

CHAPTER 10 - HERITAGE

10.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to set out strategies and objectives with regard to the heritage of the County. The chapter is divided into the two main areas of built heritage and natural heritage (including landscape). The maps and schedules associated with this chapter are presented at the end of the chapter.

10.2 Built Heritage

The built heritage of Wicklow refers to all man-made features, buildings or structures in the environment. This includes a rich and varied archaeological and architectural heritage to be found throughout the countryside and within the historic towns and villages of the county.

Archaeological sites, features and objects both above and below ground, or underwater are evidence of human settlement from our earliest ancestors down to more recent centuries and provide information on how people in the area lived, worked and died.

The architectural heritage relates to visible structures or buildings above ground of special value locally, regionally, nationally or even internationally. It covers many different building types, such as domestic houses, churches and shop premises but also includes other built elements such as bridges, piers, roads, engine houses, railways, holy wells, boundary walls to large estates, millraces, sluices and street furniture.

The architectural and archaeological heritage of a town, village or place contributes greatly to the distinctive character of each local area. The Council is committed to safeguarding this heritage so that future generations may also enjoy this inheritance. This can be achieved by sensitively managing changes that occur to this heritage and by ensuring that significant elements, features or sites are retained.

Built Heritage Strategy

- To ensure that the protection and conservation of the built heritage of Wicklow is an integral part of the sustainable development of the county and safeguard this valuable, and in many instances, non-renewable resource through proper management, sensitive enhancement and appropriate development;
- to safeguard archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and any additional newly discovered archaeological remains,
- to identify archaeologically sensitive historic landscapes;
- to ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of Wicklow through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas, the safeguarding of designed landscapes and historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the County; and
- to support the actions in the County Wicklow Heritage Plan, in order to enhance the understanding, appreciation and protection of Wicklow's built heritage.

10.2.1 Context

European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage¹ relates to the protection of the setting and context of archaeological sites. The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999 DHGI) outlines guiding policies for the protection of the archaeological heritage of Ireland.

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (The Granada Convention), drawn up by the Council of Europe, was ratified by Ireland in 1997. The national legislative provision for the protection of architectural heritage was subsequently introduced and implemented in the form of the Planning & Development Act 2000. Part IV of the Act provides the legislative basis for the protection of architectural heritage.

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Current legislation sets out that objectives may be included in a development plan for protecting or preserving (either in situ or by record) places, caves, sites, features and other objects of archaeological, geological, historical, scientific or ecological interest. The Act also confers a number of responsibilities to Local Authorities with regard to built heritage:

- Every development plan is required to include a record of protected structures which forms part of our architectural heritage and which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest;
- the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas;
- the control of development works on protected structures or the site of a protected structure; and
- the power to issue notices requiring certain works to be carried out to protect or restore an endangered protected structure and the power to acquire a protected structure.

National Monument Acts

The National Monument Acts 1930-2004 are the primary legislative framework for the protection of archaeological heritage in Ireland. Through the definition of monuments, historic monuments, and national monuments a wide range of structures and features fall under the remit of these Acts.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and structures, features, objects or sites listed in this Record are known as Recorded Monuments. The term Monument refers to any artificial or partly artificial building or structure, that has been carved, sculptured or worked upon or which appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position. It also includes any, or part of any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or ritual, industrial or habitation site. Monuments that predate 1700 AD are automatically accorded the title Historic Monument. A 'National Monument' is defined in the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) as a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is of national importance by reason of the historical, archaeological, traditional, artistic or architectural interest.

As well as extending protection to all known sites, now identified as Recorded Monuments, the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 extends protection to all previously unknown archaeological items and sites

¹ Valetta, 1992 - ratified by Ireland in 1997

that are uncovered through ground disturbance or the accidental discovery of sites located underwater. Where necessary, the Minister with responsibility for Heritage will issue preservation orders to ensure protection is afforded to sites believed to be under threat.

10.2.2 Archaeology

Our archaeological heritage includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, underwater sites, moveable objects and monuments of other kinds, as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water. In this respect, Wicklow has a significant archaeological heritage, which provides a valuable cultural, educational and tourism resource. The Baltinglass hillfort complex in west Wicklow and Rathgall hillfort in south Wicklow are notable monuments of national importance, while Glendalough Monastic Settlement has been proposed for the tentative list as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its international significance. Wicklow County Council recognises the importance of preserving, protecting and fostering a greater public appreciation of the County's archaeological heritage.

Archaeology Objectives

- BH1** No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.
- BH2** Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedule 10.01 & 10.02 and Maps 10.01 & 10.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment. When dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features, there will be presumption in favour of the 'preservation in situ' of archaeological remains and settings, in accordance with Government policy. Where permission for such proposals is granted, the Planning Authority will require the developer to have the site works supervised by a competent archaeologist.
- BH3** To protect previously unknown archaeological sites and features, including underwater sites, where they are discovered during development works.
- BH4** To facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care, as identified in Schedule 10.02 of this plan.
- BH5** To protect the Hillforts in west Wicklow and to engage with the relevant central Government department to seek to undertake a detailed study of their importance.
- BH6** To facilitate the designation of the Glendalough Monastic Settlement as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

10.2.3 Architectural Heritage

Wicklow has a wealth of architectural heritage, encompassing the impressive country houses such as Powerscourt, Russborough, Coolattin and Killruddery along with their estate houses, boundary walls and more modest vernacular farm buildings. The Edwardian terraces of Bray's seafront, the Arts and Craft style houses at Greystones, and the Georgian Merchant houses of Arklow, each contribute greatly to the character of these towns. The myriad of industrial buildings and structures are evidence of the County's industrial heritage associated with ship building, mining, agriculture, transportation and stone cutting processes, while the Military Road and its associated barracks mark the troubled history of the County. This architectural heritage

contributes to the special character of the County and is a unique resource which, once lost or damaged, cannot be replaced.

Architectural Heritage Objectives

- BH7** To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.
- BH8** To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.

Record of Protected Structures

Part IV of the Planning & Development Act requires every development plan to include a record of protected structures (RPS). A 'protected structure' is a structure or a specific feature of the structure as may be specified that a Planning Authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

The placing of a structure on the RPS seeks to ensure that the character and interest of the structure is maintained and any changes or alterations to it are carried out in such a way as to retain and enhance that character and interest. The inclusion of a structure in the RPS confers certain responsibilities upon the owner of the structure and requires that planning permission be sought for any changes or alterations to the structure. The definition of a 'structure' or 'a specified part of a structure' for the purpose of the RPS includes "the interior of the structure; the land lying within the curtilage of the structure; any other structures lying within the curtilage of that structure and their interiors; and all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of the structure". From the date of notification of an intention to include a structure in the RPS, the owner has a duty to protect that structure from endangerment. The Council may, on receipt of a written request from the owner or occupier of a protected structure, issue a declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), outlining certain works it considers would not materially affect the character and interest of the protected structure and which are, therefore, exempted from the requirement for planning permission. Any works that would materially affect the character and interest of a structure require planning permission. In general works to a protected structure should comply with the guidelines as set out in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines from the Department.

The Wicklow RPS for the County is set out in the Appendix to this plan. The County Wicklow RPS also includes all structures currently listed within Bray Town Development Plan, Wicklow Town –Rathnew Development Plan and the Arklow Town and Environs Development Plan. The policies and objectives set out in this County Plan shall apply to all protected structures in these local plans.

Record of Protected Structures Objectives

- BH9** To protect the character and special interest of protected structures.
- BH10** To positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to consultation with suitably qualified Conservation Architects and / or other relevant experts, suitable design, materials and construction methods.
- BH11** All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.

- BH12** To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.
- BH13** To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures, unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. In cases where demolition or partial demolition is permitted or where permission is given for the removal of feature(s), the proper recording of the building / feature will be required before works are undertaken and where possible the reuse of such features should be considered in any replacement buildings.
- BH14** The Planning Authority shall consider the change of use of Protected Structures, provided that it can be shown that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected or where it can be shown it is necessary to have an economic use to enable its upkeep.

Vernacular Heritage

Scattered throughout the countryside and within the towns and villages of Wicklow is an extensive stock of historic buildings and structures dating mainly from the 18th, 19th and early 20th century. These modest cottages, houses, shops, farm complexes, outbuildings, mills, factories and forges were the homes and workplaces of the ordinary people built by local people using local materials and techniques.

While not all are included on the RPS, they are nonetheless of merit, making a positive contribution to the character of the landscape and to the distinctive character of a particular area. Damage to the vernacular building stock occurs through the loss of whole structures but can also be as a result of the gradual erosion of architectural details such as the replacement of roof coverings and windows with modern materials, removal of external render, inappropriate repointing and the addition of unsuitable extensions. Alterations to individual buildings can have a significant and cumulative effect on streetscapes and landscapes.

The Council seeks to safeguard vernacular heritage, and encourages the rehabilitation and appropriate reuse of the vernacular building stock in recognition of the vital role it plays in the sustainable development of the County.

Other Structures and Vernacular Architecture Objectives

- BH15** To seek (through the development management process), the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as milestones, stonewalls, traditional & historic shopfronts and pub fronts, thatched roofs and other historic elements. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.
- BH16** Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.
- BH17** Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS²), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.

² The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage can sometimes be utilised as a source of information with regard to the architectural value of any such items or structures.

Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)

In accordance with Section 81 of the Planning & Development Act, a development plan shall include an objective to preserve the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that

- a) is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or
- b) contributes to the appreciation of protected structures,

if the Planning Authority is of the opinion that its inclusion is necessary for the preservation of the character of the place, area, group of structures or townscape concerned and any such place, area, group of structures or townscape shall be known as an "Architectural Conservation Area".

ACAs contribute to the revitalisation of the fabric of towns, villages and rural areas by supporting their aesthetic value, giving them a distinctive identity, and thus make a positive contribution to local economies and tourist potential. The designation of an ACA does not prejudice innovative and contemporary design; on the contrary, in principle, design of a contemporary and minimalist style will be facilitated within ACA's provided it does not detract from the character of the area.

Applications for development within the conservation area should contain sufficient information to allow a detailed assessment by the Planning Authority, as to the likely impacts of the proposal on the ACA. The following is a brief outline of additional information which may be submitted with a planning application that aids the assessment of the application: - fully rendered, scaled, elevation drawings; photo montages relating the proposal to its setting and material samples such as colour charts, brick and roofing materials brochures. In general developments within the ACA should comply with the guidelines as set out in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines from the Department.

In an ACA, the carrying out of works to the exterior of a structure will be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of the area. This is in addition to the requirement under Section 4 (1) (h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 that for works to be exempted they must be consistent with the appearance of the structure itself and neighbouring structures.

The following ACAs have been identified and adopted throughout the County:

Table 10.1 Existing Architectural Conservation Areas (Maps 10.03 A, B, C & D)

Settlement	Location
Blessington	Town centre
Enniskerry	Town centre
Tinahely	Town centre
Dunlavin	Town centre
Rathdrum	(1) Main Street
	(2) Low Town
Delgany	Village centre
Greystones	(1) Church Road
	(2) Killincarrig village
	(3) The Burnaby
	(4) Blacklion
	(5) Greystones Harbour
Wicklow Town	(1) Town centre
	(2) Leirim Place
	(3) Bachelors Walk and Church Street
	(4) Bay View Road
	(5) Brickfield Lane

Architectural Conservation Area Objectives

BH18 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.

BH19 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:

- Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA.
- The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line.
- The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings.
- Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible.
- A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required.

- The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used.
- Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA.

BH20 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.

BH21 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.

10.2.4 Historical and Cultural Heritage

Wicklow has a wealth of structures, items and places of historical and cultural heritage that do not fall neatly into the categories of 'architectural' or 'archaeological' heritage. A number of examples would be:

- structures and items associated with Wicklow's industrial heritage;
- historical mining works;
- Wicklow's Military Road; and
- places and items associated with local history and folklore such as mass rocks and holy wells.

Industrial heritage refers to such structures as mills, watermills, windmills, roads, bridges, railways, canals, harbours, dams and features associated with utility industries such as water, gas and electricity. It is an important part of Wicklow's socio economic history and contributes greatly to the interest of the Wicklow landscape.

County Wicklow has a long and rich heritage of mining, starting in the Bronze Age and continuing until the 20th century. This mining was principally for copper and lead as well as lesser amounts of sulphur, iron, ochre, gold, silver and zinc. The main areas of mining activity were the Avoca Valley, Glendalough and Glendasan Valleys and in Glenmalure. Much evidence remains at each of these sites of former mining activity in the form of engine houses, machinery, adits, spoil heaps and drainage channels.

A particularly unique piece of Wicklow heritage is the Military Road, a feat of engineering developed to open up rebel territory, previously remote and only accessible with great difficulty. This road, which ran from Rathfarnham in south County Dublin to Aghavannagh in the south of County Wicklow, and with a spur running from Glenree to Enniskerry, took nine years to complete between 1800-1809. Security was a priority and barracks and police stations were constructed along the route of the road to ensure public safety and transport security.

Historical and Cultural Heritage Objectives

BH22 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.

BH23 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.

- BH24** To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.
- BH25** Any road or bridge improvement works along the Military Road shall be designed and constructed with due regard to the history and notable features of the road (in particular its original support structures, route and alignment), insofar as is possible and reasonable given the existing transport function of the road.

10.3 Natural Heritage and Landscape

Natural heritage includes the variety of life, often referred to as biodiversity, its physical or geological foundation, and the landscapes which form the surrounding environment. Wicklow supports a good diversity of natural and semi natural habitats such as marine, coastal, wetland, woodland, lake, river and uplands that in turn support a wide range of associated wild plant and animal species. There are also many geological heritage sites of interest in the County which are an important element of the natural heritage. The conservation and management of the natural environment must be viewed as a central element in the long-term economic and social development of the County. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and landscapes is vital for the health, well-being and quality of life of communities today and will also be vitally important in the future in adapting to climate change.

The Council has an important role to play when it comes to promoting a reasonable balance between conservation measures and development needs, in order to avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment, mitigate the effects of harm where it cannot be avoided, and to promote the appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of any development. The County Wicklow Heritage Plan provides one framework through which the Council works actively with other partner organisations on initiatives to further our understanding, protection and appreciation of Wicklow's natural heritage resource.

This part of the plan will also address landscape issues not solely related to nature conservation, such as landscape characterisation and identification of views and prospects worthy of protection. The recreational use of the natural environment will also be addressed.

Natural Heritage Strategy

- To conserve and enhance biodiversity in recognition of the many ecosystem services provided to society;
- to promote an integrated approach to landscape planning and management in order to protect the County's unique landscape character;
- to conserve and enhance the County's geological heritage;
- to avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment and promote appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of any development; and
- to support the actions in the County Wicklow Heritage Plan which seek to enhance the understanding, appreciation and protection of Wicklow's biodiversity including the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.

10.3.1 Context

EU Directives

The Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive are the principle source of legislation for nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of

species protection. The Directives protects over 1,000 animals and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.) which are of European importance.

The Planning & Development Act, 2000 sets out the role of appropriate assessment (AA) in planning and development. It requires that an appropriate assessment screening is carried out, as part of the process of drafting the development plan, on the impacts of the policies and objectives of the plan on Natura 2000 Sites. The screening assesses if the plan, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site/s and that the requirements of the directives have been satisfied. If the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, or there is uncertainty of the effects, it shall be subject to AA. The AA of this plan is a separate document contained in appendix 10.

Water Framework Directive and Groundwater Directive

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an important piece of EU environmental legislation which aims at improving our aquatic environment. It requires governments to take a holistic approach to managing their waters. It applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters. The Groundwater Directive complements the WFD by establishing environmental objectives for groundwater chemical status and ensuring continuity with previous Groundwater Directives. These directives aim to achieve 'good' ecological status in all waters, protect high ecological status in our pristine waters and must ensure that status does not deteriorate in any waters. Local Authorities are charged with implementing the Water Framework and Groundwater Directive objectives.

For the purpose of implementing the WFD, Ireland has been divided into eight river basin districts or areas of land that are drained by a large river or number of rivers and the adjacent estuarine / coastal areas. The management of water resources will be on these river basin districts. The plan area is located in both the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) and South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD). Within each River Basin District - for the purpose of assessment, reporting and management - water has been divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters which are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies. River Basin Management Plans list the current status of our waters and detail the measures required to bring those failing back to 'good' status and maintain the high status of our pristine sites.

Twenty-seven Management Plans for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel have been published, the objective of which is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation. The Derreen Sub-Basin Management Plan is partially located in County Wicklow, the Derreen being a tributary of the River Slaney.

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

The Planning & Development Act requires that a development plan includes objectives for:

"The preservation of the character of the landscape where, and the extent that, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest", and

"The conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.

- (a) the encouragement, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, of the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species;

- (b) the promotion of compliance with environmental standards and objectives established-
- (i) for bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009;
 - (ii) for groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010;
- which standards and objectives are included in river basin management plans (within the meaning of Regulation 13 of the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003).

"The preservation of public rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility, which public rights of way shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the development plan."

"Landscape, in accordance with relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government relating to providing a framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes and developed having regard to the European Landscape Convention done at Florence on 20 October 2000."

Biodiversity Plans and Actions

Ireland's national policy is set out in the National Biodiversity Plan. The current plan, 2011 - 2016 contains 102 actions aimed towards understanding and protecting biodiversity in Ireland and overseas. The current County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 – 2015 sets out a strategy for increasing our understanding and appreciation of biodiversity in the County along with measures for enhancing the protection of this valuable resource. The County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan, an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan, contains 30 actions that ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

10.3.2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. It includes the habitats and ecosystems, which support this life and how life-forms interact with each other and the rest of the environment. Biodiversity covers plants, animals and micro-organisms both on land and in water. It relates to both wildlife and domesticated crops and animals. The biological diversity we see today is the result of millions of years of evolution. The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will require the suitable and sustainable protection of designated habitats, the linkages between natural sites (whether they are natural or man-made) and the range of species in the ecosystem.

Wicklow hosts a wealth of wildlife including a range of threatened habitats and species which are protected by law and are recognised as being of local, national and EU importance. Many habitats and species are designated for protection / preservation under national and/or EU legislation³. County Wicklow has one National Park, 17 Special Areas of Conservation⁴ (SAC), 35 (proposed) Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), 4 Special Protection Areas (SPA), and 6 Nature Reserves (as set out in Schedules 10.04, 10.05, 10.06 & 10.07 and Maps 10.04, 10.05, 10.06 & 10.07 of this plan).

The occurrence of protected flora and fauna species is not confined to protected sites. Protected birds, bats, otters and badgers for example are frequently found in the wider countryside, together with a wide range of common plants and animals which are all part of the interrelated natural fabric of the landscape. Rivers and streams and their associated riparian wetlands and habitats are home to a variety of habitats and species.

³ SPAs are designated under EU birds Directive (79/409/EEC), SACs are designated under EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), transposed into Irish Law by the EU (Natural Habitats) regulations, 1997. SACs and SPAs are collectively now known as 'Natura 2000' sites. NHAs are legally protected under The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

⁴ Within or in proximity to County Wicklow.

Collectively, these various natural landscape features function as ecological “corridors” and “stepping stones” which enable wildlife to exist, move and flourish.

Biodiversity Objectives

NH1 To ensure that the impact of new developments on biodiversity is minimised and to require measures for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in all proposals for large developments.

NH2 No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects⁵).

NH3 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)⁶, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)⁷, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)⁸, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).
- National legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976⁹, the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (SI No. 349 of 1989) (as amended), the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) and the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008¹⁰.
- National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010.
- Catchment and water resource management Plans, including Eastern and South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 (including any superseding versions of same).
- Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016: Ireland’s 2nd National Biodiversity Plan (including any superseding version of same).
- Ireland’s Environment 2014 (EPA, 2014, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report’s goals and challenges.

⁵ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

⁶ Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur).

⁷ Including Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur).

⁸ Including protected species and natural habitats.

