

PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2016

PROPOSED LARAGH-GLENDALOUGH SETTLEMENT AND TOURISM PLAN

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA) SCREENING

Section 1 Introduction and Background to Appropriate Assessment

1.1 Introduction

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report of the Proposed Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan (STP). This report is being carried out in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

The purpose of this report is to assess the likely effects of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough STP either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, on any Natura 2000 site and to consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant and thus require an appropriate assessment. The report has taken into consideration the European Commissions publication- *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*, Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Project in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities* (December 2009) from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

1.2 The Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan (STP)

The Laragh-Glendalough STP sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the Laragh and Glendalough area up to 2022, and includes a written statement and a plan indicating development objectives for the settlement.

The plan will form part of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 and will be adopted under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, as a variation of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016.

1.3 Legislative Context:

The EU Habitats Directive

The assessment of impacts on Designated European Sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, finds its origins in the EU Directive on the Conservation of Habitats, Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC), more commonly known as the "Habitats Directive" which came into force in 1994 and was transposed into Irish law in 1997. The "Habitats Directive" provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance.

The Habitats Directive was formulated as a direct result of the continuous deterioration of natural habitats and the increasing impacts on wild species arising in the most part as a result of development and agricultural activity. The main aim of the EU Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance.

The conservation status of a habitat is defined in Article 1 of the Directive as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term

natural distribution, structure and functions, as well as the long-term survival of its typical species. The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as favourable when:

- ⇒ Its natural range and the areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing,
- ⇒ The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future,
- ⇒ The conservation status of its typical species is favourable¹.

Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of European Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC).

In its implementation, the Habitats Directive introduces the 'Precautionary Principle' approach towards proposals whereby projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there is not likely to be any significant impact on the conservation status of the designated site.

As set out in MN2000², the conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species forms the most ambitious and far-reaching challenge of the Habitats Directive. This is set out in Article 6 of the Directive, which governs the conservation, and management of Natura 2000 sites. In this context Article 6 is viewed as one of the most important of the 24 articles of the directive being the one which determines the relationship between conservation and land use.

Article 6 of the Directive has three main provisions. This structure provides for a clear distinction between Article 6(1) and (2) which define a general regime, while Article 6(3) and (4) define the procedures to be applied to specific circumstances.

- A) Article 6(1) makes provision for the establishment of the necessary conservation measures, and is focused on positive and proactive interventions. This relates to the development of Conservation Management Plans specifically designed for designated sites.
- B) Article 6(2) makes provision for avoidance of habitat deterioration and significant species disturbance. Its emphasis is therefore preventive.
- C) Article 6(3) and (4) set out a series of procedural and substantive safeguards governing plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

Article 6 is seen to reflect the overall aim of the Habitats Directive "promoting biodiversity by maintaining or restoring certain habitats and species at 'favourable status' within the context of Natura 2000 sites" while taking into account economic, social, cultural and regional requirements as a means to achieving sustainable development.

1.4 Stages of the Appropriate Assessment

This appropriate assessment screening report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission Environment DG document *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*, referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document (EC2000)". The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and are viewed as an interpretation of the EU Commission's document *"Managing Natura 2000 sites" (2002)*.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC

² MANAGING NATURA 2000 SITES, The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (2000)

This assessment has also taken into consideration the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government publication "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*" (December 2009). This guidance is not a legal interpretation, but represents the current situation and understanding, and is regarded as a work in progress.

Stage one of the Methodological Guidance is the screening process, which examines the likely effects of a project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. This stage of the screening process involves four steps, which fall under the following headings:

1. Management of the site - *Involves determining whether or not the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site*
2. Description of the project or plan - *Describing the project or plan and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site*
3. Characteristics of the Site - *Identifying the potential effects on the Natura 2000 site(s)*
4. Assessment of Significance - *Assessing the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 site(s).*

Stage 2 of the "Appropriate Assessment" process follows Stage 1 where, following an evaluation of the plan, it has been established the plan is likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site. This stage involves the following:

- ⇒ A description of the Natura 2000 sites that will be considered further in the Appropriate Assessment process;
- ⇒ A description of significant impacts on the conservation feature of these sites likely to occur from the proposed development;
- ⇒ Recommendations.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, a plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the Appropriate Assessment process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the plan is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect.

Section 2 Screening

2.1 Management of the Site

Determining whether or not the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

Plans or projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation and management of a Natura 2000 site are exempt from the need for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. For this exemption to apply, management should be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive, for example the relationship between the proposed plan and the management of the Natura site should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the plan.

The proposed plan is a land use management plan and is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of Natura sites, and as such the exemption does not apply.

2.2 Description of the Project or Plan

Describing the project or plan and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site

2.2.1 The Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan

The Laragh-Glendalough STP forms part of the Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2010-2016, and as such, the objectives and policies of the CDP apply to the plan area. It should be noted that an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 was prepared in September 2010 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive. That report concluded that significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are unlikely to arise out of the implementation of the CDP and that further AA stages were not required. The CDP contains numerous mitigation objectives³ that contribute to the conservation of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

The aim of the Laragh-Glendalough STP is to establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of the area, and to enhance and facilitate the balancing of economic, tourist, social and environmental infrastructure in order to maintain and develop a high quality of life without compromising the protection of the environment and the needs of future generations. The plan will provide for the growth of the Laragh-Glendalough settlement in accordance with the growth targets as included in the Settlement Hierarchy of the CDP. The targets in the Settlement Hierarchy indicate that the number of houses in Laragh-Glendalough is to grow to a maximum of 180 houses by 2016 and allows for the growth in the settlement to a maximum of 205 houses by 2022. The development boundary of the Laragh-Glendalough STP is based on the settlement boundary as defined by the CDP, and has been extended to better reflect the spatial organisation and functionality of the village.

