoods, are functional and pleasant to experience, are accessible, attractive, secure and contribute to a sense of place.

2.3 In-combination / Cumulative Effects with Other Plans and Projects

Other plans and projects are considered below. It is considered extremely unlikely that significant in-combination or cumulative effects arising from interaction with other plans or projects could arise as each plan or project has either been subject to the Appropriate Assessment process or provides for biodiversity protection i.e. Wicklow County Heritage Plan 2009-2014 and Wicklow County Biodiversity Plan 2010-2015. Each Stage 2 AA or Stage 1 AA Screening concluded that significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the plan or project in question were considered extremely unlikely.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)

The RPGs have undergone an AA and it recommended specific conditions to protect European sites (Section 4.6 of HDA). These were incorporated into the RPGs where appropriate. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016

No publicly available data suggests that this Strategy has undergone Appropriate Assessment. The Strategy sits under the Regional Planning guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area which was subject to AA, which placed emphasis on the protection of European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035

This Strategy has undergone an AA and mitigatory measures have been recommended and incorporated into the text. Mitigation measures include those specifically to protect biodiversity including European sites, protection of riparian zone and waterbodies and watercourses and soil protection and contamination. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Eastern and South Eastern River Basin Management Plans (2009-2015)

Both Plans underwent AA. Safeguards (described as ‘mitigation measures’ in Appendix I of the AA Screening) are in place for each qualifying interest of the European sites. An example of a common safeguard is the creation of buffer strips around water bodies to prevent pollutant loss. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022

This Plan has undergone an AA and a Natura Impact Report has been published. The NIR concludes that:

“The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and mitigate impacts where these cannot be avoided.”

In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known. Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is considered that the Plan will not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network”.

No in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Wicklow County Heritage Plan 2009-2014

This Plan does not seem to have undergone an AA. However, the aim of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan is “*To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county, and to increase awareness and enjoyment of it among all in Wicklow*”.

No adverse in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

Wicklow County Biodiversity Plan 2010-2015

While this Plan does not seem to have undergone an AA it should be noted that it sits under the Wicklow County Development Plan which has undergone AA and has placed emphasis on the protection of European sites. The nature of the Biodiversity Plan is to conserve biodiversity including European sites that make up the Natura 2000 network. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP are predicted as a result of implementation.

3 Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

3.1 Introduction

This is the third step of Stage One Screening, the purpose of which is map and tabulate the information available on all Natura 2000 sites within or immediately adjoining the region. As part of this, reasons for site designation and environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity will be indicated, where possible. It should be noted that Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as well as proposed sites awaiting approval – potential SPAs (pSPAs) and candidate SACs (cSACs).

3.2 Identification and Consideration of Natura 2000 Sites

There are a number of Natura 2000 sites which may potentially be affected by the Plan. In this section of the report the information available on Natura 2000 sites within or immediately adjoining the plan area in situ and ex situ are mapped and tabulated, as appropriate. In general ex situ sites are those located within 15km from the nearest Plan Area Boundary and for the purposes of this assessment, include the Natura 2000 sites in Table 1.

Table 1 Natura 2000 Site within 15km of Arklow and Environs LAP Area

Site Code	Site Name	Distance to LAP
000729	Buckroneys-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC	2.0km
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	2.8km
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	10.3km
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	11.8km
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	13.7km
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	14.1km

Figure 1 in Appendix B1 shows the SACs which are located within or are adjoining the plan area. There are no SPAs located within or which adjoin the plan area. It should be noted that the boundaries of these sites are subject to change. Up to date information, data and maps of Irish Natura 2000 sites, including those identified above is available from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website at <http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData>.

Table 2 lists the qualifying interests of each SAC and the pressures and threats as identified in relevant Natura 2000 data forms.

Table 2 Qualifying Interests, Pressure and Threats for each Natura 2000 site within 15km of Arklow and Environs LAP boundary

Site / Qualifying Interests	Identified Pressures and Threats
Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC	
<p><i>Habitat – Annex I</i></p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p> <p>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150]</p> <p>Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp. argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170]</p> <p>Humid dune slacks [2190]</p> <p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p>	<p>The qualifying Annex I habitats of Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC are limited to shoreline vegetation, dunes and fen habitat types therefore the pressure and threats relate specifically to these habitats.</p> <p>I01 invasive non-native species</p> <p>H02.07 diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population</p> <p>G02.08 camping and caravans</p> <p>A04.01.01 intensive cattle grazing</p> <p>G01.02 walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles</p> <p>K01.01 Natural erosion</p> <p>A05.02 stock feeding</p> <p>J02 human induced changes in hydraulic conditions</p> <p>G02.01 golf course</p> <p>D04.01 airport</p> <p>F03.01 Hunting</p> <p>J01 fire and fire suppression</p> <p>E01.02 discontinuous urbanisation</p> <p>G05.04 Vandalism</p> <p>G05.01 Trampling, overuse,</p> <p>A08 Fertilisation</p> <p>K02.01 species composition change (succession)</p> <p>E03.01 disposal of household / recreational facility waste</p> <p>A04.02 non intensive grazing</p>
Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	
<p><i>Habitat – Annex I</i></p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p>	<p>The qualifying Annex I habitats of Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC are limited to shoreline vegetation and dunes habitat types therefore the pressure and threats relate specifically to these habitats.</p> <p>I02 problematic native species</p>