⁹ Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

¹⁰ Including protected species and natural habitats.

- NH4** All projects and plans arising from this plan¹¹ (including any associated improvement works or associated infrastructure) will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:
- 1) The Plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or
 - 2) The Plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and / or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or
 - 3) The Plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.
- NH5** To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites¹² in Wicklow.
- NH6** Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.
- NH7** The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.
- NH8** To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats or wildlife corridors.
- NH9** To support, as appropriate, relevant public bodies (such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service), efforts to seek to control and manage alien / invasive species within the County.

¹¹ Such projects include but are not limited to those relating to: agriculture; amenity and recreation; contaminated sites; electricity transmission; flood alleviation and prevention; forestry; mineral extraction; renewable energy projects; roads; telecommunications; tourism; wastewater and discharges; and water supply and abstraction.

¹² Along with cSACs, SPAs and pNHA these include Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

- NH10** 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.
- NH11** Engage with the National Parks & Wildlife Service to ensure Integrated Management Plans are prepared for all Natura 2000 sites (or parts thereof). This will facilitate the development of site specific Conservation Objectives in the context of the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.
- NH12** To support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stone walls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

10.3.3 Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows

Woodlands, trees and hedgerows are important natural habitats and groups and lines of trees/hedgerows are important wildlife corridors. Trees, individually or in groups, make a valuable contribution to the biodiversity and amenities of the town. Groups of trees in urban areas can act as an attractive visual relief to the built environment and as an absorber of carbon emissions.

The Council aims to protect an individual tree, trees, a group of trees or woodland which are of environmental and/or amenity value. This can be done so with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) that can be made through the development plan process or a separate TPO process under Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act (The existing TPOs are set out in Schedule 10.08 and Maps 10.08 A, B & C). A TPO is subject to any conditions or exemptions for which provision may be made in the order, preserved from any cutting down, topping, lopping or willful destruction pending the final decision of the Council. Mature trees situated elsewhere in the County, whether in groups or individually, should be preserved where possible. Any interference to hedges/trees during the breeding season (March 1st - August 31st) is now an offence under the Wildlife Act 2000.

Woodlands and trees also have an amenity function, providing not only important recreational areas but also adding to the overall beauty of the County. A sizeable proportion of the forestry estate in Wicklow consists of the remains of old demesne planting. In addition to being an environmental and forestry resource, these areas are also of significant amenity value.

Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows Objectives

- NH13** To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.
- NH14** To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high value, where it appears that they are in danger of being felled.
- NH15** Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.

- NH16** To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.
- NH17** To encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native, and appropriate local characteristic species, in all new developments.
- NH18** 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 (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).

10.3.4 Water Systems

Chapter 9 of this plan specifically deals with the infrastructural issue of the County's water resources as an input into our water supply system. Our natural water systems are also fundamental to the survival of our natural habitats and the species therein. Wicklow's water systems contain such features as rivers, lakes, ponds, aquifers, bogs, springs, coastal waters, wetlands some of which are recognised as being of local, national and EU importance, and many are designated for preservation under national and/or EU legislation. The County Wicklow Wetlands Surveys¹³ provide information on the ecological status, of all known and potential freshwater wetlands in the County.

Water Systems Objectives

- NH19** To facilitate the implementation of 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.
- NH20** 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.
- NH21** 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
- NH22** 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 generally 10m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains 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"
- NH23** To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map 10.09).

¹³ The County Wicklow Wetlands Surveys were published in 2011 and 2012. It project was an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan.

10.3.5 Soils and Geology

Soil is a complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. Such functions of soil are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic as well as environmental importance.

In 2014, the Council in partnership with the Irish Geological Heritage Programme of the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), assessed the geological heritage of Wicklow and identified the most important sites which are worthy of protection as County Geological Sites (CGS) (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan).. Some of these sites may be designated, in due course, as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) because of their geological interest from a national perspective. The Council will seek to maintain and where possible enhance the geological heritage values of these sites. The Council will consult the Geological Survey of Ireland when considering undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to affect County Geological Sites.

This plan will aim to protect unique geology or geological features of importance and to allow the exploitation of our geological resources in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Soils and Geology Objectives

- NH24** Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.
- NH25** Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.
- NH26** To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail 'significant' ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.
- NH27** To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of "agreed access" subject to appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- NH28** To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a "Wicklow Rock Trail", Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.
- NH29** To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 5 and in the Design * Development standards of this plan.

10.3.6 Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure (GI) can be broadly defined as *'an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations. Green Infrastructure is the ecological framework needed for environmental, social and economic sustainability – in short it is a nation's natural life sustaining system'*¹⁴. Green infrastructure can include varying land uses - pasture lands, croplands, woodlands, heath, bog, scrubland, quarries, parks, formal and informal green spaces, active and passive spaces, areas around domestic and non-domestic buildings, brownfield areas, waterways, waterbodies, waterway corridors, wetlands, coastal areas, and community/institutional lands such as hospitals, schools, graveyards, allotments and community gardens. Heritage sites, Natura 2000 sites and NHAs are also important GI sites. (Refer to the Appendix for the Green Infrastructure Strategy)

The purpose of this section is to highlight the function of GI in land use planning. In general the section provides an overview of natural and cultural resources with emphasis on the identification, protection, management and development of priority GI elements and routes within the County. The key benefits of green infrastructure elements are as follows:

- recreation & health,
- biodiversity & natural resources,
- coast, water resource and flood management,
- sense of place – appreciation of landscapes and cultural heritage,
- climate change adaptation and mitigation,
- economic development,
- social inclusion, and
- productive environments – food, fibre, energy.

Strategic Green Infrastructure Network in Wicklow

County Wicklow has a widespread and prosperous GI network with the key strategic resources of the uplands, rural, urban and coastal areas linked by key strategic ecological and green routes throughout the County. It is an objective that local GI networks will be considered for identification at the local plan level. Table 10.2 shows the regional classifications of GI resources and routes¹⁵ alongside an example of the County's strategic resources and routes:

Table 10.2 Green Infrastructure Classifications

Green Infrastructure Classifications	
Regional GI Resources	County Wicklow GI Strategic Resources (examples)
UNESCO World heritage sites	Glendalough Monastic Settlement (tentative list)
Natura 2000 sites	Deputy's Pass, Vale of Clara
Environmental designated areas	Vartry Reservoir
Specific County level designations	Newcastle Nature Reserve, Bray Head SAAO
Architectural heritage	Structures on the RPS, NIAH, within ACAs, graveyards
Cultural sites	Holy wells
Archaeological Sites	National Monuments, Baltinglass hills
Coastal zones	Brittas Bay
Estuaries	Broadlough Estuary
Regional Scale Managed Parks	The Wicklow Mountains National Park, forestry lands
Strategic green belts	Bray / Greystones agricultural green belt buffer

¹⁴ Source Comhar Sustainable Development Council 'Creating Green Infrastructure for Ireland', August 2010

¹⁵ Source Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 - 2022

Regional GI Routes	County Wicklow Strategic GI routes
River corridors, Waterways	All waterways within County – e.g. Slaney River and its tributaries, Avoca River.
Transport corridors, Roads and Rail	All roadways within County – e.g. N81, R750, existing railway lines, disused railway line in from Woodenbridge to Shillelagh.
Regional cycle / walkways	Wicklow Way, Blessington Greenway Walk

Green Infrastructure and Land Use Planning

The Development Plan's role in Green Infrastructure is to facilitate the protection, management and enhancement of urban, peri-urban and rural environmental resources through the identification and provision of multi-functional and interconnected green spaces and networks which in turn enhances the overall benefit. It is also important to recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical benefit of green spaces and networks through the development of and integration of GI planning and development in the development management process.

Local Green Infrastructure Strategy Approach

Green Infrastructure planning at a local level involves the development of proposals to identify existing green infrastructure resources and identify areas where improvements and new green infrastructure resources should be provided in the future. It is an objective of this plan to consider incorporating local level Green Infrastructure proposals into local plans during their review process. The local plans should consider, where feasible, the incorporation of the following local GI proposals:

- Identify the key Green Infrastructure resources of the plan area;
- identify potential sites for the development of new Green Infrastructure elements and routes;
- identify and facilitate the provision of important linkages between urban and rural areas;
- identify areas of deficiency in active open space areas based on spatial distribution and population needs;
- identify important landscape corridors and green areas, including hedgerows, treelines and pockets of tree cover, streams and roadside verges and to encourage their protection and enhancement;
- seek the provision of green spaces in association with all major new developments;
- to facilitate the development of targeted walkway and cycle ways, integrated as part of opportunities for other projects such as river restoration, biodiversity enhancement as part of process of strengthening connectivity between green spaces and strategic linkages between urban settlements and countryside; and
- to identify, where feasible, existing trees/ hedgerows/ woodlands on lands zoned for development within the plan area that are worthy of retention and/or enhancement.

Green Infrastructure and Development Management

All planning applications for development should seek to ensure that development proposals provide for the protection of existing on site green infrastructure resources and, where appropriate, the enhancement of existing and provision of new green infrastructure resources in tandem with new development. All proposed development should have regard to relevant green infrastructure proposals in place and to any Green Infrastructure objectives at local plan level. All new proposals seeking planning permission should address, as much as is reasonably possible, best practice sustainable solutions and a sustainable site design, with emphasis on the following:

- The proposal should address how existing natural features of the site will inform sustainable design, by exploring the potential for the integration of existing natural features of merit such as watercourses, mature planting and topography. Such an approach ensures that the landscape character of the area is maintained whilst also assisting biodiversity maintenance and more natural forms of surface water drainage.
- The layout of the proposed development should be informed by the inherent natural characteristics of the site. Connectivity between proposed open spaces and adjoining existing open space or natural features should also be considered in the site design.
- Proposals in relation to larger sites should be cognisant of any ecologically sensitive areas where it may be appropriate to retain or integrate into a landscape plan.

General Green Infrastructure Objectives

NH30 To recognise the importance and contribution of Green Infrastructure throughout the region for the maintenance of biodiversity and ensuring that the region will be able to, or be ecologically robust enough to, adapt and respond to climate change issues.

NH31 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:

- Provision of open space amenities,
- sustainable management of water,
- protection and management of biodiversity,
- protection of cultural heritage, and
- protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

NH32 During the review process of the existing local plans, to consider identifying Green Infrastructure resources within and on the edge of the settlement boundary and to consider the inclusion of local green infrastructure proposals in each plan in line with the Green Infrastructure proposals and objectives set out in this section.

NH33 New development and redevelopment proposals, where considered appropriate, are required to contribute towards the protection, management and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure of the local area in terms of the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals.

NH34 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

NH35 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

NH36 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths/strategic walkways/cycleways, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible

and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.

NH37 To facilitate the development of green bridges/ wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.

10.3.7 Recreational Use of Natural Resources

The Council is committed to ensuring sustainable recreational use of the outdoors in County Wicklow in accordance with the objectives of the current County Wicklow Outdoor Recreational Strategy and in consultation with the Wicklow Uplands Council. Natural areas provide opportunities for passive and active activities such as picnicking, walking, mountain biking, swimming, fishing and sailing / canoeing / windsurfing.

Recreational Use of Natural Resources Objectives

NH38 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.

NH39 To facilitate access to amenity areas in the County for the benefit of all, on the basis of cooperation with landowners, recreational users and other relevant stakeholder groups to promote "agreed access" on public and privately owned land in the County on the basis of sustainability, consultation and consensus.

NH40 To protect and facilitate 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.

NH41 To preserve the open character of commonage land and similar hill land and secure access over paths and tracks through consensus with local landowners, particularly in mountain areas.

NH42 To facilitate the development of the coastal walking and cycling route between Bray and Arklow, as well as links between this route and the coast road, in consultation with landowners.

NH43 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).

NH44 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "*sufficient or better status by 2015*" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "*good*" or "*excellent*", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).

10.3.8 Public Rights of Way

Section 10(2)(o) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, requires the inclusion of a mandatory objective in the development plan for the preservation of public rights of way (PROW) which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility and PROWs shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the plan.

Section 14 of the Act sets out the formal process for designating rights of way in development plans. The scope of these statutory provisions is grounded on identification of existing routes over which PROWs are

deemed to exist. The inclusion of PROW objectives for their preservation provides greater protection for such route-ways under the development management provisions of planning legislation whilst also restricting the scope of certain exempted development.

A PROW is a type of easement of way that is in legal terms distinct from other easements of way such as private rights of way and customary rights of way. A PROW or highway is a physically defined route over which the public have a right of passage which in legal terms is described as ‘a user as of right’. The form of PROW here is the type that is normally used for recreational purposes rather than for regular daily vehicular/non vehicular access-transportation purposes. A PROW “confers the unrestricted right of the general public to pass and re-pass at all times of the day or night and at all seasons without notice to, or permission from the landowner over whose lands the way runs”¹⁶. The most common physical characteristics of PROWs have been identified as follows:

- It follows a defined route which may be sub-divided amongst different branches, and
- the route normally runs between two public places, such as public roads as defined under roads legislation or landscapes of special amenity such as a beaches, woodlands or lakes.

The Council has identified nine routes that are outlined in Table 10.1 that is considered fulfil the criteria pertaining to PROWs as a form of public easement of passage¹⁷ (See Maps 10.10 A to F).

Table 10.3 Public Rights Of Way

Reference	Location	Description
PROW1	The Murrough, Wicklow Town	From the Wicklow Town boundary, along the coastline of Bollarney Murrough, Knockrobin, Murrough and Tinakilly Murrough
PROW2	Brides Head, Wicklow Town	From the Wicklow Town boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay
PROW3	Broomhall, Wicklow Town	From Rocky Road to Rathnew back road along the western boundary of Wicklow Environs
PROW4	Dunbur Lower, Wicklow Town	Along old coast road at Dunbur Lower from Seafield housing estate to public road.
PROW5	Bray/Greystones Cliff Walk	From the southern end of Strand Road/the Promenade in Bray, via the townlands of Newcourt, Ballynamuddagh, Rathdown Upper and Rathdown Lower, to two separate termini in the Greystones harbour area namely; the north beach and Beach Road, respectively.
PROW6	Newcastle / The Murrough	Coastal Walk. From the eastern end of Sea Road, Newcastle to Tinakelly Murrough in Wicklow Town (linking up with PROW1).
PROW7	Enniskerry-Tinnehinch-Cookstown	‘Lovers Leap’. From the R760 on a wooded pathway, above a section of the northern bank of the River Dargle, with minor branch routes leading to the river bank. This route opens onto the L-1020/Cookstown Road.
PROW8	Stratford on Slaney	A section of former public road, in the southern part of this village, that links the southern end of Baltinglass Street to the L-8301.
PROW9	Kilcoole	Sally Walk/Kilcoole Mass Path, from the R.671 at a point to the south of Saint Anthony’s Catholic Church Kilcoole via Priestsnewtown over Saint Patrick’s River to the L-1042 in Kilquade.

¹⁶ Edward Walsh & Constance Cassidy v The County Council for the County Sligo, [2013] IESE 48.

¹⁷ PROW1 to PROW4 are 4 existing public rights of way that were established in 1994 by way of variation to the 1989 County Development Plan in the Wicklow Town Environs Plan 1994.

Public Rights of Way Objectives

- NH45** The Council will utilise its relevant statutory powers for the purpose of preserving in so far as is practical, the character of the routes of the public rights of way detailed in Table 10.1 (Map 10.12). In this regard, the Council will, in the interests of attaining a balance between the needs of the individual owners of holdings over which these listed routes transverse and the common good, engage with such land-owners in circumstances where there are reasonable ground for giving consideration to the re-routing of sections of these means of public access within the same holding.
- NH46** To carry out further research, where resources permit, regarding the identification and mapping of other potential existing public rights of ways in the county. Such research will be carried out in consultation with, elected representatives, members of the public, relevant public bodies, users of amenity access routes, landowners, farmer representative groups and the Wicklow Upland Council (where appropriate) for consideration for inclusion of any further identified PROWs in this plan by way of variation.

10.3.9 Wicklow's Landscape

The landscape of the County is a national asset. County Wicklow is richly endowed with a variety of landscape 'types' formed naturally over time and through the interactions of humans with the natural environment producing a variety of characteristic landscapes and landscape features. The increasing development pressure of recent years has caused changes in the natural landscape, which are unprecedented in scale and nature, and has led to the Government setting out guidelines for landscape appraisal. This assessment of the landscape is to ensure that *"the environment and heritage generally are maintained in a sustainable manner, while at the same time enabling a proactive approach to development"*.

The landscape assessment that has been undertaken as part of this plan has aimed to build upon work carried out over previous plans, integrating existing information with new desk research, the use of more modern Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and field research. The combination of these methods of assessment has facilitated the identification of both the extent of individual landscape areas within the County while also providing information in regard to the key characteristics/features that make up each individual area.

In carrying out this detailed Landscape Assessment 15 distinctive landscape categories have been identified and placed within the landscape hierarchy detailed below and as shown on Map 10.13 of this plan.

The process for identifying each of the above landscape categories is set out in Volume 3 of this plan. This process has facilitated the identification of the key features that make up each of these landscape areas and the production of individual area specific descriptions detailing the key considerations for future development within each of these areas.

The following provides a generalised description of each of the 15 landscape areas identified within the County and should be read alongside Volume 3 of this plan.

Table 10.4 Wicklow Landscape categories

Hierarchy	Landscape Category	Landscape Area
1	Mountain and Lakeshore AONB	The Mountain Uplands
		The Blessington Lakes Area
		The Bray Mountains Group
		The North Eastern Valley
2	Coastal Areas AONB	Northern Coastal Area
		Southern Coastal Area
3	Areas of High Amenity	North East Mountain Lowlands
		South East Mountain Lowlands
		Southern Hills
		Baltinglass Hills
		Transitional Lands
4	Corridor Area	The N11
		The N81
5	Lowlands	Rolling lowland Areas 1-6
6	Urban Area	All towns ranging from Levels 1-6 of the Wicklow Settlement Hierarchy

1. The Mountain and Lakeshore Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1(a) - The Mountain Uplands

The central mountain upland area extends from the Dublin border in the north of the County at Kippure towards Aghrim in the south and from east of the Glen of Imaal as far as west of Roundwood Village. A key characteristic of this area is mountainous topography with U-shaped valleys, lakes and glacial topography. This area generally relates to lands immediately surrounding and above the 300+ contour line.

1(b) - The Poulaphuca Reservoir

This category generally relates to the area around Blessington known locally as the 'Blessington Lakes' and extends into Sorrell Hill. The lakes area is dominated by the lake, views onto and from the lake. To the east and south, land is more mountainous with attractive views and vegetation.

1(c) - The Bray Mountains Group/Northern hills

The area of land covering the Great and Little Sugarloaf including Bray Head comprising of the mountainous region surrounding the town of Bray. These areas are important locations for recreation amenity both locally and for visiting tourists with Bray Head having a Special Area Amenity Order designation.

1(d) - The North Eastern Valley/Glencree

This area is situated along the northern extremities of the County and is based around the drainage pattern of the Glencree and Dargle Rivers and the surrounding road network. This area is very scenic, with attractive views and number of tourist attractions such as Powerscourt House and Demesne, Chareville Demesne and Glencree Drive. This landscape provides for extensive forested areas made up of both coniferous and deciduous woodlands.

2. Coastal Areas Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2(a) - The Northern Coastline

The Northern Coastline comprises of lands north of Wicklow Town/Rathnew extending south of Greystones. The northern coastline provides intermittent views of the sea from the coast road with this area being somewhat more developed than the southern coastline. This landscape category includes a number of key environmental features such as the Murrough SAC/SPA a designated Natura 2000 site and Natural Heritage Area (NHA). While this section of the Wicklow coastline is not as heavily utilised from a tourist perspective compared to the southern coastline it does act as a significant recreational resource to the local residential population the use of which must be managed in an appropriate manner.