All objectives within the Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Strategy are informed by the following Vision and Strategy:

Settlement and Tourism Vision:

In 2022 the area of Laragh and Glendalough will be a prime high quality and long-stay tourist destination. The area will be renowned for the exceptional quality and setting of its natural, archaeological and built heritage. Laragh will be a strong, vibrant and attractive rural village, that provides a good range of the essential day to day service and community needs of the local village population and it's hinterland, and also provides a full range of infrastructure for the needs of visitors. The village will have a good range of housing options that provide for both local and urban generated demand, and the area as a whole will provide employment opportunities for at least forty percent of the local labour force, in a range of employment options, with a strong focus on the provision of employment in the tourist industry.

³ List of objectives that comprise the mitigation measures are included in Appendix I attached.

Settlement and Tourism Strategy:

The objectives included herein shall apply to all lands that are located within the 'development boundary', as shown on the map, unless otherwise stated. The 'settlement boundary' is the boundary of Laragh village, as shown on the map.

It is an objective of the Council to:

- LG1 Facilitate an increase in the number of residential units within the settlement boundary up to a maximum of 180 units by 2016 and a maximum of 205 units by 2022. No permission shall be granted that would increase the number of units within the settlement boundary above 180 units by 2016 and above 205 units by 2022. The Council will control the development of residential units in accordance with these growth targets and the occupancy objectives as set out in the settlement strategy.*
- LG2 Promote the development of the Glendalough tourist experience in a more sustainable manner that involves managing the movement and experience of visitors in a way so that the integrity of the rich natural and archaeological heritage of Glendalough is protected to the highest degree, while opportunities for yielding economic benefit from the attractions are maximized.*
- LG3 Promote the general area of Laragh village as a tourism hub that is the first stop for visitors to Glendalough and the wider area, and that is the point from which visits to Glendalough and other attractions in the vicinity are organized.*
- LG4 Increase the length and quality of the stay of visitors to the area through promoting the development of new and improved tourist facilities and attractions that are of a high quality and an appropriate scale and design. It is an objective of the Council to particularly promote tourist developments that are associated with the following tourism products or themes: (i) monastic, archaeological and historical heritage, (ii) outdoor recreational activities, (iii) retreats and spirituality, (iv) mining heritage, (v) the Military Road, (vi) traditional skills and crafts, and (vii) natural heritage and education.*
- LG5 Promote the development of safe and accessible pedestrian and traffic routes.*
- LG6 Increase the quality and range of employment opportunities by facilitating developments that involve local investment in a variety of forms, including 'people' and 'product' intensive industries. The Council will allow for the development of 'people' intensive employment generating developments that provide for the needs of visitors and the retail and social service needs of the local population. The Council will allow for the development of a limited amount of small scale 'product' intensive industries, and will particularly support developments based on the use of a rural resource and which involve the production of a tourist product.*
- LG7 Provide for an expansion in the variety of retail facilities so that the village includes a range of retail outlets that provide for the day to day convenience needs of the local population and the needs of tourists.*
- LG8 Facilitate the development of a range of high quality community and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population, and in particular to allow for the development of child care services and youth-related developments, including an equipped play space.*
- LG9 Preserve and improve public and private open space and recreation provision.*

- LG10 Encourage the redevelopment and regeneration of vacant, underutilised and derelict sites.*
- LG11 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and protect listed prospects. In particular, protect and enhance those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest.*
- LG12 Facilitate developments that contribute to the achievement of a UNESCO World Heritage site status for the Glendalough monastic site, in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG).*
- LG13 To have regard to the 'Management Plan for Wicklow Mountains National Park' regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation objectives of the park, or on issues regarding visitor access.*
- LG14 No development will be permitted that adversely affects the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. All development proposals shall comply with the following objectives:*
- (i) On lands designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' it is an objective of the Council to preserve and improve the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to prohibit development that adversely affects the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, in light of the site's conservation objectives. Land designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).*
 - (ii) Any proposed development with potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and 'Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland-Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2009).*
 - (iii) Where the planning authority has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of a proposed development, it may require the submission of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for proposed developments. The NIS shall assess, on the basis of best scientific knowledge, the effect of a proposed development, on its own, or in combination with other plans or projects, on a Natura 2000 site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site. A NIS shall include all information as prescribed by any relevant legislation, and/or any information that the planning authority considers necessary in order to enable it to assess the effect of a proposed development on the integrity of a site.*
 - (iv) Avoid encroachment on a Natura 2000 site and implement an appropriate buffer zone on adjacent sites, as required, where feasible or as determined following consultation with NPWS or other relevant body.*
 - (v) Ensure that recreational use is directed away from sensitive areas within the Natura 2000 site, in accordance with the Wicklow Mountains National Park Management Plan and in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).*
 - (vi) No development will be permitted that is likely to cause light, noise or air pollution, that would adversely effect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. Proposed developments shall incorporate mitigation and monitoring measures, and construction management plans, as appropriate.*

In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit.

- LG15 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for the 'Glendalough-Monastic Settlement' area of archaeological potential and significance' and the 'Glendalough' major site of archaeological importance shall be*

subject to an archaeological assessment. No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) will be permitted where it seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.

LG16 Appropriately control development on flood prone areas, in accordance with the following:

Where objectives and policies are not covered directly by this plan, the objectives and policies of 'Section 12.6: Flooding' of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 apply.

It is the objective of the Council to restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to the uses that are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Table 3.2 of the Guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG, 2009).

Developments that are an 'inappropriate' use for a flood zone area, as set out in Table 3.2 of the Guidelines, will not be permitted, except where a proposal complies with criteria (i) and (ii) below:

- (i) The development of lands for the particular use is required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement, and complies with at least one of the following:*
 - The development is located within the 'primary lands' and is essential for the achievement of the 'vision' or for the achievement of a specific objective for these lands.*
 - The development comprises previously developed and/or under-utilised lands/sites,*
 - There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use, in areas at lower risk of flooding.*
- (ii) The planning authority is satisfied that all of the criteria set out in the justification test as it applies to development management (Box 5.1 of the Guidelines) are complied with.*

LG17 Ensure that a reliable and effective sewerage, water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure is put in place to service the existing and future development needs of the settlement, in a manner that protects the quality of the environment, and to allow for the improvement of public services and public utility installations. It is a particular objective of the planning authority to ensure that the Waste Water Treatment Plant and water supply infrastructure is upgraded to meet the requirements of the future population.