<p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p> <p>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150]</p>	<p>J01.01 actively burning down existing vegetation</p> <p>K01.01 Natural erosion</p> <p>G01 Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities</p> <p>G01.03.02 off-road motorized driving</p> <p>K02.01 species composition change (succession)</p> <p>E03.01 disposal of household / recreational facility waste</p> <p>J02.12.01 sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages</p>
Magherabeg Dunes SAC	
<p>Habitat – Annex I</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p> <p>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150]</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p>	<p>The qualifying Annex I habitats of Magherabeg Dunes SAC are limited to shoreline vegetation, dunes and petrifying spring habitat types therefore the pressure and threats relate specifically to these habitats.</p> <p>K01.01 Natural erosion</p> <p>G05.07 missing or wrongly directed conservation measures</p> <p>H01.04 diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off</p> <p>H01.01 pollution to surface waters by industrial plants</p> <p>G01.02 walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles</p> <p>A04.03 abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing</p> <p>K02.01 species composition change (succession)</p> <p>A04.02 non intensive grazing</p> <p>G05.04 Vandalism</p>
Slaney River Valley SAC	
<p>Habitat – Annex I</p> <p>Estuaries [1130]</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i></p>	<p>There are a variety of qualifying Annex I habitats and Annex II species for Slaney River Valley SAC. Moat qualifying interests are dependent on functioning freshwater or estuarine habitat.</p> <p>J02.05.02 modifying structures of inland water courses</p> <p>H01.01 pollution to surface waters by industrial plants</p> <p>D01.01 paths, tracks, cycling tracks</p> <p>J02.12.02 dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems</p> <p>A10.01 removal of hedges and copses or scrub</p> <p>A01 Cultivation</p> <p>A09 Irrigation</p>

<p>and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</p> <p>Species – Annex II</p> <p><i>Margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p><i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</p> <p><i>Alosa fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103]</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p><i>Lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p> <p><i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</p>	<p>C01.01 Sand and gravel extraction</p> <p>F03.02.04 predator control</p> <p>H01.08 diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters</p> <p>K01.01 Natural erosion</p> <p>E05 Storage of materials</p> <p>I01 invasive non-native species</p> <p>J02.06 Water abstractions from surface waters</p> <p>F01.03 bottom culture</p> <p>B02 Forest and Plantation management & use</p> <p>A08 Fertilisation</p> <p>E03 Discharges</p> <p>J02.06.01 surface water abstractions for agriculture</p> <p>J02.11 Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits</p> <p>H01.05 diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities</p> <p>D01.05 bridge, viaduct</p> <p>D03.01.03 fishing harbours</p> <p>H01 Pollution to surface waters (limnic, terrestrial, marine & brackish)</p>
<p>Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC</p>	
<p>Habitat – Annex I</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p>	<p>Pressures and threats to Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC relate specifically to Old sessile oak woods.</p> <p>G01.02 walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles</p> <p>E01.03 dispersed habitation</p> <p>F03.01.01 damage caused by game (excess population density)</p> <p>F05.04 poaching</p> <p>B04 use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)</p> <p>F04.02 collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.)</p> <p>E01.03 dispersed habitation</p> <p>I01 invasive non-native species</p>
<p>Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC</p>	

<p>Habitat – Annex I</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p>	<p>Pressures and threats to Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC relate specifically to Old sessile oak woods.</p> <p>B06 grazing in forests/ woodland</p> <p>E03.01 disposal of household / recreational facility waste</p> <p>A04 grazing</p> <p>G05.04 Vandalism</p> <p>G01.02 walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles</p> <p>G02.06 attraction park</p> <p>B Sylviculture, forestry</p> <p>I01 invasive non-native species</p>
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Conservation Objectives

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) is in the process of drawing up Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for all Natura 2000 sites.

These SSCO's aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site. The maintenance (or restoration) of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when:

'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when:

'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

SSCOs are available for the following sites:

- Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC;
- Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC;
- Slaney River Valley SAC; and
- Magherabeg Dunes SAC.

Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Annual vegetation of drift lines;
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*);
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);
- Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); and
- Alkaline fens.

To restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Perennial vegetation of stony banks;
- Embryonic shifting dunes;
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes);
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); and
- Humid dune slacks.

Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitat (with the habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Annual vegetation of drift lines;

To restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Embryonic shifting dunes;
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes);
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); and
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*).

Slaney River Valley SAC

The status of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel as a qualifying Annex II species for the Slaney River Valley SAC is currently under review. The outcome of this review will determine whether a site-specific objective is set for this species.

To restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying species (with each species defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Sea Lamprey;
- Brook Lamprey;
- River Lamprey;
- Twaité Shad;
- Salmon; and,
- Otter.

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying species (with the species defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Harbour Seal.

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Estuaries;
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; and,
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation;

To restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with both habitats defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles;
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*);

Magherabeg Dunes SAC

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Annual vegetation of drift lines;
- Embryonic shifting dunes;
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes); and
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*).

To restore the favourable conservation condition of the following qualifying habitats (with each habitat defined by a list of attributes and targets):

- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); and
- Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion).

For those sites where no SSCOs are available, namely Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC and Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC, the DAHG has provided generic Conservation Objectives for designated European sites. The following generic Conservation Objectives apply to both Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC and Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat for which the SACs has been selected i.e. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles.

4 Assessment of the Significance of any Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites

4.1 Introduction

This is the fourth and final step of Stage One Screening and involves an assessment of the significance of any impacts on Natura 2000 Sites. In identifying the potential issues which could affect the integrity of these sites a range of factors were taken into account, including the possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term, in combination effects and the potential impacts of climate change. In addition, the precautionary principle was adhered to in the carrying out of this assessment.

Where potentially effects have been identified, modification of the plan is recommended, where possible, so as to ensure that significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are avoided. If this can be achieved there may not be a need to proceed to Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.

In certain instances, this can be achieved by amending the objective / policy so as to provide a positive indication that they will not have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. In other cases, a caveat or conditional approach will be used to indicate that before certain policies or objectives are implemented certain things have to happen so that when implemented, will have no significant effect, or adversely impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. In other situations, it may be recommended that additional mitigation policies be included or that certain objectives / policies be rejected so as to ensure that significant adverse effects on the Conservation Objectives of Natura 2000 sites are avoided.

4.2 Data sources, Consultation, Gaps and Limitations

This Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment of potential adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites in this study is based on a desktop review of literature, existing and relevant NPWS Natura 2000 Site Synopses Data, Qualifying Interests, Conservation Management Plans and the (draft) Conservation Objectives. A review was also carried out of Habitats Directive Assessments/Natura Impact Assessments recently carried out in relation to plans /projects in the area, with particular attention paid to the Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan and planning applications in the vicinity of each Natura 2000 site.

The Scoping report for the SEA for the Draft Arklow and Environs LAP has been sent to the statutory bodies and submissions received have been incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

Furthermore in line with recommendations in the European Commission: Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, representatives from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Inland Fisheries Ireland will be further consulted with prior to the adoption of the plan and the completion of the accompanying 'Finding of no significant effects' (fonse) report. The AA will also be forwarded as part of the SEA consultation process to statutory bodies required under the SEA directive.

The primary issue relating to data gaps and limitations was identified as the generic nature of some of the (draft) conservation objectives with site-specific quantitative objectives for each qualifying interest yet to be identified.

4.3 Detailed Screening for Potential Effects on Natura 2000 Sites

The plan is screened at objective level and policy level so as to ensure that potential effects of the plan on Natura 2000 sites are identified. Recommended modification to the wording of the draft plan, where appropriate, so as to avoid significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are shown in red text. If this text can be included within the Draft Plan there will not be a need to proceed to Stage Two – Appropriate Assessment.

The DoEHLG (2009) have advised that policies and objectives found at Stage 1 AA screening to have no significant effect can include policies or objectives that:

- Will not lead to development;
- Are intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity (see Article 10 of Directive);
- Are intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment and are unlikely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site;
- Positively steer development away from Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas;
- Positively make provision to ensure that the policy / objective implementation will not have a significant effect or adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site; or,
- Policies and objectives that can be dealt with by using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case AA.

No Natura 2000 site is located within the LAP boundary therefore there will be no direct impacts on qualifying habitats or species of any SAC.

It is considered that effects which could be generated by the Draft Plan are limited to those indirect effects which could act either on hydrologically connected Natura 2000 sites or on mobile species populations which are qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites.

Where the LAP may give rise to the potential for indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites they are discussed, with proposed modifications to the wording in the plan proposed where appropriate.

It is important to note that while the planning objectives outlined in the Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) have not been repeated, they are applicable to the Arklow and Environs LAP.