2(b) - The Southern Coastline

The southern coastline comprises of lands south of Wicklow Town extending as far as south of Arklow Rock. This area comprises of the main sandy beaches of Brittas and Clogga Beach and provides for a continuous prospect and numerous views from the coast road out to sea. Sand dunes are dominant in sections of the area forming a number of important environmental designations such as Maherbeg Dunes and Buckroneys Brittas Dunes and Fen (NHA and SAC) and Arklow Rock/Askintinny NHA. These areas are important not just from a landscape or habitat perspective, but also are increasingly important for recreational activities, the development and promotion of which must be managed appropriately.

2. Area of High Amenity

3(a) - The North East Mountain Lowlands

Transitional lands located between the corridor zone and the AONB, comprising of Trooperstown Hill, large tracts of forestry lands, including Devils Glen (a listed County Geological site) and a number of views and prospects in particular those surrounding the Vartry Reservoir.

3(b) - The South East Mountain Lowlands

Transitional undulating lands bordering the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and surrounding the distinctive features of the Vale of Avoca, lands surrounding the village of Avoca and the Aughrim River Valley. The area includes a number of designated views and prospects and significant cultural heritage in the form of the Avoca Mines County Geological Site and Avondale House.

3(c) - The Southern Hills

Lands generally following the 300m contour comprising of 1) the mountainous leg from Moylisha running north-west of Shillelagh, Tinahely and Aughrim 2) the Croghan Mountain area south of Aughrim and Woodenbridge and 3) the Kilgavan Gap and Hillbrook area.

3(d) - The Baltinglass Hills

The rolling undulating terrain of the hills around Baltinglass, characterised by the existence of important archaeological remains and monuments. This area is of significant heritage value while also forming a key tourist attraction within this area.

3(e) – Area of High Amenity Transitional Area

The Area of High Amenity Transitional Area comprise of lands which act as a natural buffer and provide a clear distinction between the less sensitive landscapes within the County and the landscape areas identified as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These lands are located at Manor Kilbride, south of Hollywood moving towards Donard and lands extending from the Glen of Imaal towards Aughrim.

3. Corridor Area

4(a) - The N11

This area covers the main access corridor area along the east of the County. The boundary of the eastern access corridor generally follows what is considered to be the areas upon which the greatest influence is exerted by this primary access route. This route, for the most part, runs through the more low lying and accessible tracts of land, dissects the Glen of the Downs wood in the north of the County and provides expansive coastal views north of Wicklow Town. This landscape area acts as the main connection between the majors towns along the east coast of the County.

4(b) - The N81

This landscape area covers the main access corridor along the west of the County. The boundary of the western corridor generally follows what is considered to be the area upon which the greatest influence is exerted by this secondary access route. This route, for the most part, runs through the more low lying and accessible tracts of land, providing expansive views of the Wicklow Mountain Range, intermittent views of the Blessington lakes south of Blessington with its primary function being the connection between the towns of Blessington and Baltinglass in the west of the County.

4. Rolling Lowlands

The gently rolling and undulating countryside best described as low-lying when compared to the rest of the terrain in Co. Wicklow. These landscape areas are generally located adjacent to the corridor zone or surrounded by more elevated lands within the 'Area of High Amenity'. The rolling lowlands are made up of the following 6 areas:

- West of the N81 including lands surrounding Grangecon and Dunlavin;
- south east of Baltinglass extending as far as south of Knockananna;
- the extreme south west of the County surrounding the Rathwood and Coolkenna areas and adjoining County Carlow;
- south of Shillelagh, surrounding the Carnew area and adjoining the more elevated lands within County Wexford; and
- lands located to the east of Tinahely and Aughrim adjoining the Area of High Amenity to the south and
- lands West of Arklow adjoining the foothills of Croghan Mountain.

5. Urban Areas

All locations designated as 'settlements' in the County settlement hierarchy (i.e. areas falling within Levels 1-6) are considered 'urban' areas for the purpose of landscape classification, In terms of landscape classification, these settlements have already been deemed suitable for development (of the type allowed by the settlement strategy and the development standards of this plan) and the impacts on the wider landscape of such development has already been deemed acceptable. Therefore it will not be necessary for developments in urban areas to have regard to the surrounding landscape classification or to carry out landscape or visual impact assessment.

Wicklow's Landscape Objectives

- NH47** All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of this plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment
- NH48** Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.
- NH49** To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts

10.3.10 Views and Prospects

The views and prospects listed in this plan for protection are those views / prospects that are considered to be of the highest amenity value in the County. Some views / prospects will form a cohesive set, such as coastal or lake drives, while some appear suddenly and provide the viewer with a new and interesting angle on a natural feature or place. Some views / prospects are intermittent in nature and appear through gaps in vegetation or buildings.



Where listed views / prospect occur in settlements, it is not the intention that all lands in the view / prospect will be 'sterilised' from development. Any application for development in such locations will be required to provide an assessment of the view / prospect and an evaluation of how the development would change or interfere with that view / prospect. Views and prospects listed for the towns of Bray, Wicklow, Arklow and Greystones are listed and mapped in each individual Town Development Plan/ Local Area Plan. The policies and objectives set out in this Plan shall apply to all views/prospects listed for preservation in these local plans. Views and prospects listed in this plan for County are set out in Schedules 10.14 & 10.15 and Maps 10.14 & 10.15) of this plan.

Views and Prospects Objectives

- NH50** To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the views / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.



Areas of Archaeological Potential or Significance

-  Point
-  Region



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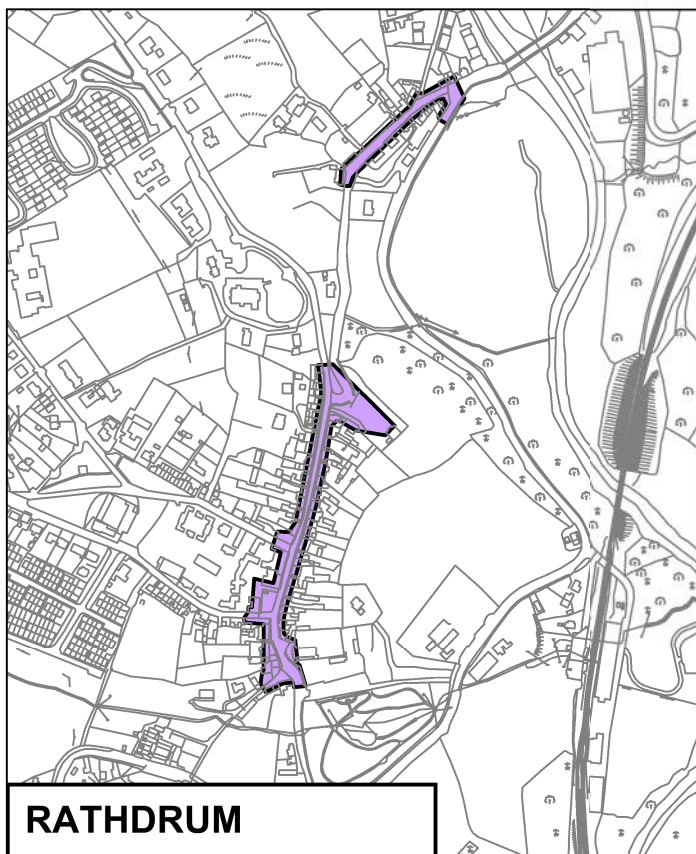
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DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2022

Schedule 10.01 Areas of Archaeological Potential and Significance

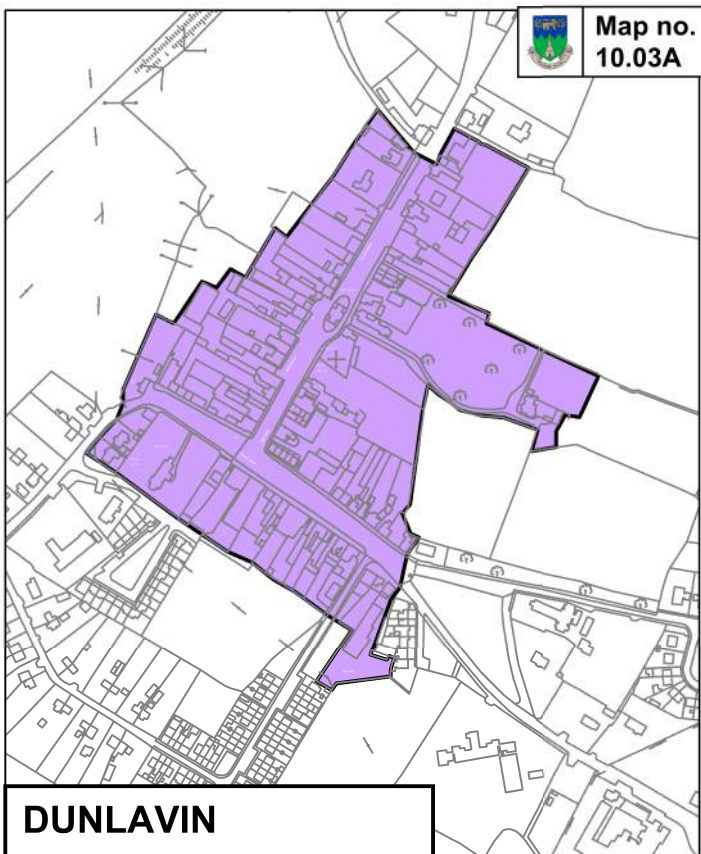
ID	Location	Description
1	Burgage, Blessington	Deserted Medieval Borough
2	Macreddin (Carysfort)	Site of one of the few 17th century Plantation Towns established in Leinster
3	Donaghmore	Deserted Anglo-Norman Borough
4	Dunlavin	Example of Anglo-Norman Borough
5	Ennisboyne, Brittas	Example of deserted Anglo-Norman Borough
6	Hollywood	Example of deserted Anglo-Norman Borough
7	Killickabawn, Kilpedder	Example of deserted Anglo-Norman Borough
8	Mulsoes Court (Powerscourt)	Example of deserted Anglo-Norman Borough Powerscourt
9	Newcastle	Example of deserted Anglo-Norman Borough
10	Glendalough	Monastic Settlement
11	Baltinglass Hills	Megalithic Hillfort Complex

Schedule 10.02 Major Sites of Archaeological Importance in Wicklow in State Ownership (O) or Guardianship (G)

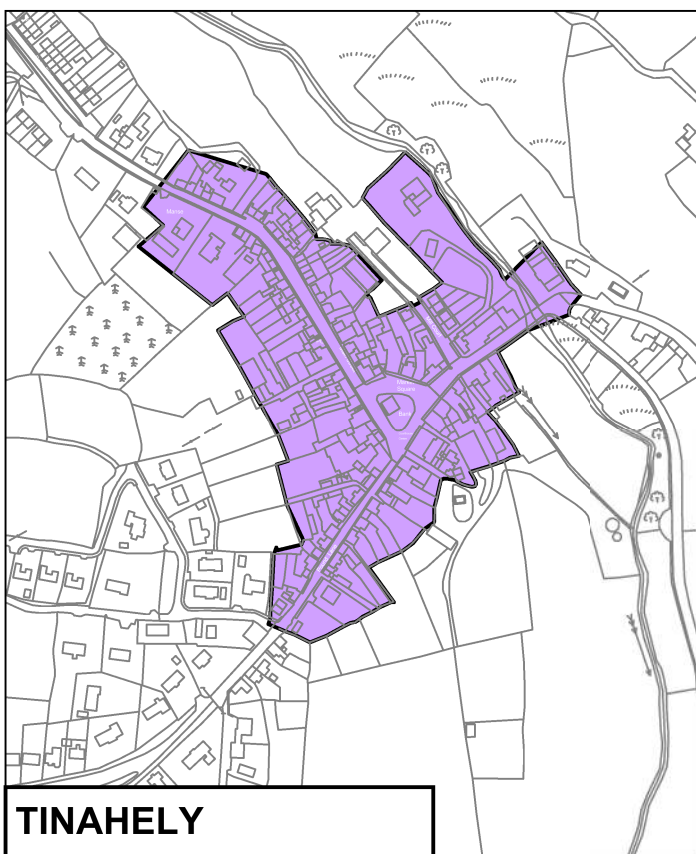
ID	Monument	Town land	Monument Number	Status
1	Church, Cross	Aghowle	137	O
2	Piper's stone (stone circle)	Athgreaney	416	G
3	Baltinglass Abbey (Cistercian)	Baltinglass East	230	O
4	Crosoona Ringfort & Ogham Stone	Boleycarrigeen	418	G
5	St. Mark's Cross	Burgage More	280	O
6	Motte	Castleruddery Lower	442	O
7	Stone Circle	Castleruddery Lower	441	O
8	Ogham Stone	Castletimon	304	G
9	Rath Turtle Moat	Deerpark	662	O
10	Dwyer McAllister Cottage	Derrynamuck	449	O
11	St. Valery's Cross	Fassaroe	337	G
12	Glendalough (Cathedral, Round Tower, Churches, Priory, Stone Crosses, Ringfort, hut site & cave (St. Kevin's))	Brockagh, Camaderry, Derrybawn, Lugduff	134	O
13	Church	Kilcoole	267	O
14	Church	Kilcronev	417	G
15	Kindlestown Castle	Kindlestown	323	O
16	Motte	Lemonstown	419	G
17	Wedge-shaped gallery grave (Lubbanasigha)	Moylisha	368	G
18	Church (Raheen an Chluig, Bray Head)	Newcourt	262	O
19	Baltinglass Hill (passage tomb & hillfort)	Pinnacle, Coolinarrig Upper, Tuckmill Hills	328	G
20	Rathgal Hill Fort	Rath East	422	G
21	Seefin Passage Grave	Scurlocksleap	317	G
22	Castle	Threecastles	491	O
23	Tornant Ringfort & Barrows	Tornant Upper	531	O
24	St. Mary's Church	Woodlands	135	O



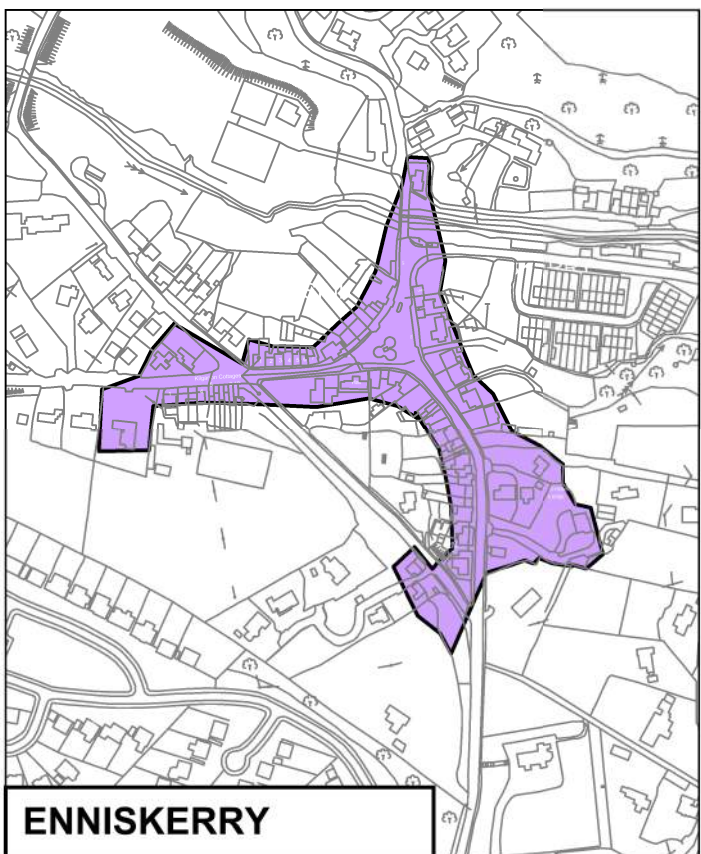
RATHDRUM



DUNLAVIN



TINAHELly



ENNISKERRY

Architectural Conservation Areas

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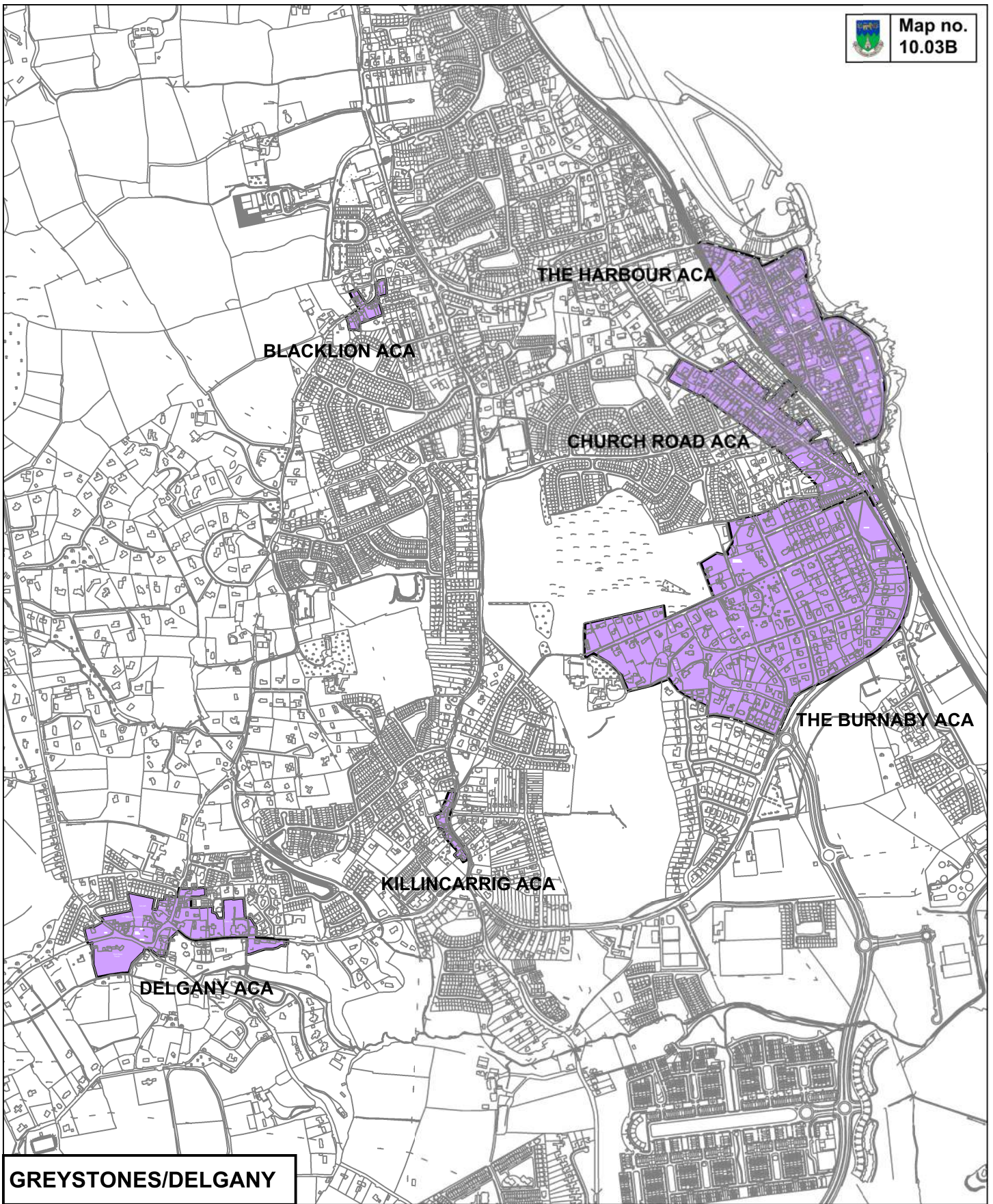
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Architectural Conservation Areas