LG18 Appropriately control advertising and signage in the interests of protecting the visual amenity of the area and ensuring the safety of the public.

LG19 Ensure that the density, design, scale and use of developments shall reflect the scale and context of the area.

LG20 Protect the amenity of existing residential properties.

LG21 To allow for the development of a community forest at an appropriate location, using native species and where possible, species of local provenance.

2.2.2 Other Instruments

The principle plans/projects that may, in combination with the Laragh-Glendalough STP, have a potential significant environmental effect on a Natura 2000 site include the following:

- Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016
- 'Eastern River Basin District Management Plan 2009-2015'
- Wicklow Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012
- Any major developments

Section 3 Natura 2000 Sites

3.1 Natura 2000 sites located within 15km of the plan area

The following sites are located within the boundary of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough STP: Wicklow Mountains SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA

The following sites are located within 5km of the boundary of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough STP: Wicklow Mountains SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA, Vale of Clara SAC

The following sites are located within 10km of the boundary of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough STP: Wicklow Mountains SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA, Vale of Clara SAC, Slaney River Valley SAC.

The following sites are located within 15km of the boundary of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough STP: Wicklow Mountains SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA, Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, Carriggower Bog SAC, Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC, The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Slaney River Valley SAC.

'Natura 2000' sites located within 15km of the Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan Area	
Name	
Wicklow Mountains SAC	Site Code 002122
Wicklow Mountains SPA	Site Code 004040
Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	Site Code 000733
Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Site Code 000717
Carriggower Bog SAC	Site Code 000716
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Site Code 004063
The Murrough Wetlands SAC	Site Code 002249
The Murrough SPA	Site Code 004186
Slaney River Valley SAC	Site Code 00781

The characteristics of these sites are summarised below along with a list of their associated conservation objectives.

3.2 SACs within 15km of the Plan Boundary

Wicklow Mountains SAC

The vegetation provides examples of the typical upland habitats with heath, blanket bog and upland grassland covering large, relatively undisturbed areas. Several rare, protected plant and animal species occur. This site is a complex of upland areas in Counties Wicklow and Dublin, flanked by Blessington Reservoir to the west and Vartry Reservoir in the east, Cruagh Mt. in the north and Lybagh Mt. in the south.

Conservation Objectives:

1. To maintain the favourable conservation status of the qualifying interests of the SAC, or the Special Conservation Interests of the SPA.

- Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355]
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea [3130]

- Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]
 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]
 - European dry heaths [4030]
 - Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]
 - Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]
 - Blanket bog (*active only) [7130]
 - Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8110]
 - Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
 - Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]
 - Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in British Isles [91A0]
2. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.
 3. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC

The Vale of Clara woodland, situated mostly on the east side of the Avonmore River, immediately north of Rathdrum, between 107m and 244 m above sea level, forms an integral part of one of the most scenic valleys in Wicklow. The Oak woods are good examples of the species-poor *Blechno-Quercetum* vegetation community, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and are best developed in the Cronybyrne area.

Conservation Objectives:

1. To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in British Isles
2. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site
3. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC

Deputy's Pass woodland is located on the northern spur of the Deputy's Pass near Glenealy, Co. Wicklow. Deputy's Pass is managed as a Nature Reserve and is part of an internationally important series of Oak woods in County Wicklow (Glendalough, Clara Vale, Ballinacor, amongst others), which are almost certainly natural in origin and which retain much of their original character and species composition.

Conservation Objectives:

1. To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in British Isles
2. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site
3. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Carriggower Bog SAC

Carriggower Bog is situated on Calary plateau at the eastern edge of the Wicklow Mountains. The site is an area of wet bog and poor fen, flanked by the Vartry River on the south-western side. This site is a candidate SAC selected for transition mire, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Conservation Objectives:

1. To maintain the favourable conservation status of the qualifying interests of the SAC, or the Special Conservation Interests of the SPA.
 - Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]

2. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.
3. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

The Murrrough Wetlands SAC

See also of The Murrrough SPA (Site Code: 004186): The Murrrough is a coastal wetland complex which stretches for 15 km from Ballygannon to north of Wicklow town, and in parts, extends inland for up to 1 km. A shingle ridge stretches the length of the site and carries the mainline Dublin-Wexford railway. The site supports a number of habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and a number of bird species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, as well as a wide range of important migratory birds. There are also many rare plants in the site. This site is of importance as it is the largest coastal wetland complex on the east coast of Ireland.

Although much affected by drainage, it still contains a wide range of coastal and freshwater habitats including five listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, some of which contain threatened plants. Areas on the site contain a rich invertebrate fauna, including several rarities. It is an important site for both wintering and breeding birds and supports a wide variety of species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

Conservation Objectives:

1. To maintain the favourable conservation status of the qualifying interests of the SAC, or the Special Conservation Interests of the SPA.
 - Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]
 - Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
 - Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
 - Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
 - Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* [7210]
 - Alkaline fens [7230]
2. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.
3. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Slaney River Valley SAC

This site comprises the freshwater stretches of the Slaney as far as the Wicklow Mountains; a number of tributaries the larger of which include the Bann, Boro, Glasha, Clody, Derry, Derreen, Douglas and Carrigower Rivers; the estuary at Ferrycarrig and Wexford Harbour. The site flows through the counties of Wicklow, Wexford and Carlow. Towns along the site but not in it are Baltinglass, Hacketstown, Tinahely, Tullow, Bunclody, Camolin, Enniscorthy and Wexford. The river is up to 100 m wide in places and is tidal at the southern end from Edermine Bridge below Enniscorthy. The site supports populations of several species listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and habitats listed on Annex I of this directive, as well as important numbers of wintering wildfowl including some species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The presence of wet and broad-leaved woodlands increases the overall habitat diversity and the occurrence of a number of Red Data Book plant and animal species adds further importance to the Slaney River site.