Having regard to the objectives of the CDP, it is assumed that the necessary provisions for the protection of Natura 2000 sites will be undertaken prior to any development within the LAP area.

Table 3 Arklow and Environs LAP Objectives

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
H1	All new housing developments shall be required to accord with the housing objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	None identified.
H2	Notwithstanding the zoning / designation of land for residential purposes, the Development Management process shall monitor and implement the population targets of this plan and shall phase and restrict, where necessary, the granting of residential planning permissions to ensure these targets are not exceeded	None identified.
H3	In order to make best use of land resources and services, unless there are cogent reasons to the contrary, new residential development shall be expected to aim for the highest density indicated for the lands. The Council reserves the right to refuse permission for any development that is not consistent with this principle.	None identified.
H4	The development of zoned land should generally be phased in accordance with the sequential approach as set out in the County Development Plan. The Council reserves the right to refuse permission for any development that is not consistent with these principles.	None identified.
H5	Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure and in particular, community infrastructure, is provided to match the need of new residents. Where specified by the Planning Authority, new significant residential or mixed use development proposals, may be required to provide a social and community facility/facilities as part of the proposed development or the developer may be required to carry out a social infrastructure audit, to determine if social and community facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services.	None identified.
H6	To encourage in-fill housing developments, the use of under-utilised and vacant sites and vacant upper floors for accommodation purposes and facilitate higher residential densities at appropriate locations, subject to a high standard of design, layout and finish.	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
H7	To encourage a greater usage of backland areas in the town centre and to promote the redevelopment of sites in the town centre where development will positively contribute to the commercial and residential vitality of the town centre.	None identified.
H8	Lands at Tinahask (Action Areas 1 & 2), Kilbride (Action Area 3) and Coolboy (AA4) shall be developed as comprehensive (not piecemeal) integrated schemes that allow for the sustainable phased and managed development of each action area during the plan period.	None identified.
ED1	To facilitate and support all forms of employment creation on appropriately zoned land in Arklow and to promote the intensification of activities on existing employment sites and to take advantage of the existing economic assets in order to stimulate further employment within the area.	None identified.
ED2	To promote and facilitate the development of employment generating uses that maximise Arklow's locational strengths along the east coast 'strategic transport corridor' and the potential of the 'Leinster Outer Orbital Route'.	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
ED3	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the settlement and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.	None identified.
ED4	To promote and facilitate the development of large-scale employment generating developments, including industrial, knowledge, high-technology, office and service based and science space developments, at appropriate locations.	None identified.
ED5	To support and facilitate existing and future commercial port activities and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial potential of the port area.	Any infrastructure development associated with commercial port activities has the potential to impact on patterns of long shore drift and therefore potential to impact on sand dune habitats of Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
ED6	To facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of minerals on land zoned 'Extractive Industry' in a manner, which is consistent with the principle of sustainability and protection of residential, environmental and tourism amenities.	Any development associated with 'Extractive Industry' has the potential to impact on patterns of long shore drift and therefore potential to impact on sand dune habitats of Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
ED7	<p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council 	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	<p>will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. 	
Objectives for employment lands at Money Big/Bogland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote and facilitate the development of larger scale employment generating developments on these 'E Special' zoned lands at Bogland. • To resist the development of a business/office park type development of these 'E Special' employment-zoned lands. 	None identified.
Objectives for employment lands at Shelton Abbey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote and facilitate the development this site for a large-scale employment development, • To facilitate the current business park use, • Any significant development proposal for this site shall incorporate proposals to develop a landscaped linear open space park along the river bank. 	None identified.
VP1	To maintain the Main Street as the principal vehicular route through the town centre and to maintain the main vehicular routes to the waterfront area along the quays; to exploit any opportunities that arise to improve safety for both pedestrians and vehicles in the Town Centre and Waterfront area.	None identified.
VP2	To promote the pedestrian use of all 'dark pink' routes and avail of any opportunities to improve footpaths and pedestrian routes within in the Town Centre Strategy boundary and to the Waterfront zone, Wexford Road and Train Station along the main roads and key pedestrian routes.	None identified.
VP3	To facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of new linkages from the Main Street to car parks, amenity areas, the train station and the waterfront zone; in particular, in the Town Centre Strategy area to require redevelopment proposals that have frontage on both Main Street and any 'dark pink' route to include new pedestrian routes through the site.	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
VP4	<p>With regard to car parking to facilitate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain existing and provide new car parking options as funding allows, in proximity to the Main Street and along ‘dark pink’ routes. • to avail of opportunities to remove public on street car parking on the Main Street and at amenity areas, subject to due consideration of the commercial needs of Main Street, including loading parking. • to require new development on the Main Street to incorporate pedestrian links, where feasible, to existing or new public car parks. • deviations from the minimum car parking requirement (as set out the County Development Plan) shall be considered in the Main Street Strategy area as shown on Map 5.1 where a public car park is within 200m walking distance to the site. In such cases, only the needs of long-term users (e.g. employees and residents of the development) will have to be addressed by the developer. 	None identified.
VP5	<p>With regard to public transport to facilitate the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the improvement of public transport user facilities including, shelters, covered bicycle parking, information points with maps, routes, timetables, real-time information and designated taxi ranks at / near the bus stops on Main Street and the train station; • the provision of new or enhance existing foot and cycleways to and from the public transport pick up locations, as funding allows; • a pedestrian link / bridge from the Train Station to the Wexford Road; • improved access to bus stops particularly crossing points for passengers. 	None identified.