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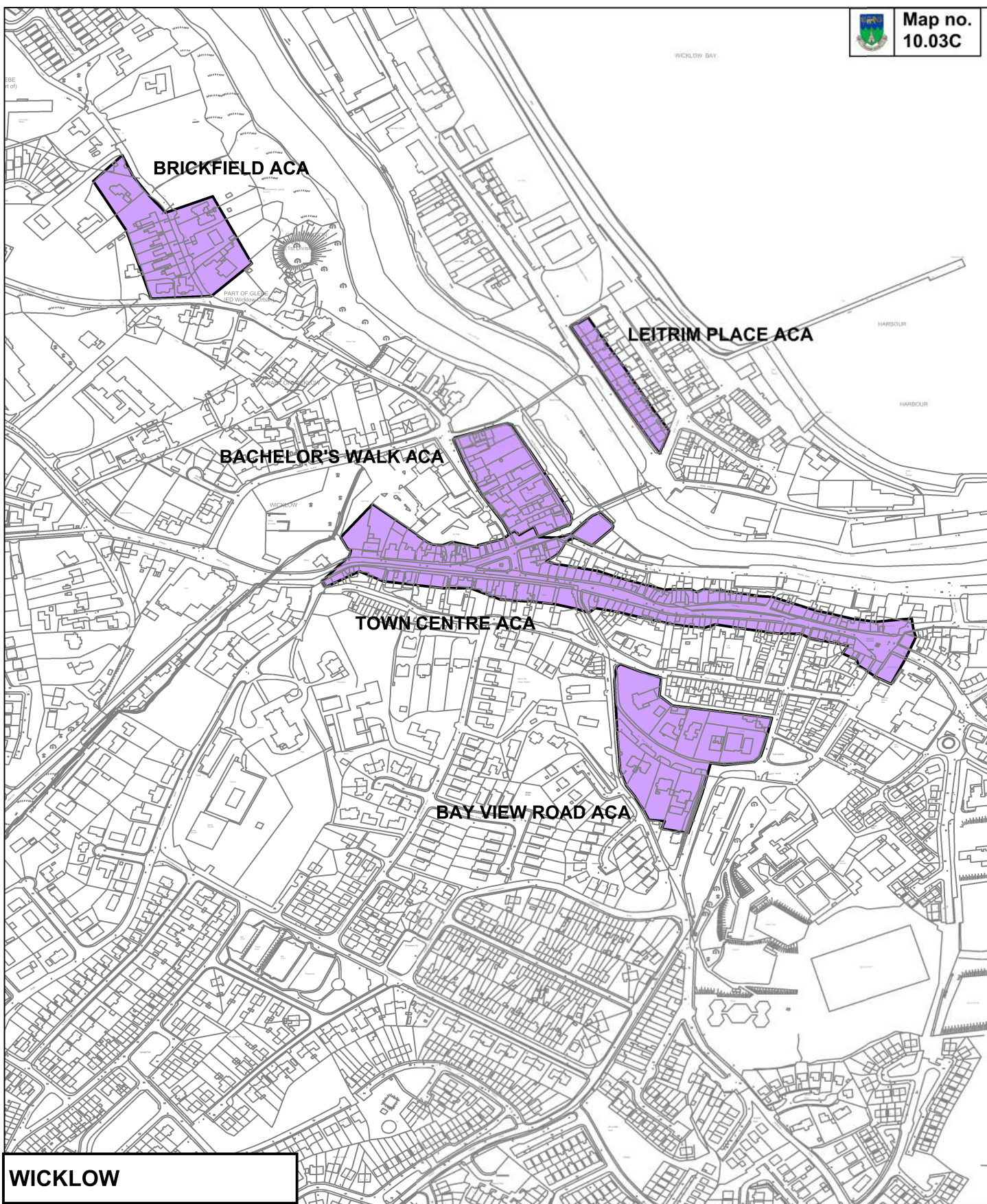
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Architectural Conservation Areas

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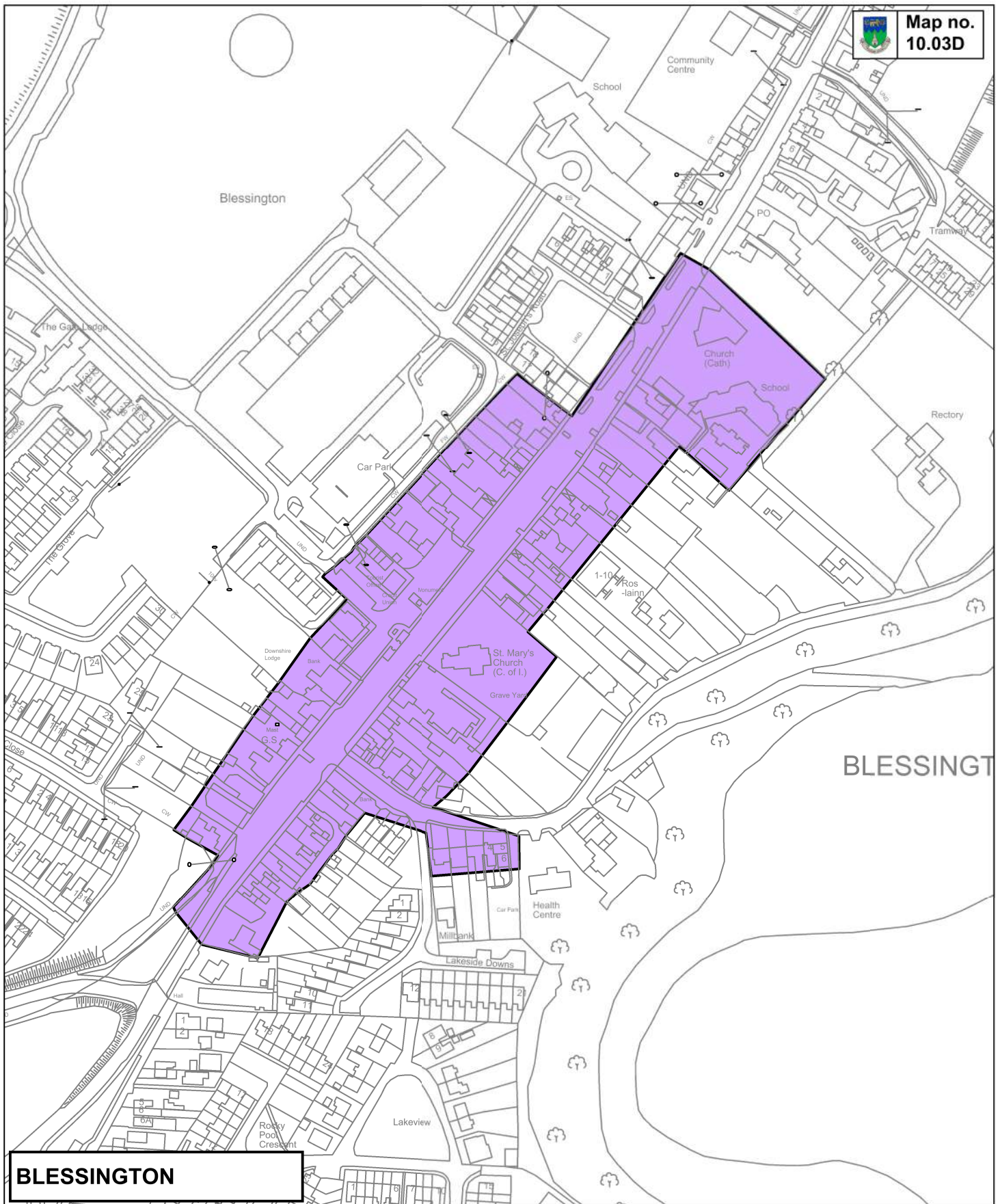
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BLESSINGTON

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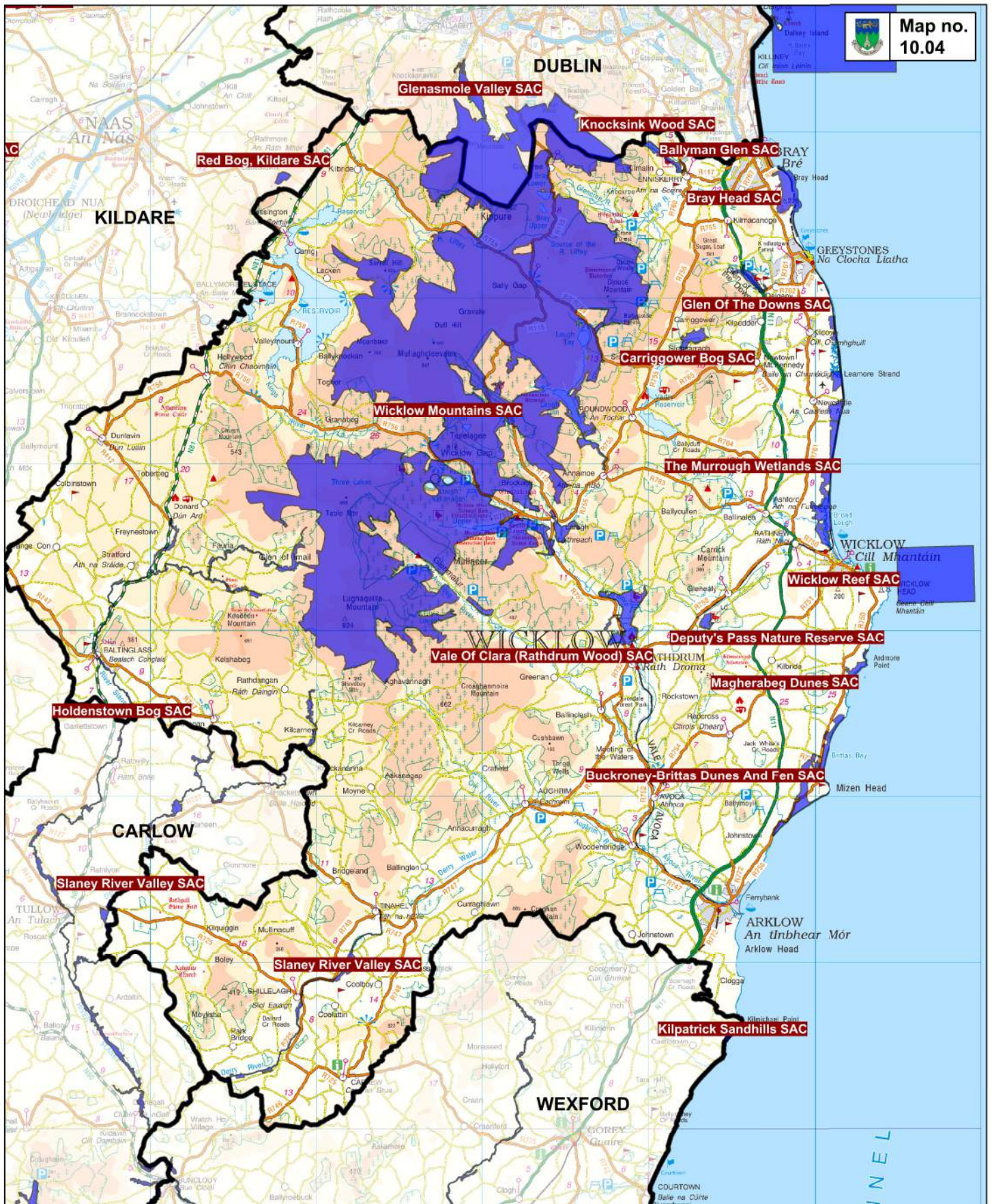
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Special Areas of Conservation

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Special Area of Conservation



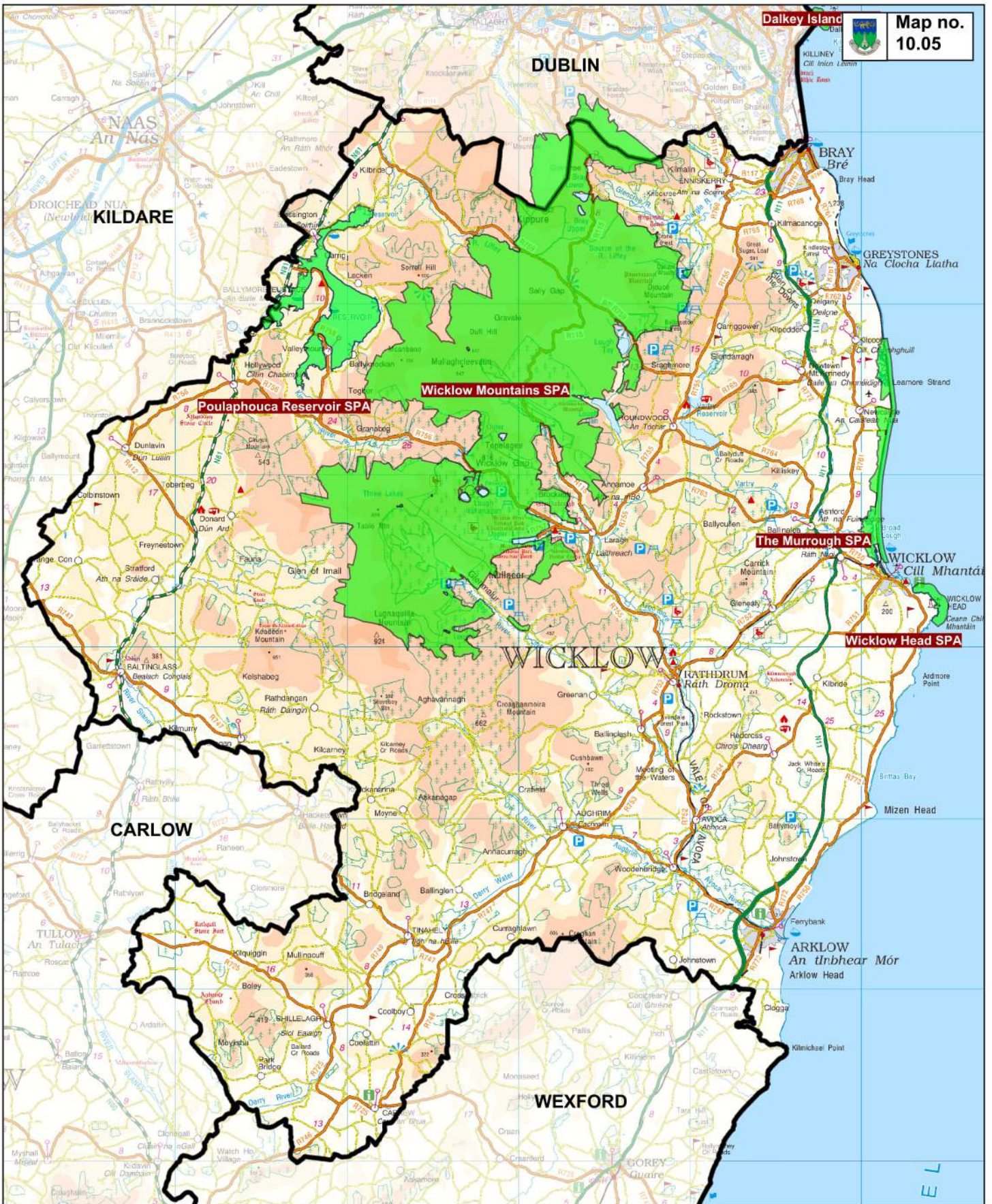
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Schedule 10.04 Special Areas of Conservation (within and in proximity to County Wicklow)

No.	Name
1	Red Bog, Kildare SAC
2	Ballyman Glen SAC
3	Bray Head SAC
4	Carriggower Bog SAC
5	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC
6	Glen Of The Downs SAC
7	Knocksink Wood SAC
8	Buckroney-Brittis Dunes And Fen SAC
9	Vale Of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC
10	Slaney River Valley SAC
11	Glenasmole Valley SAC
12	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC
13	Holdenstown Bog SAC
14	Magherabeg Dunes SAC
15	Wicklow Mountains SAC
16	The Murrough Wetlands SAC
17	Wicklow Reef SAC



Special Protection Area



Special Protection Area

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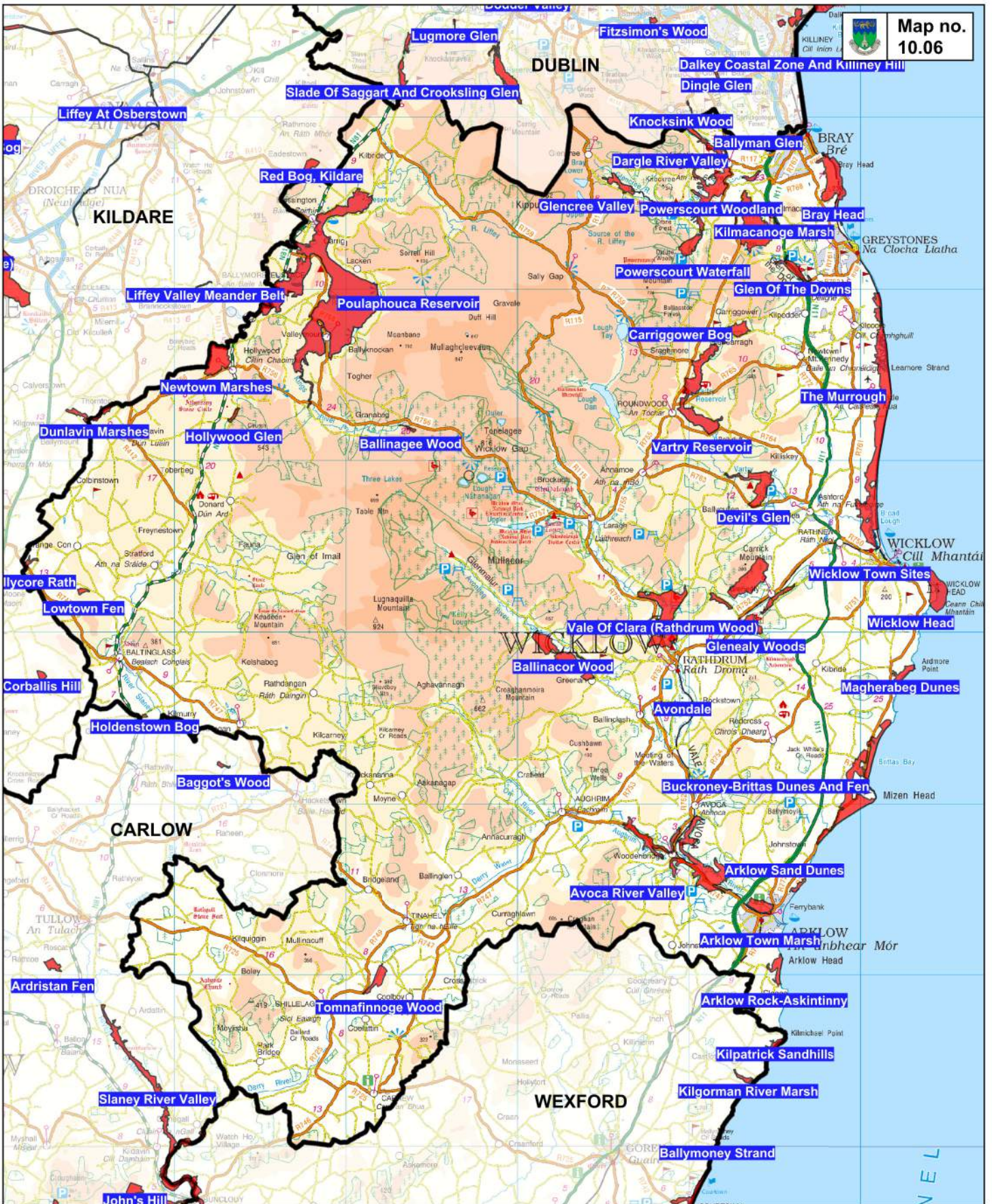
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Schedule 10.05 Special Protection Areas

No.	Name
1	Wicklow Mountains National Park SPA
2	Poulaphuca Reservoir SPA
3	The Murrough Wetlands (including Kilcoole Marshes & Broadlough) SPA
4	Wicklow Head SPA



Natural Heritage Area

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Proposed Natural Heritage Area