Conservation Objectives:

1. To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in British Isles; Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation; Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: *Alosa fallax*, *Lampetra fluviatilis*, *Lampetra planeri*, *Petromyzon marinus*, *Salmo salar*, *Margaritifera margaritifera*, *Lutra lutra*
3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site
4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

3.3 SPAs within 15km of the Plan Boundary

Wicklow Mountains SPA

This is an extensive upland site, comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. This site is of high ornithological importance as it supports very good examples of upland and woodland bird communities. Several of the species which occur are very rare at a national level. Two species, Ring Ouzel and Red Grouse, are Red-listed and their status is of high conservation concern. Also of note is that Merlin and Peregrine are both listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

Conservation Objectives:

- 1: To maintain the favourable conservation status of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC, or the Special Conservation Interests of the SPA.
 - Merlin
 - Peregrine
- 2: To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.
- 3: To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 km² and is the largest inland water body in the Mideast and south-east regions. The principal interest of the site is the Greylag Goose population, which is of international importance. A range of other wildfowl species also occurs, including Whooper Swan, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site is also notable as a winter roost for gulls, especially Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Conservation Objectives:

- 1: To maintain the favourable conservation status of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC, or the Special Conservation Interests of the SPA.
 - Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) [A043]
 - Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]
- 2: To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.
- 3: To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

The Murrough SPA

The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13km from Kilcoole Station, east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow Town in the south, and extends inland for up to 1 km in places. The regular occurrence of Red-throated Diver, Little Egret, Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Golden Plover, Little Tern, Sandwich Tern, Shorteared Owl and Kingfisher is of note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site also supports a typical diversity of birds associated with reed swamp, including Reed Warbler, a very localised species in Ireland. The site is also of considerable importance for the wide range of coastal and freshwater habitats that it supports, including several that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Main conservation objective: To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Little Tern, Red-throated Diver, Greylag Goose, Wigeon, Teal, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull.

Section 4 Assessment of Likely Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites

A list of the individual objectives of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan with potential to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 sites (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) is included in Table 2 below. Impacts are identified as direct, indirect or cumulative when assessed against the identified conservation objectives of each of the relevant designated sites.

4.1 Summary of Impacts of the Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan on the Conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites

D= Direct Impacts of the plan on the designated site are those impacts which arise directly from the objectives of the Lough-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan.

I = Indirect impacts of the Settlement and Tourism Plan on the designated site relate to those impacts of the Settlement and Tourism Plan which have a knock on effect on the designated site

C= Cumulative effects relates to individual effects from disparate projects that may add up or interact to cause additional effects not apparent when looking at the individual effect at one time or in isolation,

X = No impact

* Conservation objectives as set out in Section 3

Impact on conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites

[illegible]

LG26	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG27	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG28	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG29	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG30	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG31	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG32	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG33	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG34	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG35	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG36	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG37	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG38	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG39	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG40	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG41	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG42	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG43	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG44	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG45	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG46	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG47	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG48	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG49	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG50	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG51	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG52	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG53	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG54	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG55	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG56	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG57	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LG58	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

4.2 Assessment of the Impacts of the Plan on Natura 2000 sites

An examination has been undertaken of the likely effect of the plan on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan boundary. This examination has considered all likely sources of effects arising from the plan.

The Laragh-Glendalough STP provides for the growth in the settlement's population, from c.133 housing units in 2010 to 180 units by 2016 and 205 units by 2022. In addition, the plan promotes the development of tourist services within the development area. Achieving these growth targets increases the demand placed on infrastructure and natural resources. Regard has been paid to assessing the impact of the plan on water and sewerage infrastructure, and the impact of the plan on recreational demand on the area's natural resources, and the resulting effects on Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan boundary.

The following includes a summary of the conclusions of this examination of the impacts of the plan on Natura 2000 sites:

1. The plan does not impact on any Annex 1 habitats or Annex 2 species as set out in the Habitats Directive, nor any Annex 1 bird species as set out in the Birds Directive. This conclusion is based in particular on compliance with the following mitigation measures in the CDP: BD2, BD3, BD4, BD7, WH5, WH6. In the Laragh Glendalough STP, objectives LG 13 and LG 14 ensure that consideration of the impacts on Natura 2000 sites of proposals for development occurs through the development management process. It is the stated objective

of the Plan that development which may have adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites shall not be permitted.

2. The plan does not cause a reduction in the area of any Natura 2000 site. This conclusion is particularly dependent on compliance with the following mitigation measures:

- (i) Natura 2000 sites are identified as 'Natura 2000 Site', with an objective to "preserve and improve the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to prohibit development that adversely affects the integrity of the Natura 2000 site in light of the site's conservation objectives"
- (ii) Objective LG14(iv) which aims to avoid encroachment on a Natura 2000 site and implement a buffer zone where appropriate.

3. The plan does not cause direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (including water quality and supply and soil compaction) in any Natura 2000 site. This conclusion is based on the following considerations:

Water quality and supply: The following table examines the potential affects of the plan on the supply and quality of water bodies that could potentially be affected by the plan. Subject to compliance with the mitigation measures set out in the table, it is considered that the plan will not have a detrimental effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. Appendix II attached includes information on the 'Eastern River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015: Programme of Measures'.

Examination of the effects of the Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan on the Quality and Supply of Water Bodies in the area

Water body potentially affected by plan	Primary sources of potential effects of plan on water quality/ supply	Affected Natura 2000 Site	Primary Mitigation Measures
Glenealo Upper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsewered properties - Physical modifications and disturbance - Industrial point sources - flooding and flood defence - runoff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wicklow Mountains SAC - Wicklow Mountains SPA - Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WT1* of the CDP aims to implement the EU Water Framework Directive and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. - The plan includes objectives to ensure that the Waste Water Treatment Plant is upgraded to meet the requirements of the future population (LG17) and to ensure the phasing of development with water and wastewater infrastructure where this is necessary to safeguard the environmental quality of the environment. In addition, WS1* and WW1* ensure compliance with the Water Services Investment Programme so that wastewater and water improvement schemes are provided to meet the needs of lands identified for growth. - WW2* of the CDP ensures that no development will be undertaken if there is inadequate
Glenealo Lower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsewered properties - Physical modifications and disturbance - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		
Glendasan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsewered properties - Physical modifications and disturbance - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		
Glenmacnass Lower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drinking water abstraction for Laragh. - Unsewered properties - Physical modifications and disturbance - Industrial point sources - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		