VP6	To protect and enhance the streetscape of Arklow Main Street through the appropriate control of alterations to existing buildings and the development of new structures; in particular building and roof lines and heights which diverge from the established form will require to be justified.	None identified.
VP7	To seek to improve the appearance of junctions and gateway areas into the Main Street, particularly the Main Street – Bridge Street junction.	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
VP8	New or extended / refurbished units shall, at all times that the unit is not in active use, provide an attractive temporary display or professionally designed artwork affixed to the glass frontage. The temporary use of the space during such times for creative, cultural or community purposes will be encouraged; however, such change of use may require planning permission, and advice will be provided by the Council on a case by case basis in this regard.	None identified.
VP9	To support opportunities to create better linkages between the Main Street, the river, the north and south quay and the beaches, in particular access routes and views between the two.	None identified.
VP10	To maintain the existing bandstand and 'Sea Farers Memorial Garden' and support other possibilities for the development of new urban spaces.	None identified.
VP11	To improve footpaths, lighting, seating and other street 'furniture' as funding allows, and require private development providing such features to meet the highest standards of design and siting in the town centre and waterfront zones.	None identified.
VP12	To facilitate appropriate infill development of vacant backland and private car parking areas along 'dark pink' routes in the Town Centre strategy area.	None identified.
VP13	To promote and facilitate the conversion of non-retail premises to retail/retail service use and in the 'core retail area' to strongly resist the conversion of existing retail/retail service premises to alternative, less active, uses that would diminish vibrancy and daytime activity.	None identified.
WZ1	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront zone (WZ), for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses. Applications for the development of such lands shall include a detailed survey of the existing site conditions, proposals for demolition and remediation of previous site activities and a management plan for the disposal of such materials.	Development associated with the Waterfront zone has the potential to impact on patterns of long shore drift and water quality and therefore potential to impact on sand dune habitats of Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. Additional wording here to state that 'Any future Waterfront zone development shall be subject to ecological impact assessment and appropriate assessment screening'.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
WZ2	In the Waterfront Zone to allow for high-density development (up to a plot ratio of (2.5:1) and up to 4 storeys in height along water frontages and 3 storeys elsewhere.	None identified.
WZ3	To support existing and proposed water related and maritime activities in the Waterfront Zone including sailing, fishing, other water sports and commercial shipping activities, including the development of jetties, marinas and other support infrastructure.	Development associated with the Waterfront zone has the potential to impact on patterns of long shore drift and water quality and therefore potential to impact on sand dune habitats of Buckrone-y-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
WZ4	To support and facilitate existing and future commercial harbour activities and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial harbour of the area.	Development associated with the Waterfront zone has the potential to impact on patterns of long shore drift and water quality and therefore potential to impact on sand dune habitats of Buckrone-y-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
WZ5	To support and facilitate maritime activity and to encourage new developments that provide for an improved mix of uses including commercial, retail and residential uses and to particularly encourage tourism and leisure related developments.	This objective has the potential to contribute to increased visitor number to Buckrone-y-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC and to contribute to the introduction of marine and coastal invasive species which is more likely due to climate change. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
WZ6	To require any new developments in the Waterfront Zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area.	None identified.
WZ7	To support and facilitate the development of new infrastructure necessary for the continued operation and development of the harbour.	Development associated with the harbour has the potential to impact on patterns of long shore drift and water quality and therefore potential to impact on sand habitats of Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
WZ8	Further retail development in the Waterfront Zone shall be restricted to that required to meet the everyday convenience needs of future residents or niche comparison uses such as those related to tourism and the maritime function of the area.	None identified.
WZ9	To require any new developments to be suitably set back from the water's edge and to provide public routes and places along waterfronts; to support the development of a footbridge across the entrance to south dock.	None identified.
WZ10	To ensure that access to the water, such as steps / slipways / river beaches etc. are maintained and improved.	None identified.
WZ11	To encourage and facilitate tourism and leisure related uses in the Waterfront Zone including hotel / accommodation facilities and leisure uses to complement the marina and associated boating uses and activities.	None identified.
WZ12	To ensure that any development projects in and around the Arklow quays preserve and enhance any valuable structures or items of Arklow's maritime heritage.	None identified.
RT1	To direct new retail development in the first instance into the retail core of Arklow Town as shown on Map 6.1 in particular to derelict or under-utilised sites.	None identified.
OP1-	The Alps Opportunity Site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site should be the subject of a comprehensive (not piecemeal) integrated scheme of development encompassing the entire lands. 	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating retail, commercial, residential, tourism, community and cultural development, all contained within a high quality architectural, landscaped, streetscape and high quality public realm environment. • A high development density will be required to be achieved across the site that is sensitive and appropriate to its immediate built and natural context. In terms of meeting the housing targets set out in this plan any development proposals should aim to achieve the delivery of 120-160 units; • A maximum height of 4 storeys fronting onto Upper Main Street/ Parade Ground shall be permitted. • To ensure, where possible, there are active ground floor uses in the buildings fronting the river, public spaces, walkways and streets. • To ensure that all new structures present an appropriate façade to the river, walkways and roadside with a continuous streetscape and building frontage where appropriate. • The lands shall comprise of a series of new streets/laneways, opening up linkages between the Vale Road and the river, Upper Main Street / Parade Ground to the river and links to the Castle ruins. • To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the river bank and to facilitate the development of an open space link from the linear park to the Castle Ruins and if feasible linking onto Upper Main Street. 	