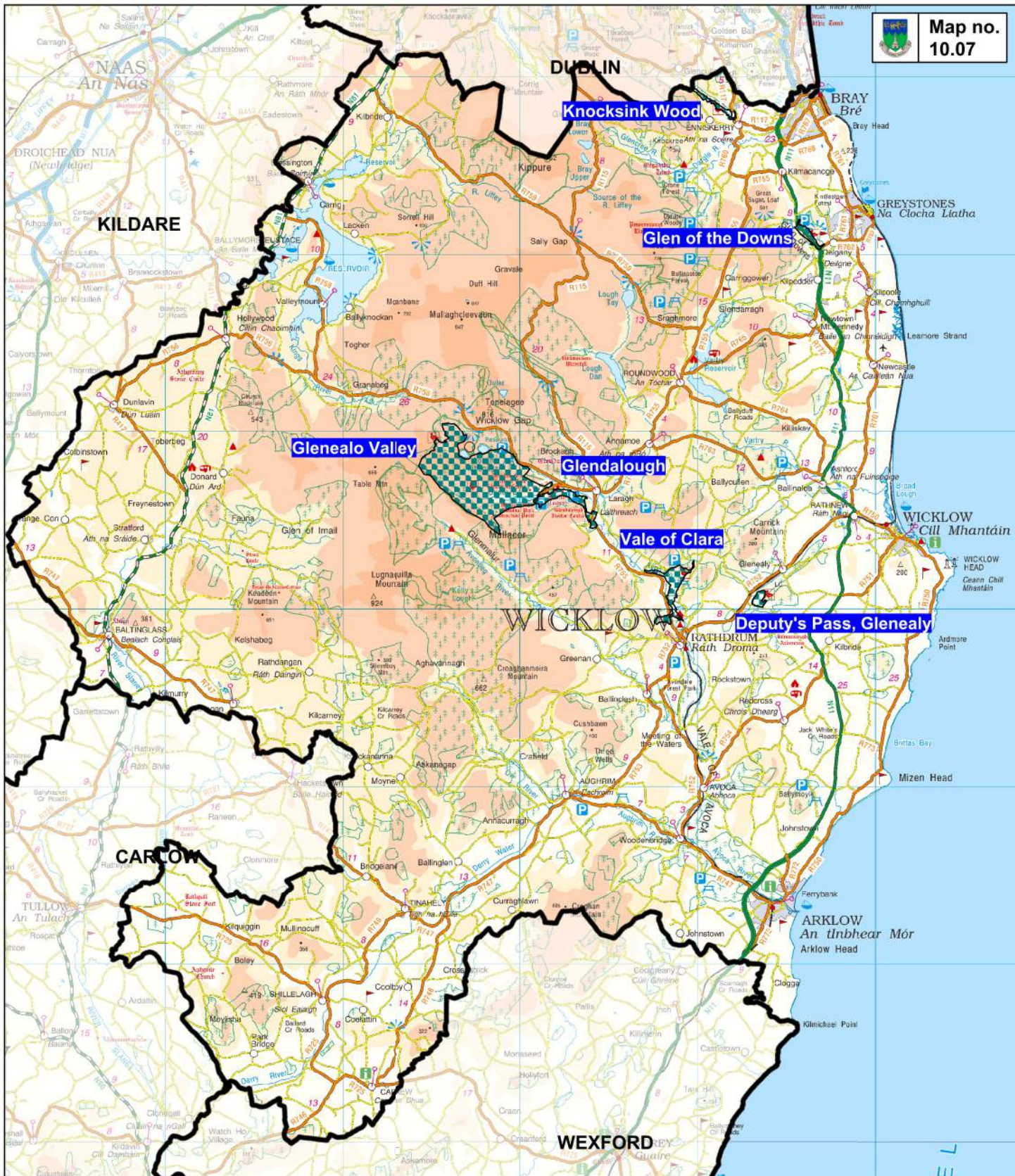
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Schedule 10.05 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas in County Wicklow

NPWS Site no.	pNHA
713	Ballyman Glen
714	Bray Head
716	Carriggower Bog
718	Devil's Glen
719	Glen Of The Downs
724	Kilmacanoge Marsh
725	Knocksink Wood
729	Buckroney-Brittis Dunes And Fen
730	The Murrough
731	Poulaphouca Reservoir
733	Vale Of Clara (Rathdrum Wood)
734	Wicklow Head
1745	Arklow Rock-Askintinny
1746	Arklow Sand Dunes
1748	Avoca River Valley
1749	Ballinacor Wood
1750	Ballinagee Wood
1751	Ballycore Rath
1754	Dargle River Valley
1755	Glenree Valley
1756	Glenealy Woods
1757	Holdenstown Bog
1759	Newtown Marshes
1764	Lowtown Fen
1766	Magherabeg Dunes
1767	Powerscourt Waterfall
1768	Powerscourt Woodland
1769	Great Sugar Loaf
1771	Vartry Reservoir
1772	Dunlavin Marshes
1852	Tomnafinnoge Wood
1929	Wicklow Town Sites
1931	Arklow Town Marsh
2053	Hollywood Glen
2093	Avondale



Nature Reserve



Nature Reserve

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Schedule 10.07 Nature Reserves

No.	Name	Habitat
1	Glen of the Downs	Woodland
2	Deputy's Pass, Glenealy	Woodland
3	Vale of Clara	Woodland
4	Glendalough	Woodland
5	Glenealo Valley	Blanket bog, heath
6	Knocksink Wood	Woodland



Tree Preservation Order



Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders

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Map no. 10.08B



Tree Preservation Order

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Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders



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Tree Preservation Order

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Trees and Woodlands with
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Schedule 10.08 Existing Tree Preservation Orders

County wide

ID	Description	Location
1	Birch Trees	Kilqueeny, Avoca
2	Trees at Avoca Handweavers	Glencormick South, Kilmacanogue
3	Trees in the vicinity of Glencree	Oldboleys
4	Oak trees	Quarry Road, Killincarrig, Greystones
5	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
6	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
7	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
8	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
9	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
10	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
11	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
12	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
13	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
14	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
15	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
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20	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
21	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
22	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
23	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
24	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
25	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
26	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
27	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
28	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
29	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
30	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
31	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
32	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
33	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
34	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
35	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
36	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
37	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
38	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
39	Woodland	Coolattin Estate
40	Oak, Pine Ornamental & boundary trees	Kendalstown Rise, Kindlestown

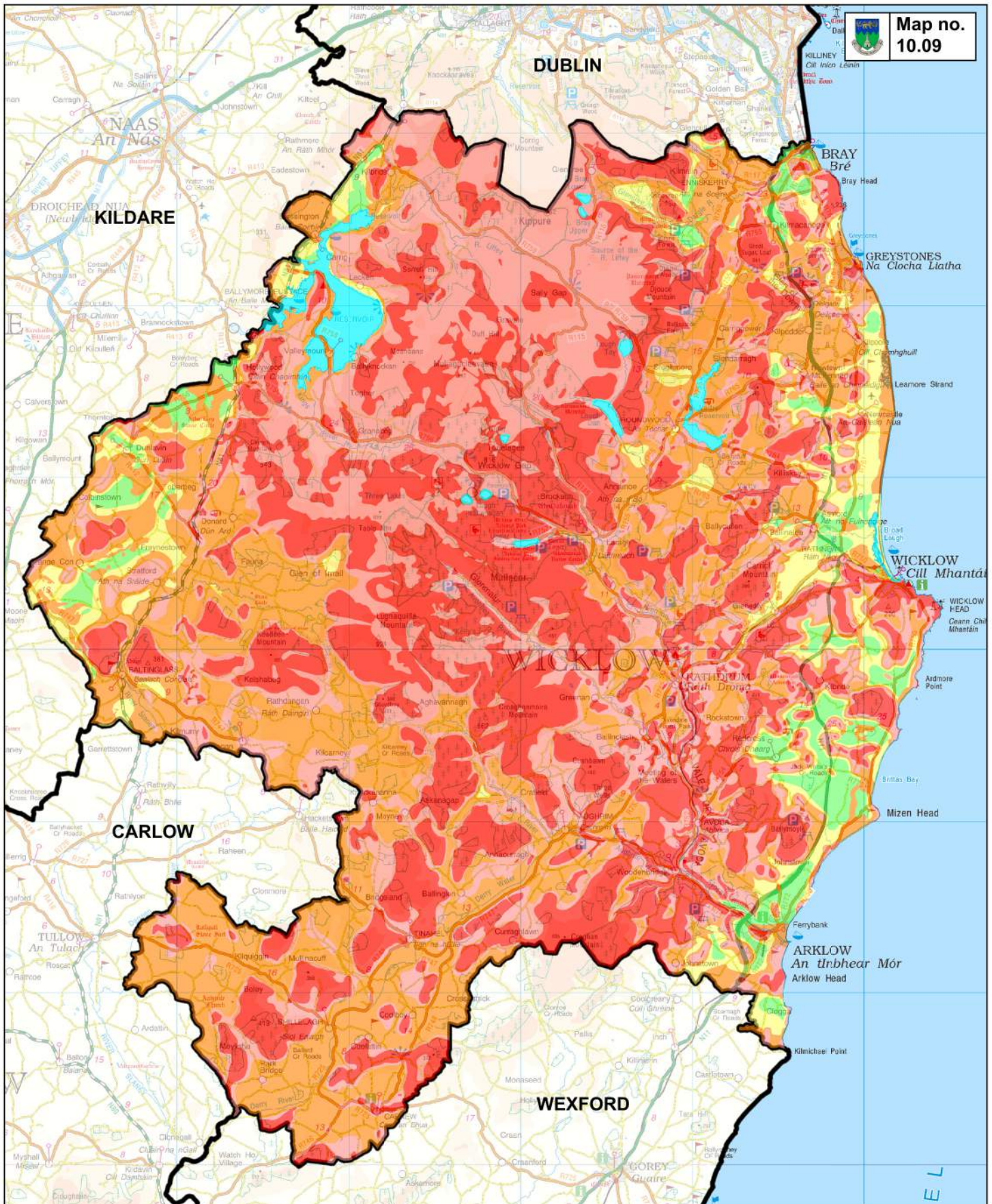
		Upper, Delgany
41	Woodlands & trees in the Dargle Glen	Tinnahinch Newtown, Cookstown & Kilcrouney townlands
42	Larch, Scots Pine & Sycamore groups of trees	Knockrobin, Wicklow town
43	Roadside Beech trees	Holy Faith Convent, Kilcoole
44	Sycamore and Beech trees	Manor Kilbride, Blessington
45	Scots Pine and Spruce trees	Morepark, Newtownmountkennedy
46	Trees	Donard Lower (Ref 7654/02)

Wicklow Town

ID	Description	Location
WTC01	Chestnut Tree	Parochial Hall, St Patrick's Road, Wicklow Town

Bray

ID	Location
1	Kilbride Lane
2	Violet Hill
3	Brook House School and Killarney Glen, Herbert Road
4	Ballywaltrim Grove, Killarney Road
5	Oldcourt House and Vevay House, Swan River Valley
6	Grounds of Loreto Convent
7	Grounds of Presentation College
8	Bray Head
9	Duncairn Terrace
10	Swan river valley to Bray Bridge (The Maltings)
11	Small woodland and ecclesiastical remains, Fairyhill housing estate
12	Florence Road
13	Ballywaltrim Lane
14	Entrance to Elgin Wood, Killarney Road
15	Wooded slopes east of Dargle River
16	Wooded slopes from St. Valery's Bridge to Kilbride Church
17	Ledwidge Crescent



Ground Water Vulnerability

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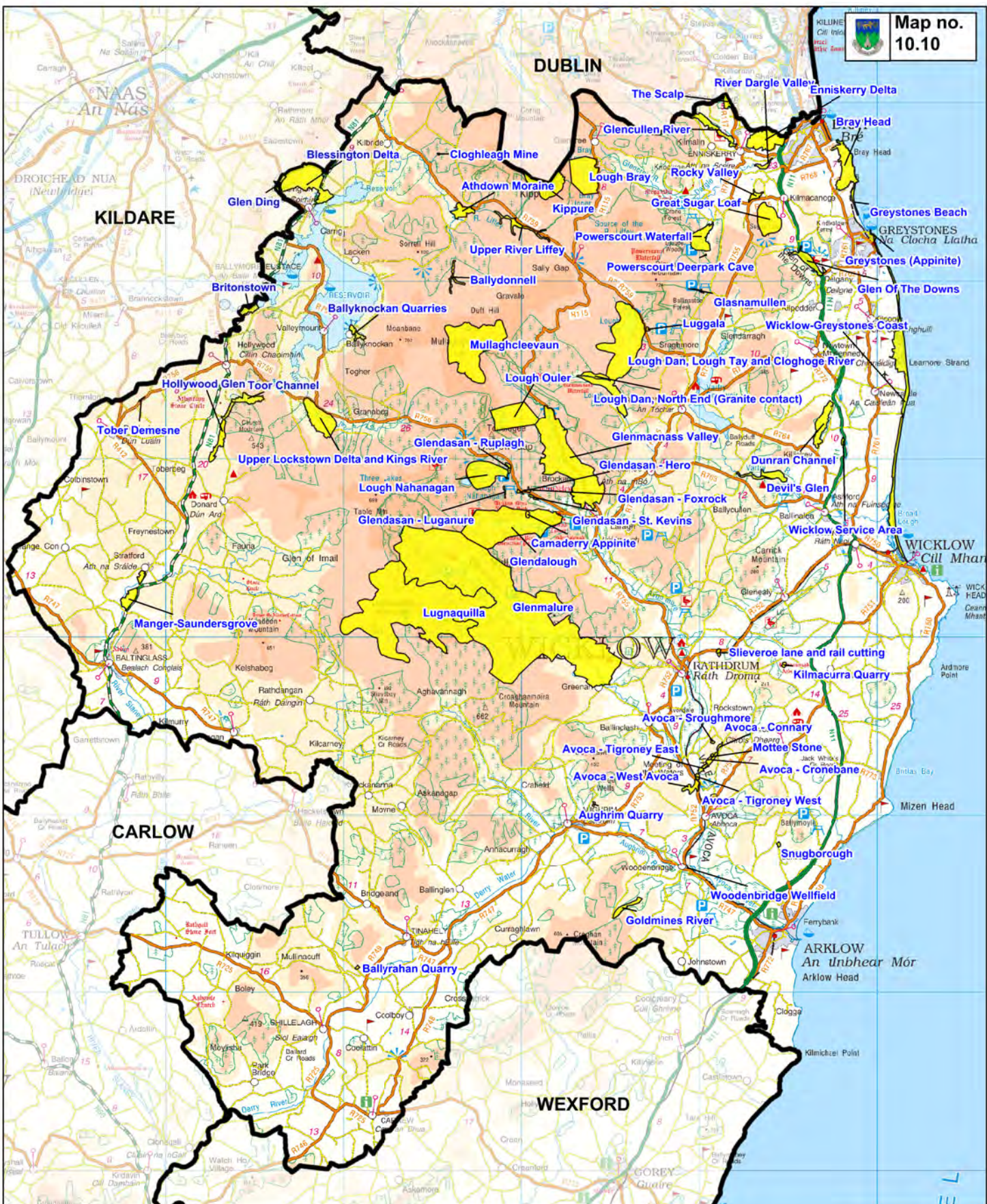
- Extreme (Rock Surface/Karst)
- Extreme
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Water




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County Geological Sites

 County Geological Sites

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Schedule 10.10 County Geological Sites

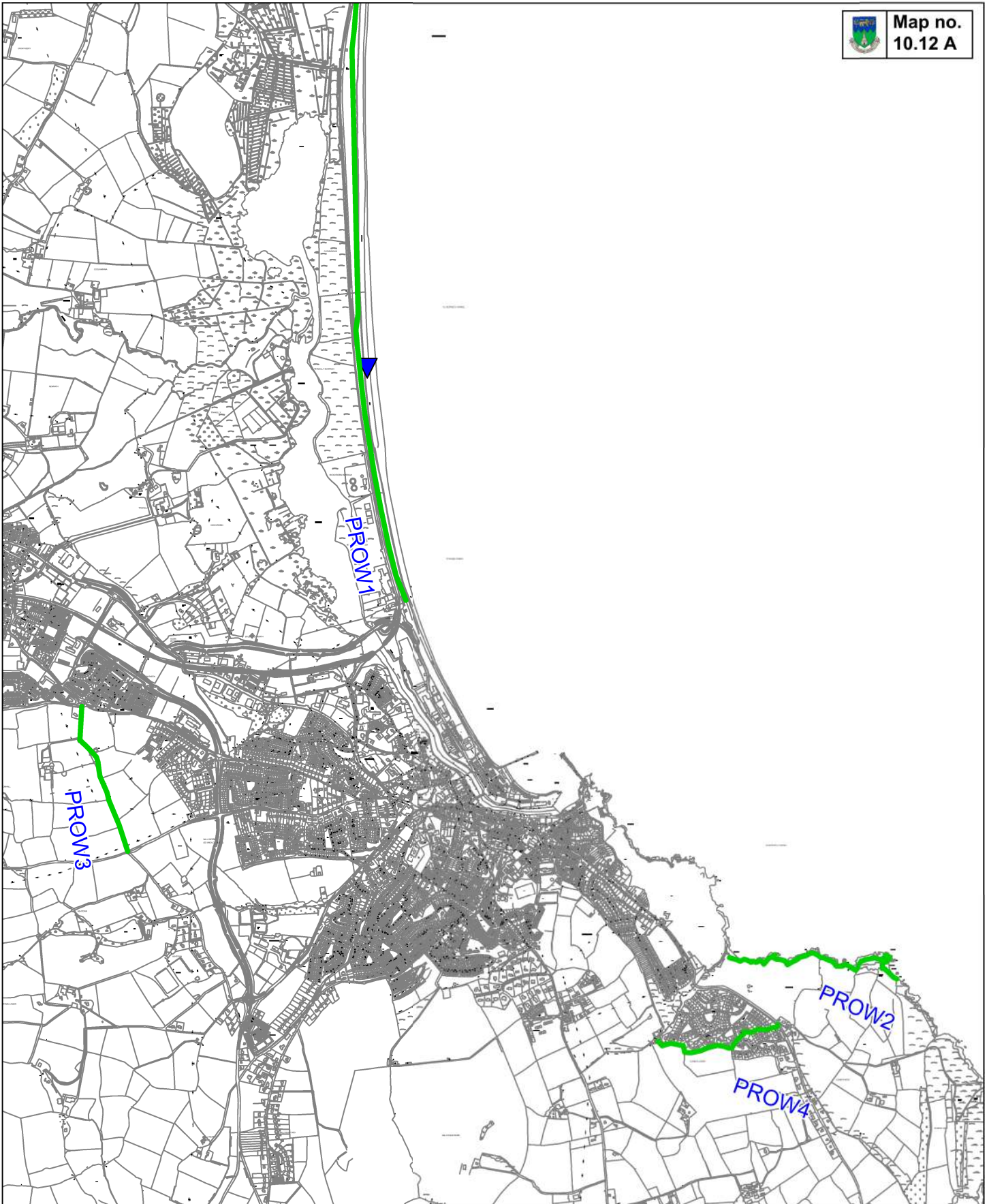
	Site Name	Site Description	Geological Feature
1	Powerscourt Waterfall	A large corrie with a notable waterfall in the corrie backwall	Important for both the glacial feature and for the rocks influence in forming the waterfall
2	Bray Head	Coastal headland with extensive natural exposure and sea cliffs, plus railway cuttings	The Cambrian trace fossils found on Bray Head are a type locality for some species, and important
3	Greystones Beach	A 2 km long coastal section exposing several units of glacial till	A particularly impressive exposure into deep glacial tills, with several unique elements exposed
4	Rocky Valley	This site comprises a very small, disused quarry on side of the Rocky Valley	Palynological data provide the most reliable age so far obtained for the Bray Group rocks
5	Slieveroe lane and rail cutting	A lane and a short section of railway cutting	Graptolite fossils from black slates and a rich assemblage of brachiopods and trilobites
6	Mottee Stone	A large erratic boulder, perched at approximately 250m above sea level on a prominent hill	An important site in terms of imagining the power of glaciation
7	Powerscourt Deerpark Cave	A small cave, which may have been enlarged by excavation, within a stream bed	This cave is the only known natural cave in Wicklow
8	Avoca - Connary	Connary mine site is on high ground surrounded by rolling farmland and private dwellings	Mining last took place in Connary in the 19th Century; subsequently, open shafts were capped
9	Avoca - Cronebane	Cronebane is centred on Cronebane open mine pit	The site covers the area of the 19th-century Cronebane mine site, of which little remains
10	Avoca - Tigroney East	A narrow site containing a deep open pit, as well as extensive mine-waste covered ground	Tigroney East was the site of intensive mining in the 18th, 19th, and the 20th century
11	Avoca - Tigroney West	This site includes a flat area and a steep, partly wooded section hosting huge volumes of mine waste	Tigroney West contains the largest and best-preserved engine house at Avoca
12	Avoca - West Avoca	West Avoca occupies a hillside site above the Avoca River and a large grassy site on the river bank	The West Avoca site incorporates two major 19th-century mine sites, Ballygahan and Ballymurtagh
13	Glendasan - St. Kevins	St. Kevin's mine site is on the north bank of the Glendasan River	The St. Kevin's site is unusual in Glendasan as it was the focus of extensive 20th-century mining
14	Glendasan - Foxrock	Foxrock mine site is located on the north side of the Glendasan River	The Foxrock site is one of the most prominent mine sites in the Glendasan valley
15	Glendasan - Hero	The site, in two parts, is on the south bank of the Glenealo River	This is one of the best preserved and studied 19th-century ore processing