Avonmore Lower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point source of discharge from The Laragh Wastewater Treatment Plant - Unsewered properties - Physical modifications and disturbance - Industrial point sources - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capacity within a WWTP. - WW3* and WW5* of the CDP ensures private and commercial WWTs will only be permitted where there is no unacceptable adverse impact on ground and surface water quality. - WS2* ensures the protection of water resources. - WT3* prevents developments that pollute water bodies with particular focus on protecting water bodies that provide drinking water. - WS3* and WS4* require connection to public water supplies and only permit private water supply where EU legislation complied with. - WT4* of the CDP minimises interference with river/stream beds, banks and channels - FL7* and SW2* require new developments to implement SUDS measures - FL9* requires set back from watercourse to maintain ecological/environmental quality of watercourses. - WT2* resists development that interferes with natural water cycle which interferes with natural habitats. - LG16 appropriately controls flooding in flood prone areas.
Avoca Upper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsewered properties - Physical modifications and disturbance - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		
Ballinacorbeg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abstraction from Raheen Well for Laragh water supply 		
Lower Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical modifications and disturbance - Unsewered properties - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		
Upper Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical modifications and disturbance - Unsewered properties - flooding and flood defence - runoff 		
Wicklow Central groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abstractions - Unsewered properties - Wastewater/Industrial discharges 		

* List of objectives that comprise the mitigation measures are included in Appendix I attached.

Soil compaction: The Wicklow Mountains SAC and SPA is located within the plan area. The plan promotes the use of walking and cycling activities on routes that traverse these protected sites. As such the integrity of sites could potentially be affected by compaction caused by the development of transportation routes. The following mitigation measures ensure that no adverse effect will arise by any such activity: LG13, LG14, BD2*, BD3*, BD4*, BD7*.

4. The plan does not cause serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which any of the Natura 2000 sites are selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination and human activity). This conclusion is based on the following considerations:

The plan has potential to affect the Wicklow Mountains SAC and Wicklow Mountains SPA with respect to human activity, noise, illumination and emissions, however subject to compliance with the following particular mitigation measures it is considered that the plan will not cause serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats: LG13, LG14, BD2*, BD3*, BD4*, BD7*; AW1*, AW3* (recreational uses); LG14(iv), LGNP1*, NP2*, NP3*, NP4* (noise pollution); LG14(iv), LP1* (light pollution); LG14(iv), AE1*, AE2*, AE3* (air emissions); HW1*, HW2* (hazardous waste emissions); LT1*, LT2*, LT3* (litter and illegal dumping).

Laragh Glendalough STP objective LG 13 ensures that the conservation and visitor/recreation management objectives of the Wicklow Mountains National Park Management Plan 2005-2009 are taken into consideration.

5. The plan does not cause direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on any of the Natura 2000 sites. This conclusion is particularly dependent on compliance with the following mitigation measures: LG14, LG13, BD2*, BD3*, BD4*, BD7*.

6. The plan does not interfere with mitigation measures put in place in other plans or projects.

The potential combined effect of the Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan with other plans and projects on the Natura 2000 sites has also been considered as follows:

- Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 – It is considered that the 'in-combination' effect of this plan on Natura 2000 sites is positive. The Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan forms part of the 'Wicklow CDP 2010-2016'. The CDP includes numerous mitigation measures* which contribute to the conservation of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.
- 'Eastern River Basin District Management Plan 2009-2015' – This plan indicates that the Laragh-Glendalough area is part of the Avoca Water Management Unit. This plan includes a programme of measures with an aim to achieve a 'Good' ecological status by 2027. It is considered that the 'in-combination' effect of this plan on Natura 2000 sites is positive.
- Wicklow Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012 – It is considered that the 'in-combination' effect of this on Natura 2000 sites is positive by reason of the fact that infrastructure is upgraded to provide for the future growth of the area.
- Any major developments – The Habitats Directive requires that appropriate assessment is required for all projects, or developments that have potential for significant effects on a Natura 2000 site. This will ensure that the 'in-combination' effect of the plan with other projects is positive.

An examination has been undertaken of the likely effect of the plan on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan boundary. This examination has considered all likely sources of effects arising from the plan in combination with other sources of effects likely to arise from other plans or projects.

5.0 Conclusion

To ensure that appropriate consideration has been given to the protection of Natura 2000 sites, and in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) appropriate assessment screening has been carried out.

The likely impacts that will arise from the objectives of the proposed Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. As a result of this assessment, it is considered that the proposed Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan, in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site within 15km of the plan area, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

It is considered by the planning authority that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required for the proposed Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan.

* List of objectives that comprise the mitigation measures are included in Appendix I attached.

Appendix I

Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 AA Mitigation Measures

The CDP contains numerous measures which will contribute to the conservation of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Chapter 3 Vision and Strategic Goals contains the following overriding policy under Goal 9 – To protect and enhance the diversity of the county's natural and built heritage:

Policy

To ensure the conservation, wise management of areas of natural heritage value, and of features of natural interest and value such as woodlands, wetlands, watercourses and areas of unspoilt uplands. To protect plant animal species and habitats which have been identified in the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act (1976) and the Flora Protection Order 1999 and in particular, to ensure that any programme, plan or project carried out on foot of this development plan, including an variation thereof, with the potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site(s) shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and "Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG 2009).

Chapter 17 *Natural Environment* contains the following provisions:

Strategies

- To avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment;
- To promote appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of any development;
- To mitigate the effects of harm where it cannot be avoided;
- To promote a reasonable balance between conservation measures and development needs in the interests of promoting the orderly and sustainable development of Wicklow.

Biodiversity Objectives

BD1 To produce a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (in accordance with the objectives of National Biodiversity Plan 2002), identifying species and habitats of importance at a County level, and identifying and promoting appropriate action for the conservation and management of these.