OP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Street Opportunity Site Where possible this site should be the subject of a comprehensive integrated scheme of development encompassing the entire lands. Individual site redevelopment proposals may be considered if they can demonstrate how they comply with the objectives of this opportunity site. • Any new scheme should seek to protect the character and appearance of the traditional shop fronts including the Morgan Doyle facade and canopy and any architectural details on buildings of high architectural value wherever possible. • To provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating retail, commercial, residential, community and cultural development, all contained within a high quality architectural, landscaped, streetscape and high quality public realm environment. 	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high development density will be required to be achieved across the site that is sensitive and appropriate to its immediate built and natural context. In terms of meeting the housing targets set out in this plan, any development proposals should aim to achieve the delivery of up to 70 residential units across the entire block; • A maximum height of 3 storeys fronting onto Main Street shall be permitted. • To ensure there are active ground floor uses fronting public spaces, walkways and streets. • To ensure that all new structures present an appropriate façade to the river, Kinsella's Lane, the Bandstand and Main Street with a continuous streetscape and building frontage where appropriate. • Additional links from the Main Street to the river should be incorporated where feasible. • To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the river bank. 	
CD1	To facilitate and encourage a series of high quality open spaces throughout the town, preferably as part of a larger linked green network that is available to all ages and accessible to everyone, including people with mobility impairments.	None identified.
CD2	To reserve c. 3.1ha at Churchview, (east of the railway line with Yellow Lane to the north) for a park, this will include areas for both sports and activities (such as a MUGA) and passive enjoyment.	None identified.
CD3	To facilitate the development of a graveyard at an appropriate location within the settlement. In order to ensure a variety of sites may be open for consideration, graveyards are permitted in principle on all zoned lands that have community uses open for consideration.	None identified.
TR1	To facilitate and support the development of the tourism industry in Arklow and maximise the town's location as a gateway between the tourism assets within Co. Wicklow.	Facilitating the development of the tourism industry in particular maximising the town's location as a gateway between the tourism assets within Co. Wicklow has the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
TR2	To support and facilitate, in co-operation with relevant bodies and landowners, the provision of tourism amenity routes around the town.	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
TR3	To recognise the importance of the local golf course and other sports clubs to tourism in the town.	None identified.
TR4	To support the development of linkages to connect Arklow with adjoining towns / villages via cycle and walking trails, ensuring that no developments are permitted that would have adverse impacts (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.	None identified.
TR5	To improve, as funding allows, the principal access routes and junctions linking Arklow town centre to strategic transport corridors and surrounding tourist attractions.	None identified.
TR6	To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.	None identified.
IT1	To support and facilitate the development of a waste water treatment plant in Arklow, at an optimal location following detailed technical and environmental assessment and public consultation.	None identified.
IT2	To improve, as funding allows, the principal access routes into the town centre from surrounding tourism locations, particular the Coast Road north of the town, the Clogga Road, the Vale Road and access to potential north quay developments.	None identified.
IT3	To promote and encourage the "Safer Routes to School" and the Green Schools Programme within Arklow and to liaise with all relevant Departments/agencies involved in the operation of the programme.	None identified.
IT4	To facilitate the improvement of the town's roads hierarchy to distribute vehicular traffic on appropriate distributor routes whilst minimising the number of car trips through the town centre. In particular, improved junctions and links on the Wexford Road, Emoclew Road, Coolgreaney Road and Abbey Street-Yellow Lane.	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
IT5	To facilitate the provision of a western distributor route incorporating a new river crossing, linking Kilbride to the Vale Road, Lamberton Avenue and on to the Coolgreaney Road, in order to provide alternative movement routes through the town.	None identified.
IT6	To facilitate the construction of a new third interchange at Lamberton, providing a connection to the western distributor road as allowed for in the design of the Arklow bypass.	None identified.
IT7	To require the development of Action Area 2 (Tinahask/Moneybig) to include distributor road access through to Action Area 1 (Tinahask/Abbeylands) and the Employment zoned lands to the south of AA2.	None identified.
IT8	To facilitate the operation and free flow of traffic in a safe manner in particular in the town centre and in locations proximate to schools, health and community facilities, by appropriately controlling car parking at such locations.	None identified.
IT9	To facilitate the construction of a Southern Port Access Road linking the Wexford Road to the Action Areas at Tinahask, the Roadstone Quarry and the Waterfront Zone, incorporating a link to form a primary distributor route for HGV traffic to the existing port. The design of the road including its alignment and boundary treatment will be carried out in such a manner as to ensure minimal impact on Arklow Golf Club.	None identified.
IT10	To co-operate with TII and other Local Authorities to improve existing or provide new links from Arklow and the port area to other counties in the region, namely the Leinster Outer Orbital Route as proposed in the Regional Planning Guidelines	None identified.
IT11	To improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and provide footpaths and cycleways where required and at the following locations: to the railway station from Abbey Street Main Street / Vale Road junction / roundabout	None identified.
IT12	To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour/marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone jetty.	This objective has the potential to contribute to increased visitor number to Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC and Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC and to contribute to the introduction of marine and coastal invasive species which is more likely due to climate change.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
		However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
IT13	To suitably manage development within 35m of existing 110KV/220kV transmission lines.	None identified.
IT14	To support and facilitate the development of landing locations for any cross channel power interconnectors.	This objective has the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites as the location for landing locations is currently unknown. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
HT1	To maintain the favourable conservation status of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) in the plan area in particular the Arklow Marsh.	None identified but this objective should include a commitment to maintain the conservation status of all designated sites including Natura 2000 sites. Although there are no Natura 200 sites within the LAP boundary coastal sites in particular have the potential to be impacted by coastal or tourist related development facilitated by the plan. Consideration should be given to separate Natural Heritage Objectives based on the County development Plan objectives NH3 – relating to protection of designated sites, NH5 – relating to maintain the conservation value of designated sites, NH6 – relating to the requirement for ecological impact assessment of proposed development likely to have a significant impacts on rare or protected sites, habitats and species, and NH12 – in relation to protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive..
HT2	To protect the listed prospect of special amenity (from the R750/coast road towards the sea) from development that would either obstruct the prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing	None identified.