			sites in the country
16	Glendasan - Ruplagh	The site is spread over an area in excess of 8 hectares in moorland	The Ruplagh site is the western-most mine site in the Glendasan valley
17	Glendasan - Luganure	The site comprises two 19th century mine sites on the northern slopes of Camaderry Mountain	The Luganure–Hawkrock site is one of the most substantial 19th century mine sites in the valley
18	Ballyknockan Quarries	Inactive granite quarries are surrounded by a dispersed village	The economic importance of the stone quarrying industry to the growth of Dublin was significant
19	Glasnamullen	A long stream section with rock exposures in the bed and banks	The site is a rare piece of evidence of faulting in eastern Ireland from the Miocene
20	Athdown Moraine	The Athdown Moraine is a large body of sands and gravels deposited at the end of the last Ice Age.	The Athdown Moraine includes a distinctive hummocky topography at Athdown
21	Blessington Delta	A large accumulation of sands and gravels which has been quarried extensively	A high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge, standing proud of the surrounding landscape
22	Britonstown	Two interlocking glacial meltwater channels, formed by water escaping from Glacial Lake Blessington	A site with good teaching potential on glacial meltwater erosion, as the feature is accessible
23	Dunran Channel	A deep channel that was formed by meltwater erosion on the eastern flank of the Wicklow Mountains	The Dunran channel is up to 80m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels
24	Enniskerry Delta	A large accumulation of sands and gravels which has been quarried extensively historically	An excellent example of a deglacial, ice marginal, meltwater-deposited feature
25	Glen Of The Downs	A deep channel that was formed by meltwater erosion on the northeastern flank of the mountains	The Glen of the Downs is considered to have formed completely in the late-glacial Period
26	Glenmacnass Valley	The Glenmacnass Valley is a deep glacial valley in the central Wicklow Mountains	A stunning example of a glaciated U-shaped valley, with steep sides, a flat floor, and a waterfall
27	Glenmalure	The Glenmalure valley is one of the longest glacial valleys in the country	The Glenmalure mines are of interest as the oldest of the lead mines along the edge of the granite
28	Lough Ouler	Lough Ouler rests within a deep glacial corrie, situated in the centre of the Wicklow Mountains	This is a fine example of a corrie, with bounding moraine feature
29	Woodenbridge Wellfield	The Woodenbridge Wellfield is the public water supply source for the Arklow area	These are very productive bored wells which are among the top-yielding wells in the country
30	Lough Nahanagan	Lough Nahanagan rests within a deep glacial corrie, situated in the centre of the Wicklow Mountains	The post-glacial period in Ireland is called the Nahanagan Stadial following dating of the moraines
31	Manger-Saundersgrove	The Manger-Saundersgrove site includes a number of elevated fields	The fields comprise a 'delta' feature composed of deep glaciofluvial and

	e	under pasture	glaciolacustrine sediments
32	Snugborough	A deep hollow along a hedgerow, which separate two fields, which is a 'pingo rampart'	The feature is an excellent example of a periglacial feature, formed in permafrost
33	Tober Demesne	A spring emerges from deep glaciofluvial gravels and flows into a man-made 'fish pond' feature	One of the largest springs in County Wicklow
34	Toor Channel	A deep channel formed by meltwater erosion on the northwestern flank of the Wicklow Mountains	The Toor Channel is up to 40m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels
35	Glen Ding	A deep channel formed by meltwater erosion on the northwestern flank of the Wicklow Mountains	Glen Ding is up to 50m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels
36	Upper Lockstown Delta and Kings River	A large accumulation of sands and gravels which has been quarried extensively	This is an excellent example of a deglacial, ice marginal, meltwater-deposited feature
37	Wicklow Service Area	This is a long cutting behind a new Motorway Service Station	This fresh and large exposure of Bray Group rocks gives a detailed picture of rock structure
38	Aughrim Quarry	The site consists of two abandoned quarries cut into the western side of a hill	The quarries at Tinnakilly are among the best exposures of a certain suite of minor granitoids
39	Avoca - Sroughmore	The Sroughmore site is a hillside pasture field on the northwestern side of the Connary mine site	Sroughmore contains two concrete structures that are the remains of a 19th-century aerial ropeway
40	Ballydonnell	The Ballydonnell floodplain occupies the floor of one of three basins that make up the Upper Liffey	One of the best sites in Wicklow for studying environmental change since the last ice age
41	Ballyrahan Quarry	A small long-abandoned quarry developed in a minor granitoid intrusion	The site contains the best exposure of microtonalite; unique tungsten-tin mineralization in Wicklow
42	Camaderry Appinite	Extensive, large-scale outcrops on the upper part of the southern face of Camaderry Mountain	The site provides excellent exposure in the most significant appinite intrusion in southeast Ireland
43	Glendalough	A deep glacial valley in the central Wicklow Mountains, including mining sites within	A superb example of a glacial valley; the many, accessible mine features add considerable interest
44	Cloghleagh Mine	A small, probably quarried, escarpment of rock includes a small mine adit	The site contains a fault zone with minerals which can be seen close up in the buttress of rock
45	Devil's Glen	A deep ravine, oriented east-west, bounded by woodland, and stretches a distance of almost 3km	The location has good potential as a teaching site on glacial meltwater erosion
46	Glencullen River	A narrow, steep-sided wooded valley in the northeast Wicklow Mountains	The valley formed along a geological fault and is a meltwater channel
47	Goldmines	The site consists of a c. 1.5km-long	This is the site of Wicklow's gold rush or

	River	section of river, typically 2-3 m wide	1798 when placer gold was discovered in the gravels
48	Great Sugar Loaf	A prominent, scree covered, quartzite conical mountain peak	The steep upper slopes are blanketed with extensive patches of loose angular quartzite boulders
49	Greystones (Appinite)	A section of rocky coastline on the scenic and popular Greystones waterfront	The igneous rocks at Greystones are unique because the contact zone is crowded with inclusions
50	Kilmacurra Quarry	Kilmacurra Quarry is a large, partly flooded quarry developed in a diorite intrusion, now abandoned	The quarry provides good exposure of diorite on quarry faces and in loose blocks
51	Hollywood Glen	A deep channel formed by meltwater erosion on the northwestern flank of the Wicklow Mountains	Hollywood Glen is up to 60m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels
52	Kippure	A landmark mountain on the South Dublin-Wicklow county boundary, capped with a prominent tower	This site is excellent for observing the effects of long-term (millennial scale) peat erosion
53	Lough Dan, Lough Tay and Cloghoge River	Scenic lakes occupying depressions in the floors of two adjoining U-shaped valleys	Classic example of U-shaped glacial valleys in one of Wicklow's most scenic glacial landscapes
54	Lough Bray	The Lough Bray site consists of two lakes that occupy two of the most accessible corries in Ireland	This is a fine example of two corries and an arête, with bounding moraine features
55	Lough Dan, North End (Granite contact)	Here the granite-schist contact zone is clearly visible on the mountain slopes flanking the valley	This is an excellent educational site, used by third level student groups, and is accessible
56	Luggala	The site consists of several large outcrops flanking the public road above Lough Tay	The occurrences of coticule at Luggala are relatively abundant and accessible
57	Lugnaquilla	Lugnaquilla is the highest mountain in County Wicklow, and Leinster	This site is of special interest with fine glacial features and the Leinster Batholith slate cap
58	Mullaghcleevun	The site comprises eroded peatland, exposed granite blockfields, perched boulders, granite sand	An excellent site for observing the results of long-term (millennial scale) peat erosion
59	River Dargle Valley	A stretch of the river meandering from a wide and flat valley into cascades	This is an important County Geological site partly because of its dramatic gorge landform
60	The Scalp	The Scalp comprises a deep channel that was formed by meltwater erosion	The Scalp channel is up to 70m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels
61	Upper River Liffey	A wide river floodplain in the upper Liffey catchment as well as flanking terraces	The site is very important to the understanding of past environmental changes in Wicklow
62	Wicklow-	An uninterrupted shingle beach	The shingle ridge (beach) is a feature