BD2 To ensure that the impact of new developments on bio-diversity is minimised and require measures for the protection and enhancement of bio-diversity in all proposals for large developments

BD3 To maintain the favourable conservation value of existing and future Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPA's) and Annex I - Habitats and Annex II – Animal and Plant species in the County

BD4 Any programme, plan or project carried out on foot of this development plan, including any variation thereof, with the potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site(s) shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and "Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG 2009).

BD7 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, where it is considered that such development would unduly impact on locally important natural habitats or wildlife corridors.

BD8 To facilitate, in co-operation with the relevant statutory authorities and other groups, the identification of valuable or vulnerable habitats of local or regional importance, not otherwise protected by legislation

BD9 The National Parks and Wildlife Service will be invited to prioritise the preparation of Management Plans for Natura 2000 Sites which are located within the County. This will facilitate the development of site specific Conservation Objectives in the context of the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.

WH5 To encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development control process, and require the planting of native, and appropriate local characteristic species, in all new developments

WH6 To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site.

WT1 To implement the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and the EU Groundwater Directive to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality.

WT2 To resist development that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of natural habitats.

WT5 To promote the development of riverine walks and parks, subject to the sensitivity and / or designation of the riverside habitat particularly within 10m of the watercourse.

Other relevant measures include the following:

General Coastal Zone Objective GCZ2

To ensure that no reclamation of estuary land or coastal marshland occurs which would damage coastal habitats.

Pertinent Policies

CZ5 2 To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations.

CZ5 3 To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.

CZ5 6 To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.

Objectives set out in Chapter 12 of CDP 2010 - 2016

WW1

To facilitate the *Wicklow County Council Water Services Investment Programme* to ensure that all lands zoned for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of the following regional and strategic wastewater schemes:

- Arklow wastewater collection network and treatment scheme, including the provision of a new
- WWTP at Seabank;
- Newtownmountkennedy regional collection network and treatment scheme, including the
- provision of a new WWTP at Leamore, Newcastle;
- Extension of Greystones WWTP;

and any other smaller, localised wastewater improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan.

WW2

To ensure that all foul water generated is collected and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. The Planning Authority will continue to monitor the cumulative effect of grants of planning permission on available waste water treatment capacity under the terms of the relevant Waste Water Discharge Licence. Where there is inadequate capacity within a Waste Water Treatment Plant to accommodate new development or where the Waste Water Treatment Plant does not meet the terms of the relevant Waste Water Discharge License to the Planning Authority will:

- (a) Refuse planning permission for the development, or
- (b) Consider granting permission with conditions limiting the commencement of development until facilities are suitably upgraded, so long as this is planned to occur within a reasonable timeframe (not more than 3 years) in accordance with the Local Authority's Water Services Investment Programme.

WW3

Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:

- The specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;
- The system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);
- The proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals";
- An annually renewed maintenance contract for the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority;
- In all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.

WW5

Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where

- The site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area¹;
- There are no plans for a public system in the area and it can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria;
- An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.

WS1

To facilitate the Wicklow County Council ***Water Services Investment Programme***, to provide sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of the following regional and strategic water supply schemes:

- Wicklow and environs Regional Water Supply Scheme;
- Arklow Water Supply Scheme;
- West Wicklow (Stage 2) Water Supply Scheme;
- Bray and environs Water Supply Scheme;
- Rathdrum Regional Water Supply Scheme;

and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan.

WS2

To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.

WS3

To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future.

WS4

Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health or would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply.

FL9

For developments adjacent to all watercourses of a significant conveyance capacity or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse to allow access for channel clearing/ maintenance/ vegetation. A minimum setback of up to 10-15m will be required either side depending on the width of the watercourse.

Objectives set out in Chapter 13 of CDP 2010 - 2016

AE1

To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).

AE2

To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.

AE3

To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to install air quality monitors and to provide an annual air quality audit.

HW1

To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Wicklow Waste Management Plan.

HW2

To have regard to the "Major Accidents Directive" (European Council Directive 96/82/EC). This Directive relates to the control of major accidents involving dangerous substances with an objective to prevent major accidents and limit the consequences of such accidents. This policy will be implemented through Development Control, through specific control on the siting of new establishments and whether such a siting is likely to increase the risk or consequence of a major accident.

LT1

To facilitate the implementation of the County Litter Management Plan.

LT2

To proactively pursue enforcement and legal action against perpetrators of illegal dumping and 'fly tipping'.

LT3

To require all new potentially litter generating developments (such as shops, takeaways, pubs etc) to provide litter / cigarette bins on or directly adjoining the premises and to provide for the cleaning of the adjoining streetscape in accordance with the provisions of Part II Section 6 of the Litter Pollutions Act 1997 and 2003.

NP1

To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 1994.

NP2

To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulation by the EPA).

NP3

To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.

NP4

To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may also be required as appropriate.

LP1

To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residence to mitigate impacts (in accordance with the standards set out in Section 13.8 below).

Objectives set out in Chapter 17 of CDP 2010 - 2016

WT2

To resist development that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of natural habitats.

WT3

To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent disposal systems in the vicinity of water bodies that provide drinking water or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination

WT4

To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of 10m along watercourses should be provided free of built development, with riparian vegetation generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. In all cases where works are being carried out, to have regard to Regional Fisheries Board *"Requirements for the protection of fisheries habitat during the construction and development works at river sites"*

AW1

To facilitate the use of natural areas for active outdoor pursuits, subject to the highest standards of habitat protection and management and all other normal planning controls