Policy / Objective No.	Policy / Objective / Action Text	Risk of Significant Effect (including in combination and cumulative effects)
	development applications to the span and scope of the prospect and the location of the development within that prospect	
HT3	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan	None identified.
HT4	To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Arklow town centre through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that are of architectural merit and/or contribute greatly to this character.	None identified.
HT5	To maintain the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for its enjoyment as a recreational and natural asset.	In providing for enjoyment of the coastal character as a recreational and natural asset there exists the potential for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
HT6	To facilitate the enhancement of facilities such as the Arklow Maritime Museum which increase public awareness and appreciation of the town's maritime heritage.	None identified.
HT7	To facilitate the development of initiatives to highlight Arklow's maritime heritage in the public realm.	None identified.
HT8	To facilitate the development and enhancement of green infrastructure resources, including access to, connectivity between areas of interest and linkages between green spaces including the coast, where feasible within Arklow and environs settlement boundary (see Map No. 10.1).	Facilitating connectivity between areas of interest and linkages between green spaces including the coast has the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites. However, implementation of Objective HT3 of this Plan and relevant CDP objectives will avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from this objective.
HT9	To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Arklow and Environs.	None identified.

4.4 Conclusion

The likely impacts that will arise from the Draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 alone and in combination with other plans and programmes have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially have a significant effect on Natura 2000 European Sites.

Six Natura 2000 sites were identified within 15km of the LAP boundary. Some additional wording has been identified to be included within a number of the LAP objectives to avoid potential for significant impacts on any Natura 2000 sites.

It is considered that significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 sites arising from the implementation of the LAP are extremely unlikely.