	Greystones Coast	extending for over 17km long between Greystones and Wicklow	understood to have formed around 5,000 years ago
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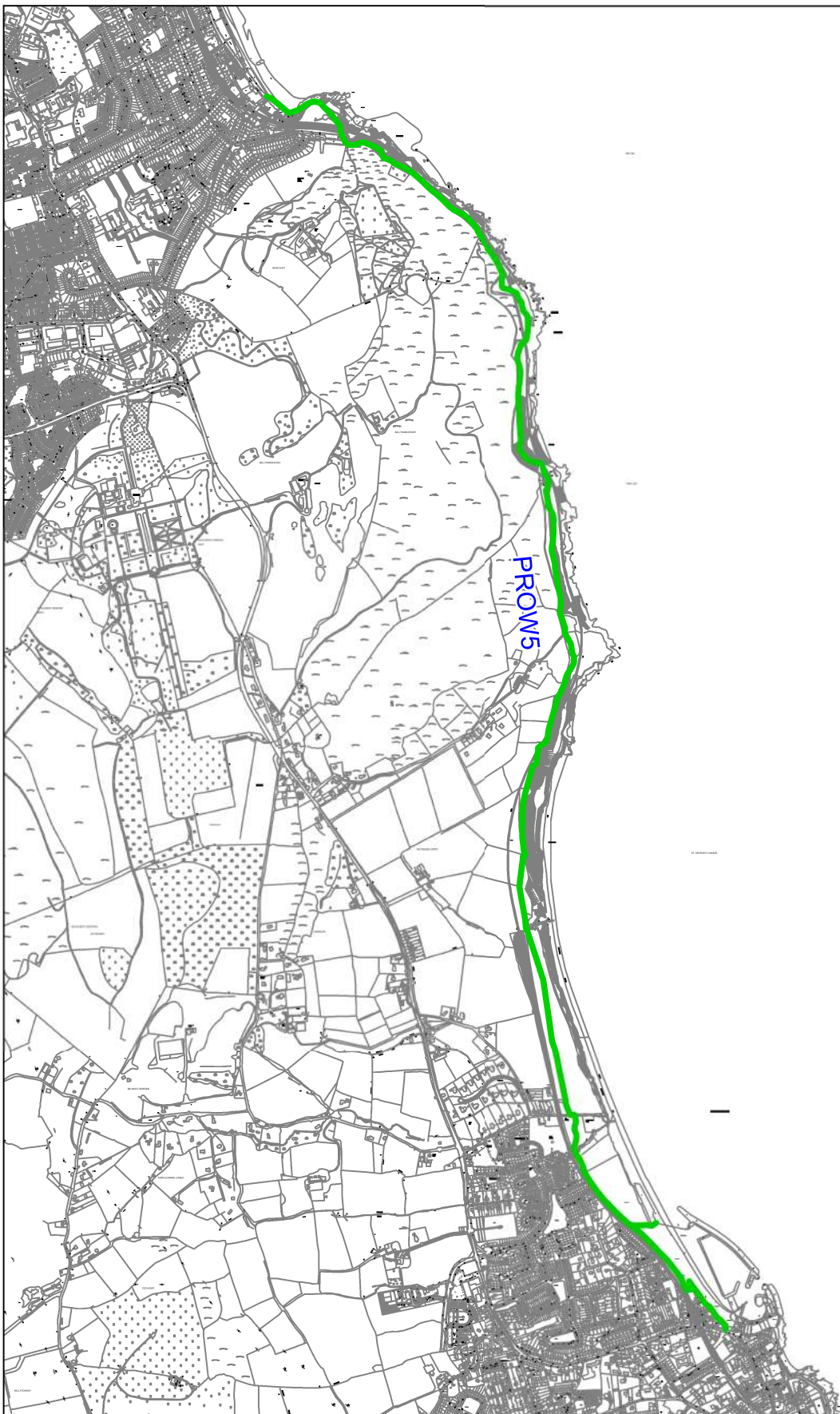
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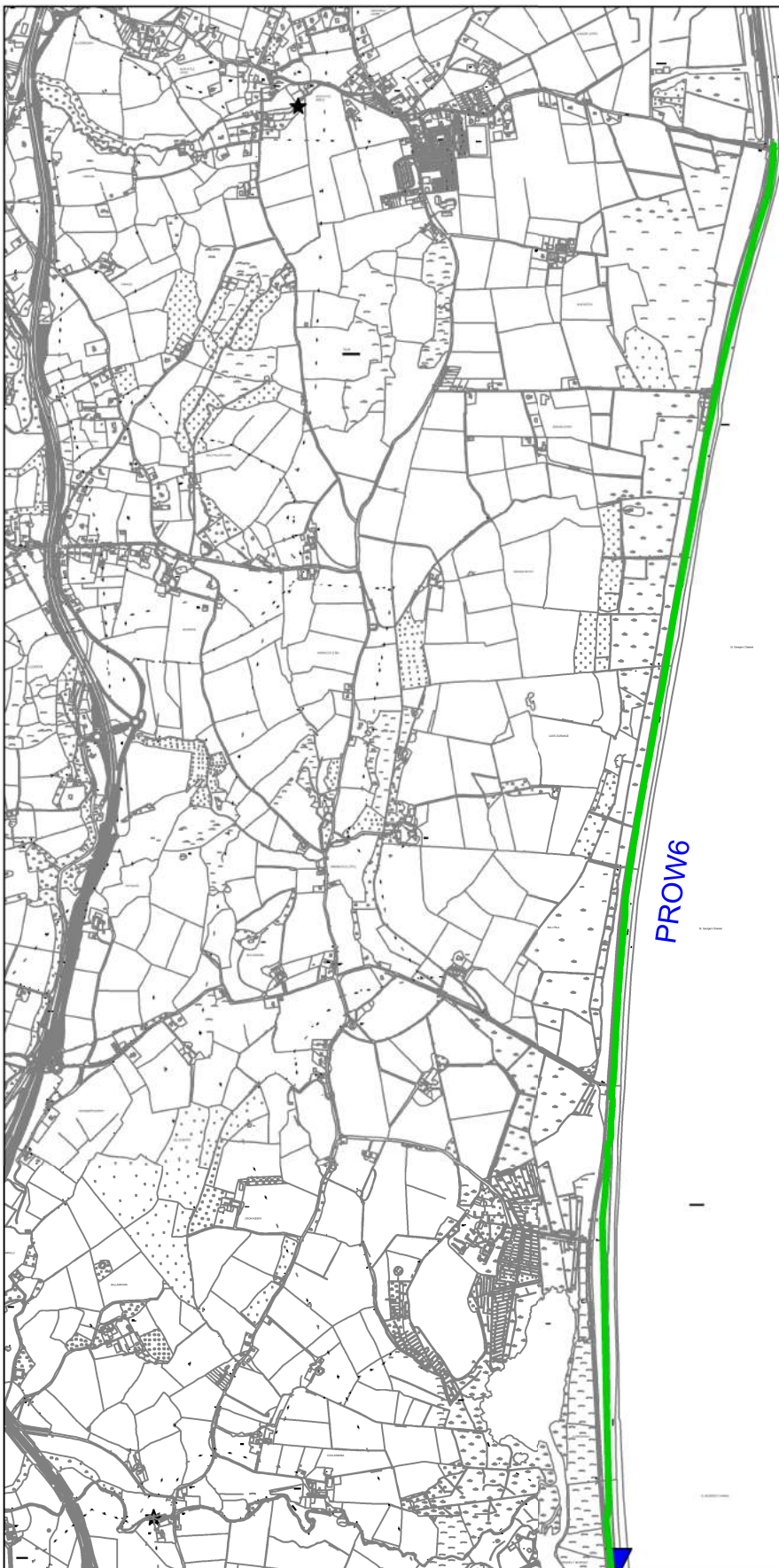
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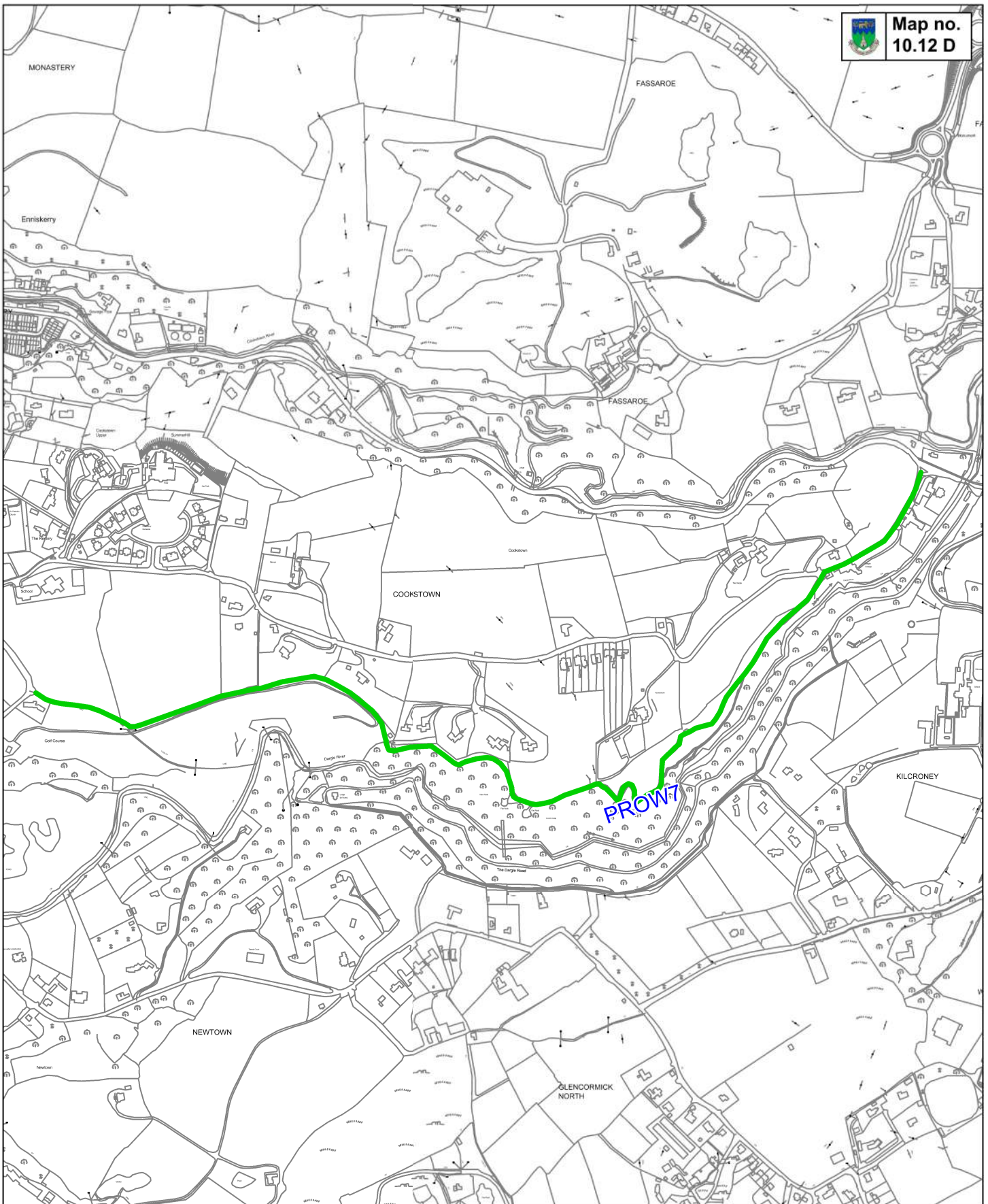
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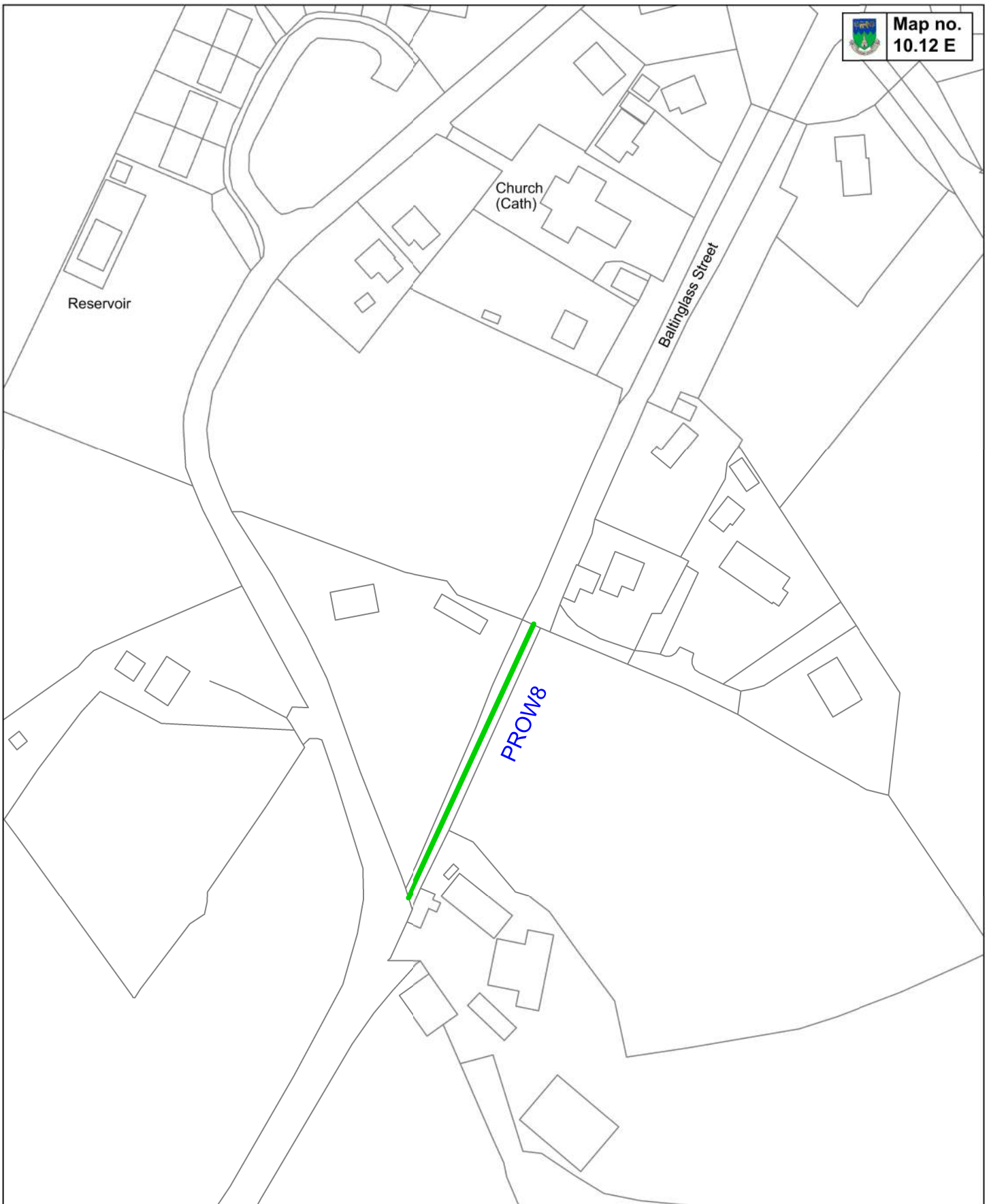
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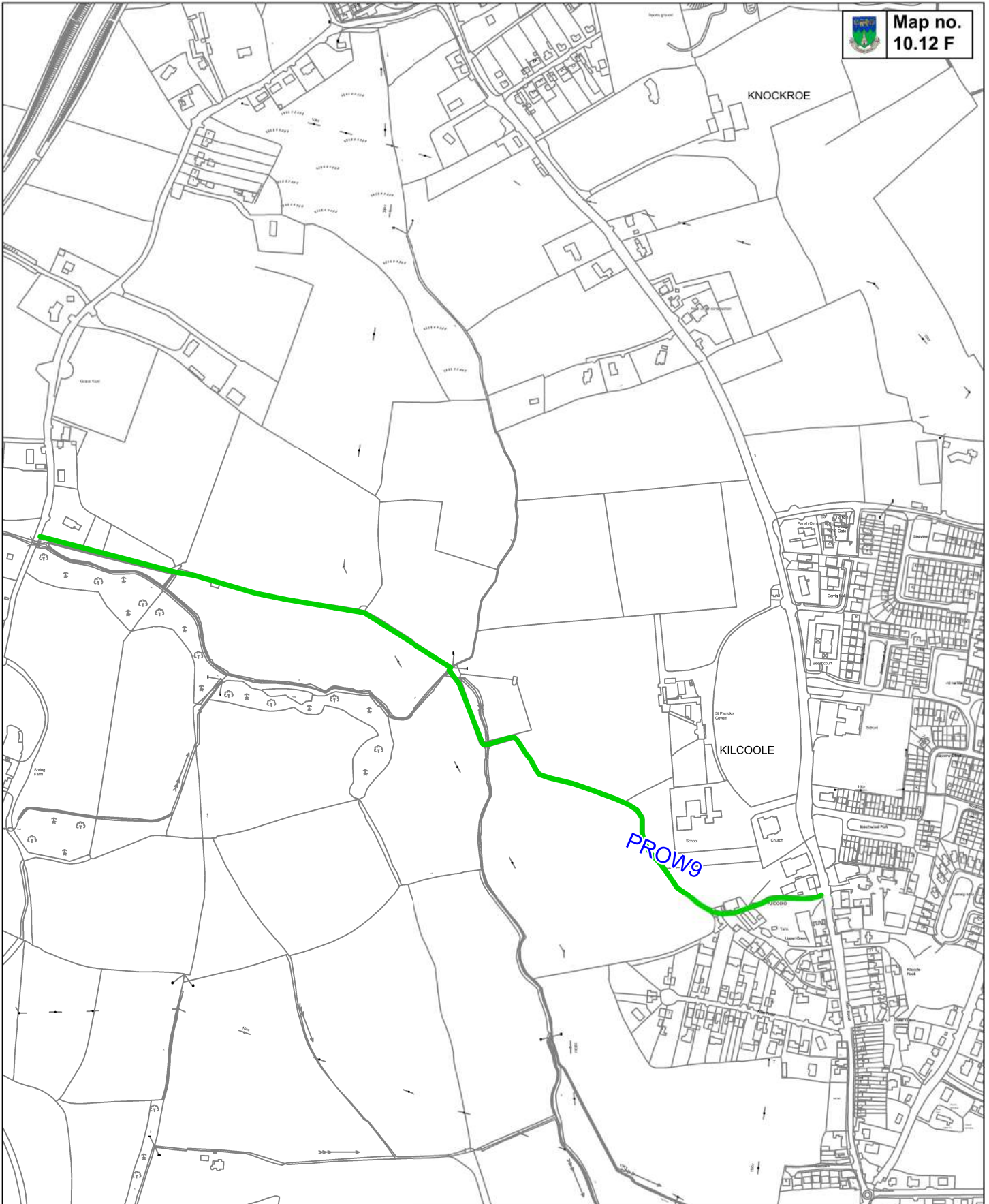
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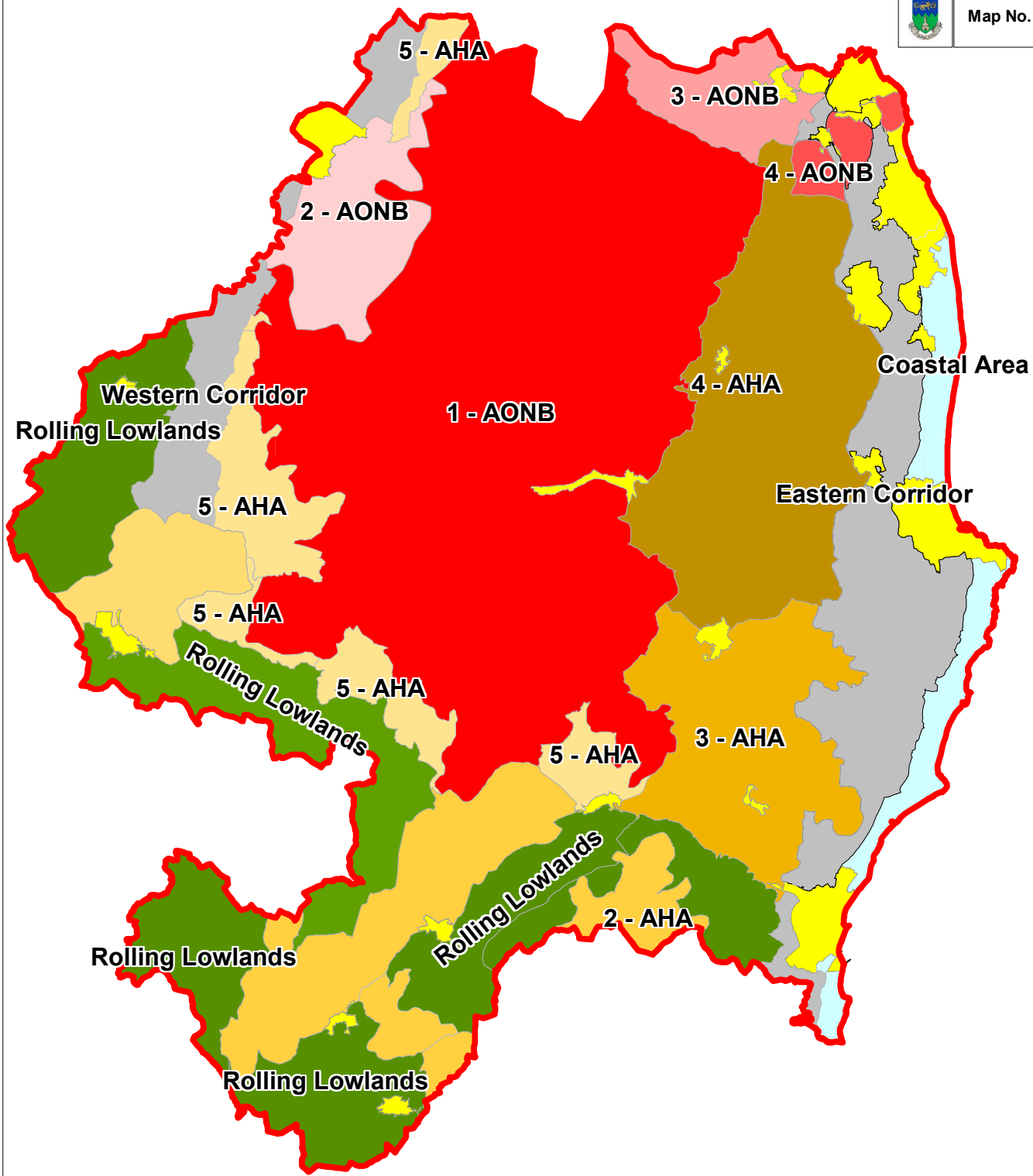
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














Wicklow

Landscape Category Map

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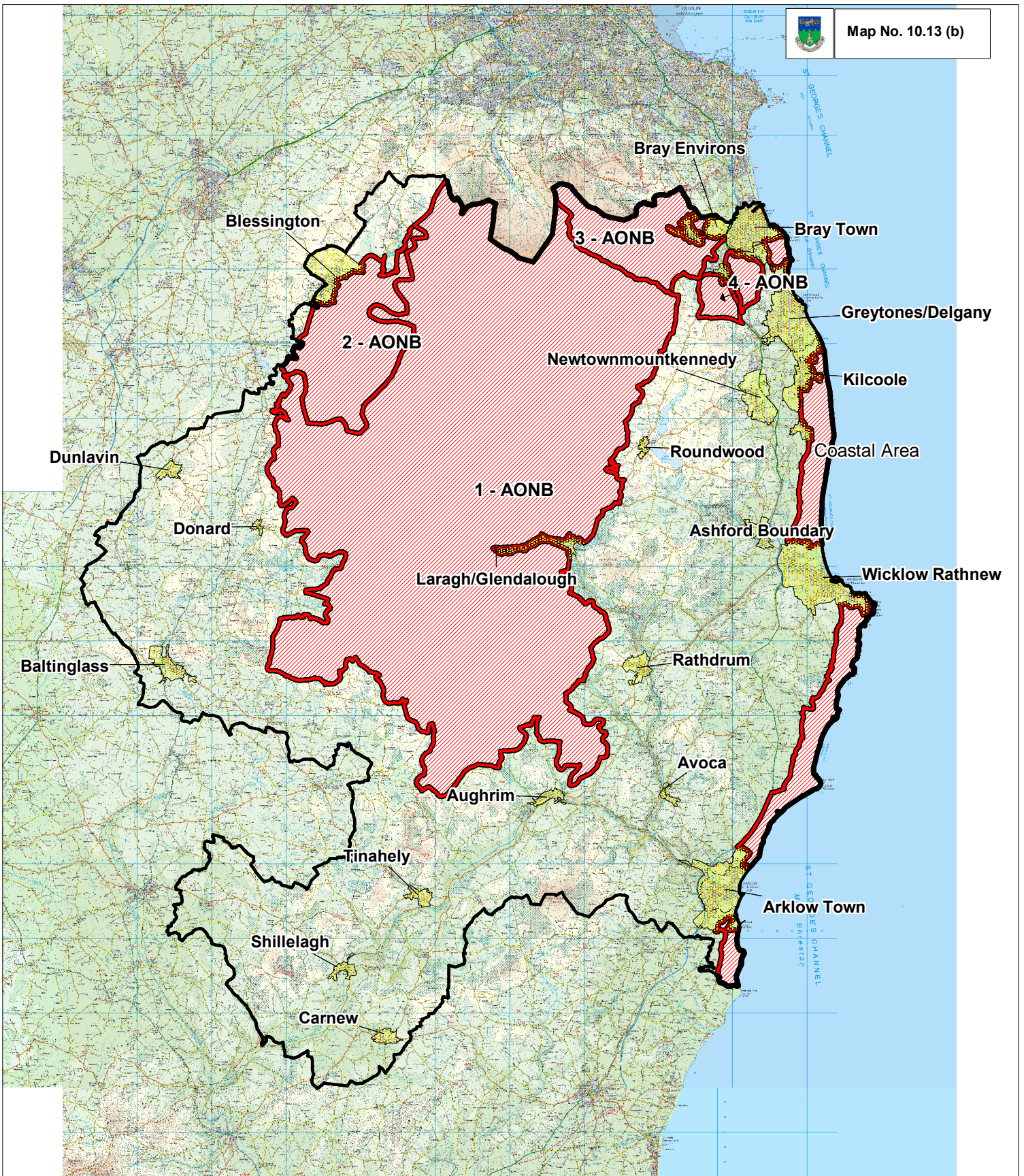
LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------|
|  | Mountain Uplands (1 - AONB) |  | Transitional Lands (5 - AHA) |
|  | Poulaphuca Reservoir (2 - AONB) |  | Corridor Area West |
|  | Glencree/Glencullen (3 - AONB) |  | Corridor Area East |
|  | The Northern Hills (4 - AONB) |  | Rolling Lowlands |
|  | Baltinglass Hills (1 - AHA) |  | Urban Areas |
|  | Southern Hills (2 - AHA) |  | Coastal Area (AONB) |
|  | South East Mountain Lowlands (3 - AHA) |  | County Boundary |
|  | North East Mountain Lowlands (4 - AHA) | | |



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


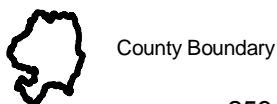
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Landscape Category Map

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LEGEND - AONB LANDSCAPE CATEGORIES

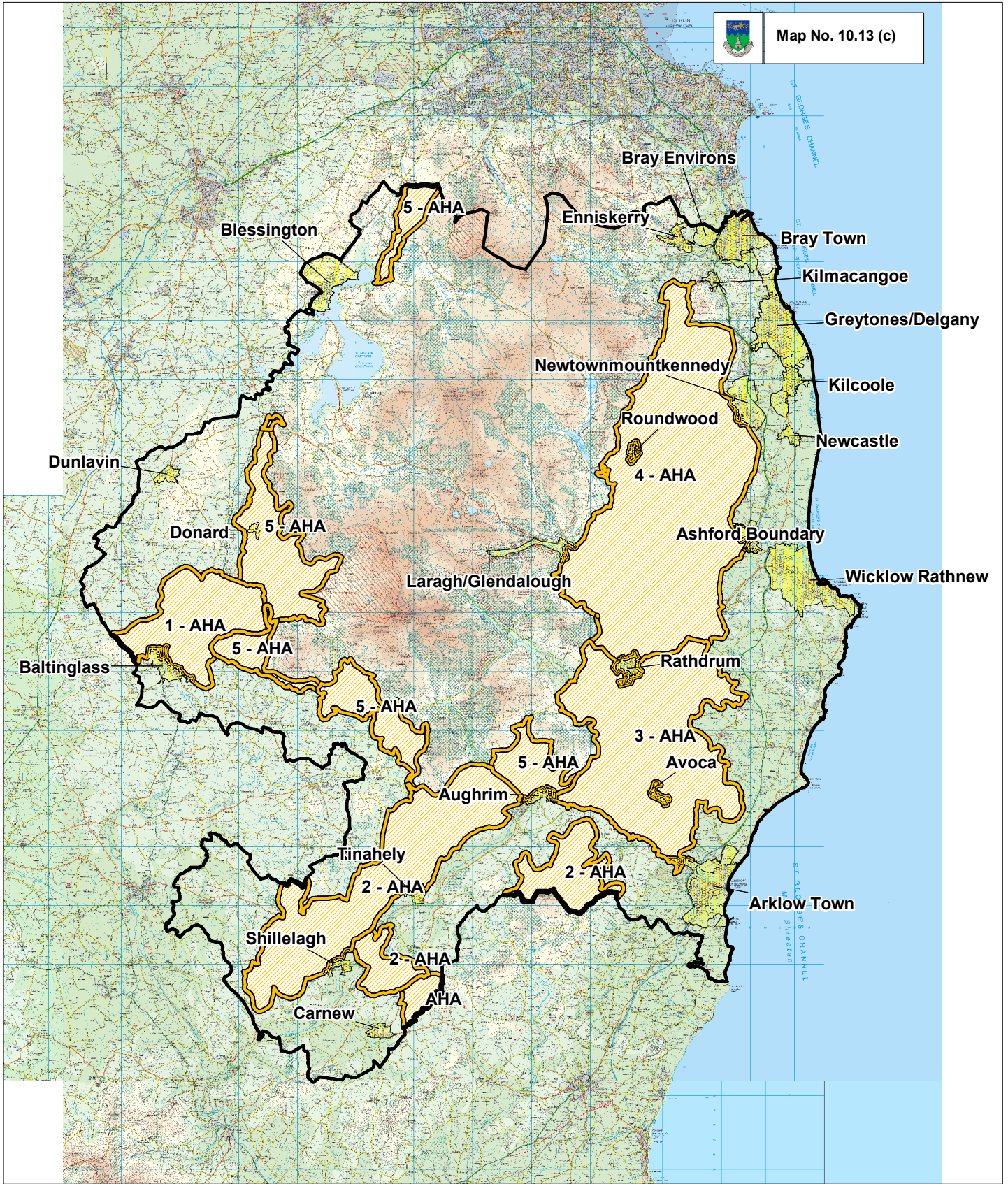
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|---|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  | Mountain Uplands (1 - AONB) |  | The Northern Hills (4 - AONB) |
|  | Poulaphuca Reservoir (2 - AONB) |  | Coastal Area (AONB) |
|  | Glencree/Glencullen (3 - AONB) |  | Urban Areas |