AW3

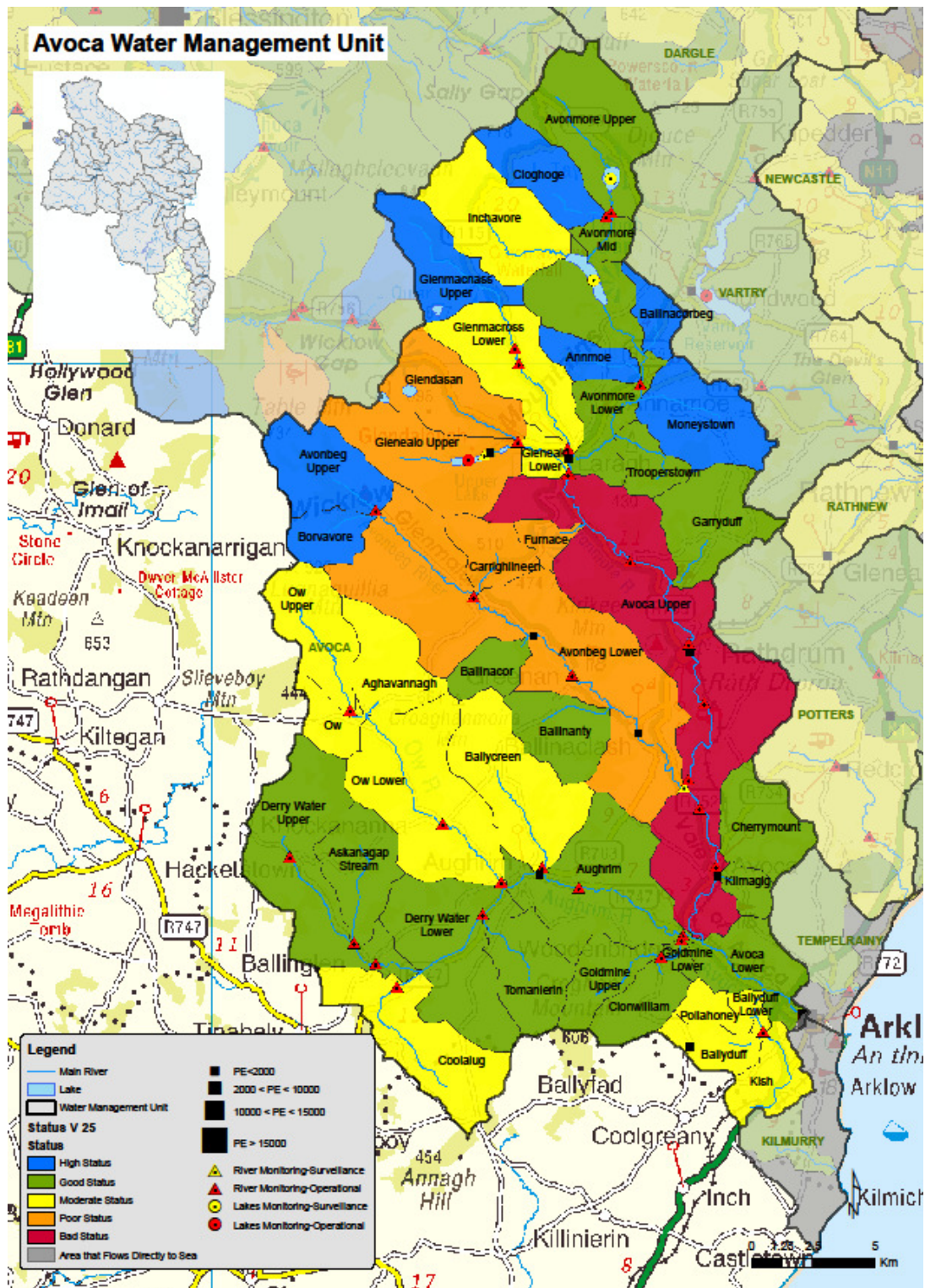
To protect and promote The Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way as permissive waymarked routes in the County. The Council shall work in partnership with relevant stakeholders in relation to management of these routes, and will protect them from inappropriate development, which would negatively infringe upon their use.

Appendix II

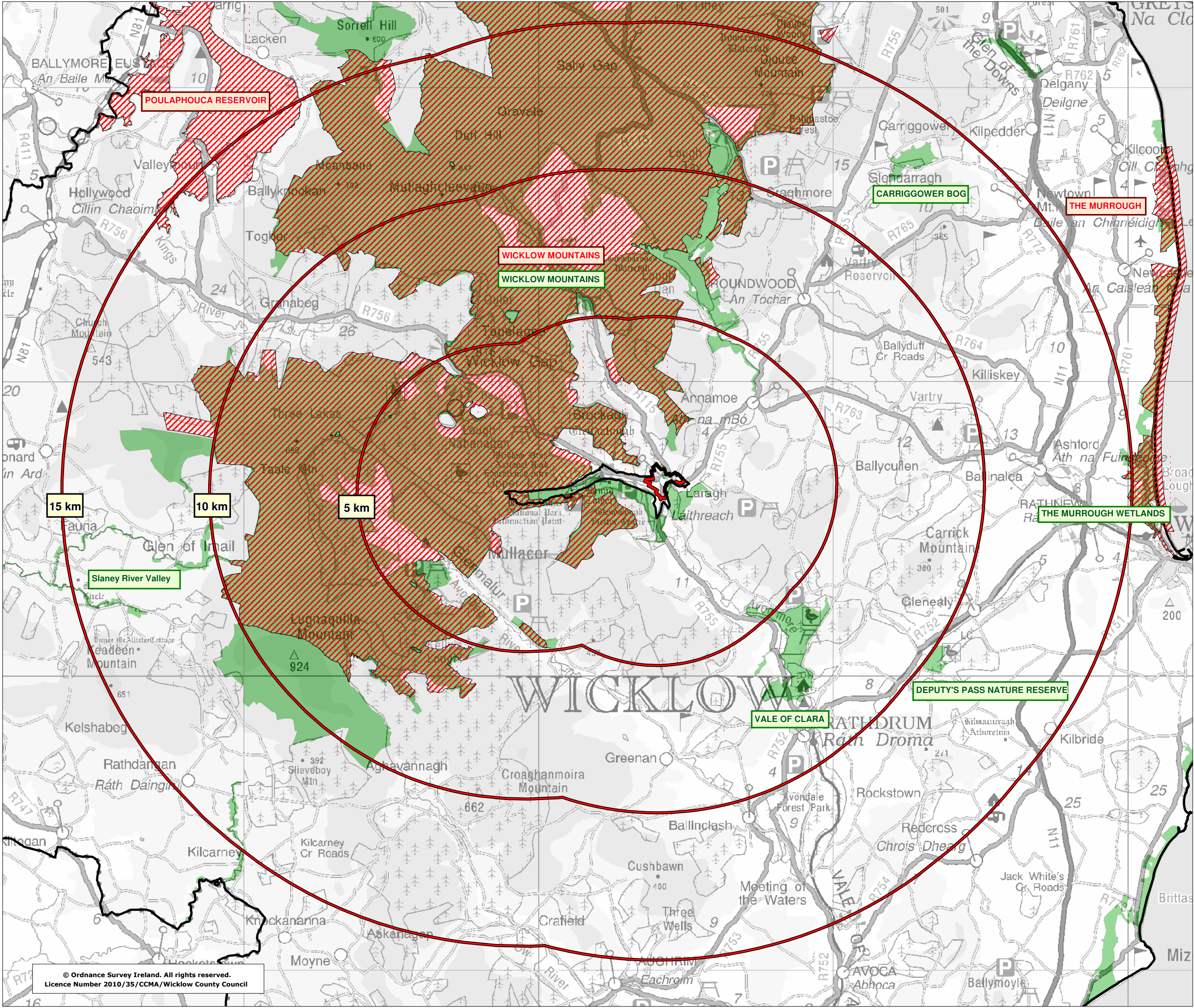
Eastern River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 Summary of Avoca River Basin Management System Report