On the basis of the findings of this Screening Report to inform Appropriate Assessment by the competent authority, it is concluded that the proposed Draft Arklow and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 will not have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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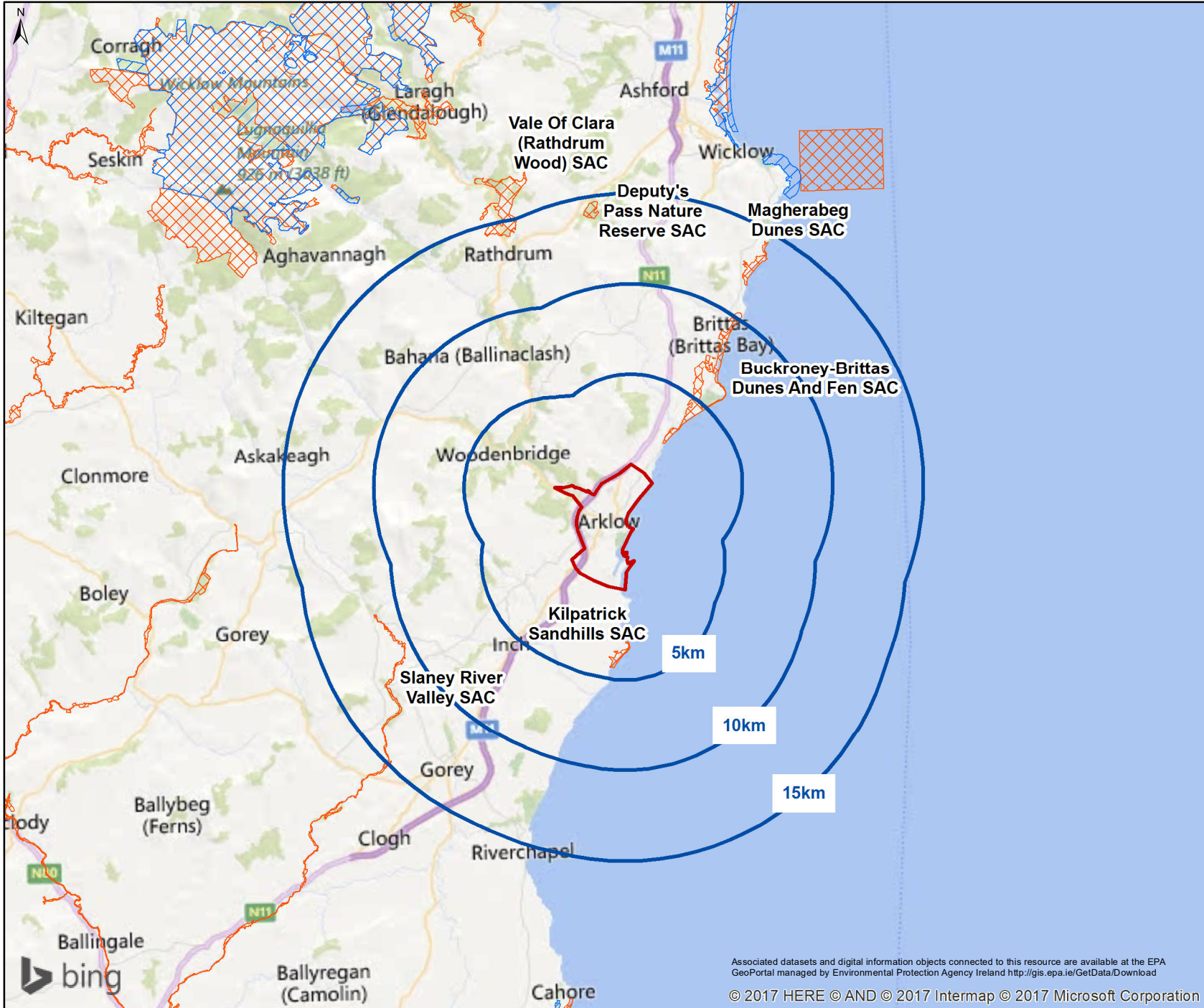
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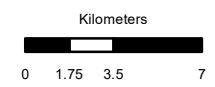
Appendix B1

Figures



- Legend**
- Arklow Town and Environs
 - LAP 2017- 2023 Study Boundary
 - Buffer
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Special Areas of Conservation

F1	2017-06-23	LD	DM	DM
Issue	Date	By	Chkd	Appd



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Client
Wicklow County Council

Job Title
Arklow Town and Environs LAP 2017-2023

Natura 2000 sites

Scale at A4
1:300,000

Job No 251896-00	Drawing Status Preliminary
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Drawing No Figure 1	Issue F1
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Associated datasets and digital information objects connected to this resource are available at the EPA GeoPortal managed by Environmental Protection Agency Ireland <http://gis.epa.ie/GetData/Download>
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