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LEGEND - AHA LANDSCAPE CATEGORIES

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Baltinglass Hills (1 - AHA) | | North East Mountain Lowlands (4 - AHA) |
| | Southern Hills (2 - AHA) | | Transitional Lands (5 - AHA) |
| | South East Mountain Lowlands (3 - AHA) | | Urban Areas |



County Boundary



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LEGEND - CORRIDOR AREA LANDSCAPE CATEGORIES

 Western Corridor

 Eastern Corridor

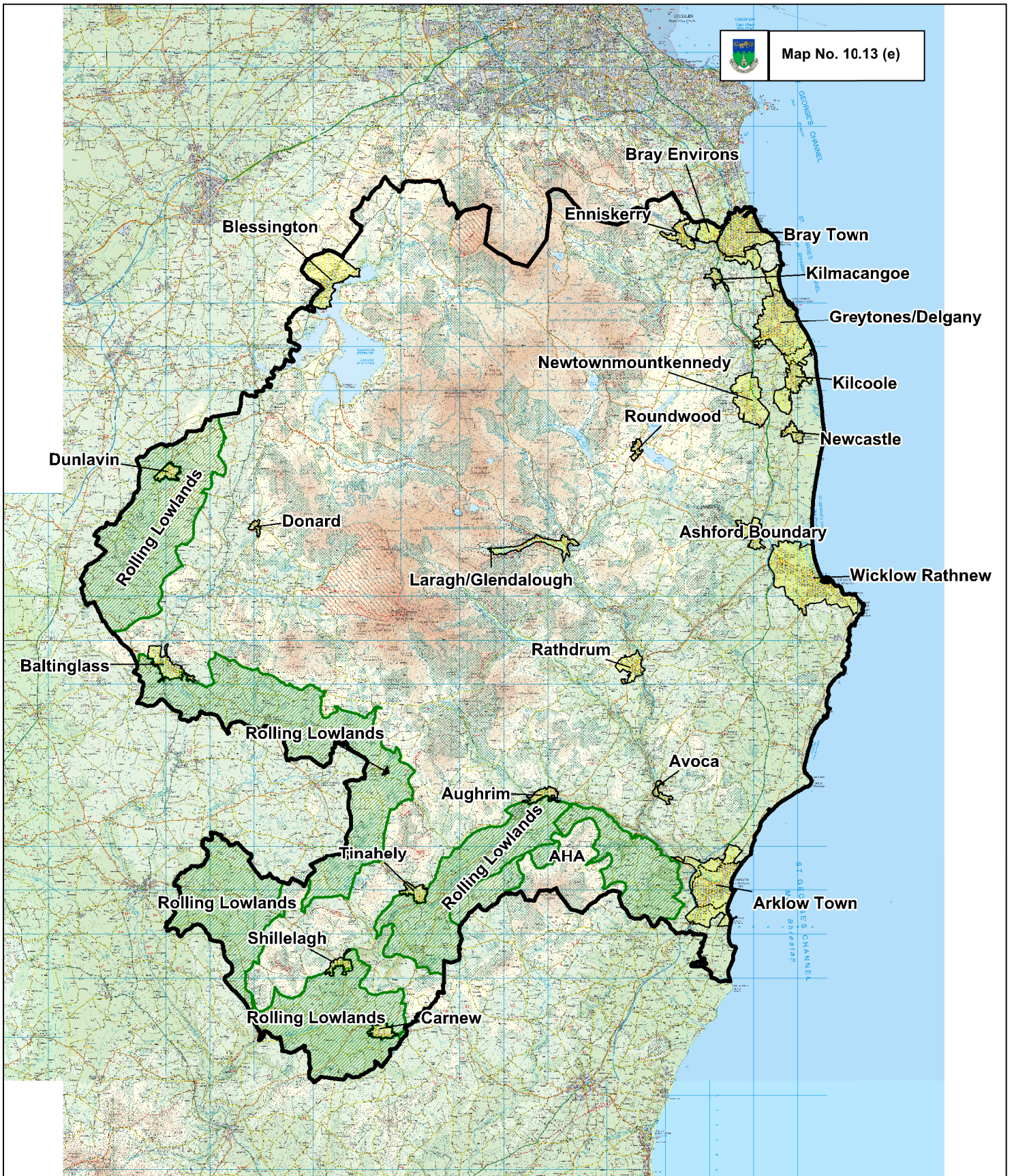
 Urban Areas

 County Boundary



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LEGEND - ROLLING LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE CATEGORIES

 Rolling Lowlands

 Urban Areas

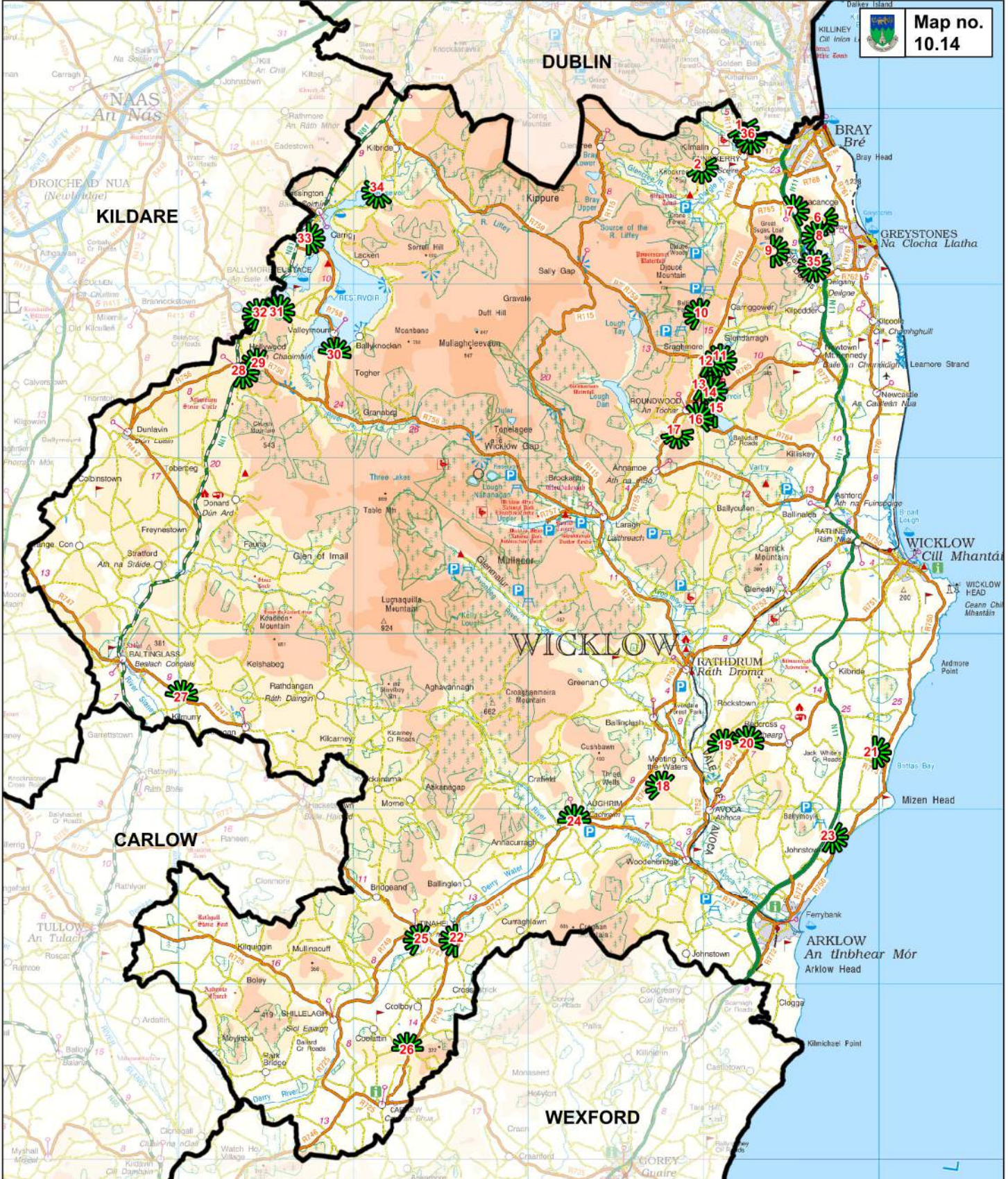
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Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest

 View

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Schedule 10.14 Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest

	Origin of view	Description
1	R117 at The Scalp Enniskerry	View of Sugarloaf Mountains and Enniskerry
2	L1011 at Curtlestown, Glencree Drive	View of Bray head, Sugarloaf mountain and Djouce Mountain
6	L5529, Templecarrig, Southern Slopes of Little Sugar Loaf	View to the south and southeast of Kindlestown Hill and the coast
7	N11 Kilmacanogue	View of Little Sugarloaf
8	L1028 at Ballydonagh and Coolnaskeagh	View of Great SugarLoaf and Little SugarLoaf
9	L1031 Red Lane, Calary	View down valley towards sea
10	L1036 at Sroughmore, Roundwood	View of White Mountain and Djouce Mountain
11	L5054 at Knockraheen Vartry Drive	View of Vartry Reservoir in the vicinity of Causeway
12	R 755 at Sroughmore, Roundwood, Vartry Drive	View of Vartry Reservoir
13	R 755 at Mullinaveig, Roundwood, Vartry Drive	View of Vartry Reservoir
14	R 765 Knockraheen, Vartry Reservoir	View across Vartry Reservoir
15	L5061 Vartry Drive	View of Vartry Reservoir to the west and surrounding hills
16	R764 Vartery Drive, Roundwood	View of Vartry Reservoir to the northeast
17	R755 South of Roundwood	View of Derralossary Church
18	L6169, at Crone More	Views from the L-6169 towards the R753 and the Avonbeg River Valley and across to Cushbawn Mountain
19	L6154 and Mottee Stone Connery, Avoca	View of Surrounding Mottee Stone to North East and South
20	L2167 Kilmacoo, Parnell Drive	View of valley and towards Kilmacrea Pass
21	L5677 Tonlagee, Brittas Bay	View towards Brittas Bay sea, sand dunes and beach
22	R 748 Holts Way at Killaveny	View from crossroads to northwest and southwest of Tinahely and surrounding area
23	N11 South of Scratenagh Cross	View of sea and coast
24	R747 at Aughrim bridge, Holt's Way	View of Aughrim and hill to North
25	R747 East of Tinahely, Holt's Way	View of Tinahely and Hill to West
26	R748 Kilcavan Gap	View to North East and North West
27	R747 South of Baltinglass Slaney Drive	View of Rathnagree and Rathcoran Hillforts
28	N81 Hollywood	View of Slievecorragh Hill from N81
29	R756 at Hollywood, Wicklow Gap Drive	View to west over N81 and towards Kildare
30	R758 Annacarney, Valleymount	View northeastwards of Poulaphuca Reservoir

31	L8361, Willmount Vallemount	View northeastwards of Poulaphouce Reservoir
32	N81 Poulaphuca, south of Blessington	View of River Liffey Ballymore Eustace Reservoir
33	N 81, Burgage More, South of Blessington	View of Poulaphuca Reservoir and inlet
34	L4371 Treecastles, Blessington Liffey Valley	View Threecastles (National Mon 532) & broken view of Poulaphuca Reservoir through trees
35	Glen of the Downs	View of north, west and south from the Octagon on the east side of the N11 in the Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve over Woodlands, Downs Hill, Downs, Calary and red lane areas, Views to east, south and west over Drummin hill and Silebawn areas from the u
36	L5507 Ballyman Road, Enniskerry	View of The Scalp and the Scalp Valley from Ballyman



Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest

 Prospects

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Schedule 10.15 Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest

	Origin	Feature
1	L1011, L1015 & L5014, Glenree	Prospect of mountain area around Glenree Drive, Prince William Seat, Glenree River and Sugarloaf Mountain
2	L1013 Glenree Drive South	Prospect of Tonduff mountain and Glenree river valley. View to east of Sugarloaf mountain
3	L1013 & L1017, Balinagee, Glenree Drive	Prospect of Glenree Valley and Sugarloaf
4	L1033, Rocky Valley Drive	Prospect downhill from the road to the west, north and northeast towards Powerscourt, Enniskerry and Bray
5	R755 Rocky Valley, Kilmacanogue	Prospects of both sides of Rocky Valley, Kilmacanogue
6	Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk	Prospect of sea, cliffs and across southern slopes of Bray Head to R761 from Cliff Walk
7	Railway from Greystones to Wicklow town	Prospect of coast along railway line
8	L1035 Long Hill, Kilmacanogue	Prospect towards Bray Head, Great Sugarloaf and coast
9	L1031 Red Lane and R755 at Calary	Prospect of Great Sugarloaf at Calary
10	R755 at Calary	Prospect of Ballyremon commons and Calary upper
11	N11 south of Kilmacanogue	Prospect to west of Great Sugarloaf, across Kilmacanogue Marsh and Quill Road
12	L5529 Little Sugarloaf Kilmacanogue (Bohilla Lane)	Prospect of Little Sugarloaf and the coast
13	N11 Glen of the Downs	Prospect of both sides of Glen of the Downs
14	N11 at Kilmullin	Prospect of Kilcoole and the coast
15	From Coynes Cross on N11 towards Wicklow	View of Wicklow Head and Coastline
16	R764 and L5061 at Roundwood	Prospect of Vartry Reservoir
17	R115 Military Road Glenree to Laragh	Prospect of both sides of mountainous terrain
18	R759, Sally Gap Road	Prospect extending from Sroughmore to Balysmutton
19	R 759 Manor Kilbride To Ballysmutton, Liffey Valley Drive	Prospect of Liffey valley and mountains
20	R758, L8369, L4364 & L4365, Lake Drive from the N81 at Glashina to Oldcourt	Prospect of Poulaphuca Reservoir
21	N81 at Russborough	Prospect of Russborough House, Russeltown park and towards Poulaphuca Reservoir
22	L8347 Ballintober	Prospect eastwards of Lakes and Moanbane mountain
23	R 756 Wicklow Gap Road	Prospect of area around the Wicklow mountains extending from Laragh to Slievecorragh
24	R 757 at Glendalough	Prospect of both sides of Glendalough Valley
25	L1059 from Oldbridge to Laragh	Mountainous and forested prospect in a westerly and southerly direction

26	Lough Dan Road (L10591)	Prospect to Lough Dan Valley and Carrigeenshinnagh Mountain
27	R755 South of Annamoe	Prospect of Avonmore River Valley, Castlekevin and Trooperstown Hill
28	R755 Annamoe	Prospect of Annamoe Hill and Avonmore River Valley
29	N11 South of Rathnew	Prospect of Murrough and sea
30	R750 to Arklow	Prospect towards sea from coast road
31	R750 Wicklow to Arklow	Prospect towards sea from Coast Road
32	N11 at the Tap and Kilbride	Prospect of Kilbride and Castletimon Hills
33	N11 south of Scratanagh Cross Roads	Prospect of Ballymoyle Hill
34	L6171 and L2172 at Barraniskey, Arklow	Prospects of Webbs River Valley and Arklow
35	L2172 and L6167 at Crone Upper, Redcross	Prospect to Northeast and east towards Wicklow head and coast
36	R754 west of Redcross, Parnell Drive	Prospect towards Kilmacrea and across Redcross river valley
37	L5155 Connary, Parnell Drive	Prospect towards Avonmore River valley
38	R752 from the White Bridge to The Meetings	Prospect eastwards and westwards towards Avoca valley and deciduous forests
39	L2149 to the north of Avondale Forest Park, Parnell Drive	Prospect towards Forest Park, Avonmore River Valley and Parnell quarry at Balleese
40	L5118 Deputy's Pass, Glenealy	Prospect of both sides of Deputy's Pass including woodland.
41	R755 Vale of Clara Laragh to Rathdrum	Wooded Valley prospect of Clara Vale on both sides of valley and Clara bridge and church
42	L6086 northern side of Clara Vale	Prospect to north-east of Trooperstown Hill and Clara Vale to south-west.
43	L2083, L2128, L3260, Laragh (Bookey Bridge) to Mullin Crossroads, via Aghavannagh	Prospects from both sides of military road from Laragh to Mullins Crossroads
44	L6082 from Glenmalure to Baravore	Prospect of both sides of Avonbeg River Valley
45	L8294 and L8295 at Brusselstown	Prospect of Spinans Hill and Brusselstown Ringfort
46	L8297 at Spinans	Prospect to the east of Spinans Hill towards the castle on summit of Ballyhook Hill
47	N81 north of Baltinglass, Slaney Drive	Prospect of Slaney river valley, Baltinglass Abbey Rathnagree and Rathcoran hillforts
48	N81 at Merginstown Glen	Prospect of Carrigower river valley
49	L8341 and L8333 at Hollywood Glen	Prospect of both sides of Hollywood Glen
50	L8292 at Tuckmill Hill and Coolinarrig	Prospect of Rathnagree and Rathcorna hillforts and towards Spinan Hill and Brusselstown ring
51	R749 from Tinahely to Shillelagh	Prospect to south and east along R749 towards the Derry valley and Tomnafinnoge Wood
52	R 748 Holts Way at Coolroe	Prospect towards Annagh Hill and Croaghan
53	L5108-63 Castletimon, Brittas	Views towards beach, sand dunes and Arday

54	R748 Holts Way at Coolalug, Mucklagh, Tomnaskela and Kilpipe	Prospect across the Derry water river and towards south Wicklow mountains
55	L2196 Ballycoogue to Mooreshill	Prospect of Goldmine River valley and Woodenbridge area
56	L6197 Ballycoog to Coolahullin	Prospect of Aughrim River Valley
57	L2197 at Coolgarrow	Prospect of Goldmine River valley
58	R747 from Woodenbridge to Coates Bridge, Aughrim	Prospect extending from Woodenbridge with tree lined valley and good river focus
59	L4262 Ballinabarney Gap to Mullins Cross	Prospect of Lugnaquilla Mountain and Dereen River Valley
60	L4262 at Derrynamuck, Military Road	Prospect of Keaden Mountain and vicinity of Dwyer McAllister cottage
61	R752 from Avoca to Woodenbridge	Prospect southwards and eastwards towards Avoca Valley and deciduous forests
62	R747 Vale of Avoca east of Woodenbridge	Prospect of both sets of Vale of Avoca including Avoca River Valley
63	L-2180-48 from Raheen to Sheepwalk	Prospect of Vale of Avoca
64	R7611-L1028 Kilruddery to Templecarrig	View of Little Sugal Loaf
65	Holy Year Cross, Tigroney	Prospect of Avoca at River Valley from the viewing point at the Holy Year
66	R761 East of Kilruddery Estate	Prospect of Bray Head from R761