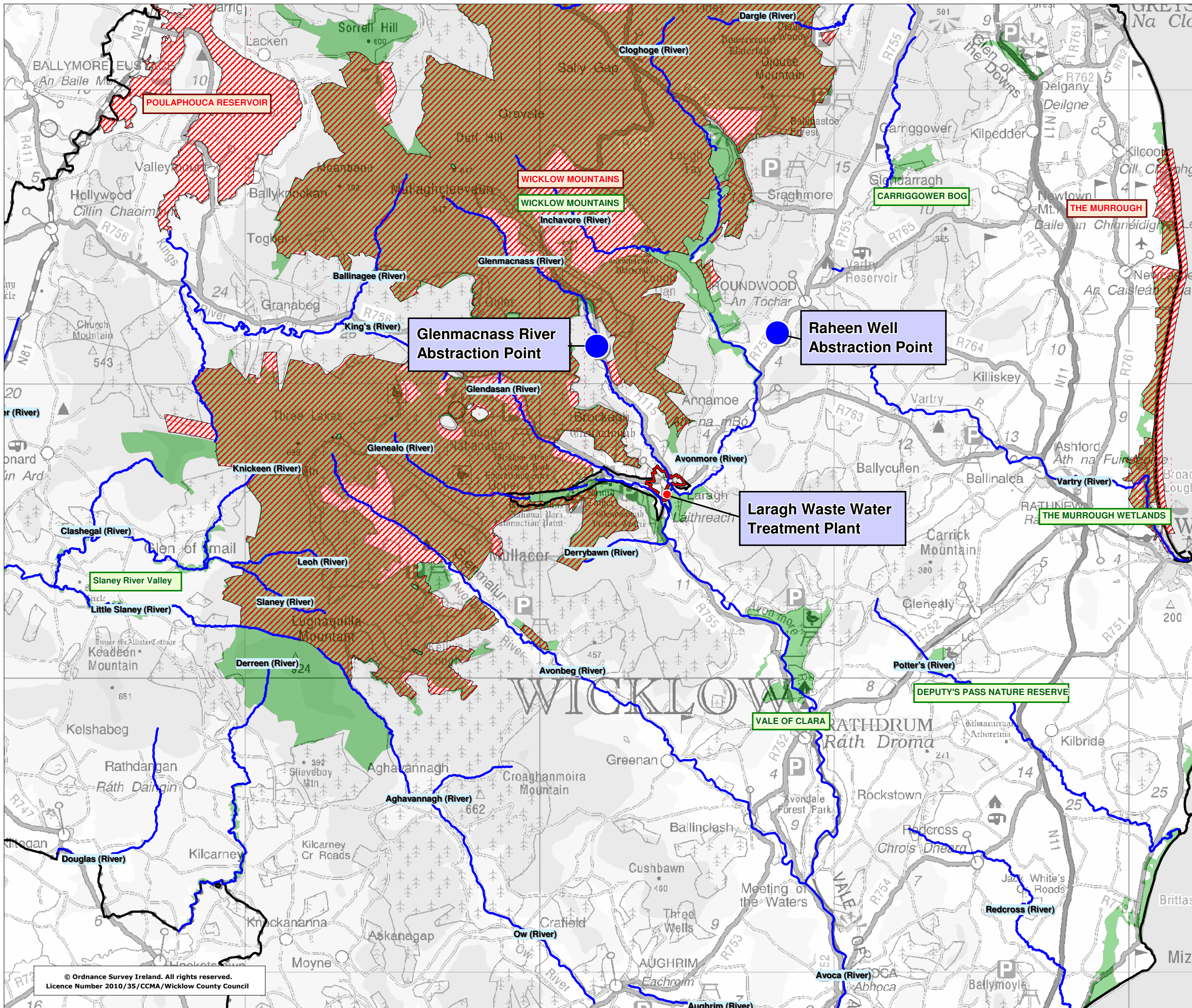
Water Body	Status	Target Date for 'Good' Ecological Status for Water Management Unit
Glenealo Upper	Poor	2027
Glenealo Lower	Moderate	2027
Glendasan	Poor	2027
Glenmacnass Lower	Moderate	2027
Avonmore Lower	Good	Protect status
Avoca Upper	Bad	2027
Ballinacorbeg	High	Protect status
Glendalough Upper Lake	high	Protect status
Glendalough Lower Lake	Good	Protect status
Groundwater: Wicklow Central (Avoca Mine)	Poor	2027

Source: Eastern River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015:
Programme of Measures



Source: Eastern River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015:
Programme of Measures









WICKLOW
COUNTY
COUNCIL



10/05/2011

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT
PROPOSED LARAGH-GLENDALOUGH SETTLEMENT
AND TOURISM PLAN
PROPOSED VARIATION TO WICKLOW
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 - 2016

LEGEND

-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Laragh-Glendalough Development Boundary
-  Laragh-Glendalough Settlement Boundary