

## CHAPTER 17

# NATURAL HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY

### 17.0 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to set out strategies and objectives with regard to the natural heritage and biodiversity in the County. The chapter also encompasses landscape conservation. The maps and schedules associated with this chapter are presented at the end of the chapter.

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 it has a vital role to play in our response to the climate emergency.

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.

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 chapter 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.

It is the overall strategy of this plan to:

- To conserve and enhance biodiversity in recognition of the many ecosystem services provided to society;
- To avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment and promote appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of any development;
- 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; 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.

With reference to the **National, Regional and County Objectives** set out in Chapter 2 of this plan, the protection and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity will contribute to numerous goals across the three pillars of 'sustainable healthy communities', 'climate action' and 'economic opportunity' by:

- protecting our natural capital, which underpins our economy and society, which provides us with the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we depend on for life and numerous other goods and services we depend on for health, happiness and prosperity;
- protecting and enhancing Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services and promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as coastlines, farmlands, peatlands, uplands, woodlands and wetlands;
- conserving and enhancing biodiversity, protected habitats and species;
- conserving and enhancement of water resources including sea, rivers, lakes and groundwater;
- contributing to reduction and management of flood risk;
- promoting and facilitating an environmentally sustainable approach to practicing agriculture and forestry;
- supporting appropriate human access to natural assets and areas as a recreational resource, supporting physical and mental wellbeing.

## 17.1 Legislative & Policy Context

### EU Directives

The Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive are the principal sources of legislation for nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the European 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 protection of Designated European Sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, finds its origins in the EU Directive on the Conservation of Habitats, Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC), more commonly known as the "Habitats Directive" which came into force in 1994 and was transposed into Irish law in 1997. "The Habitats Directive" provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance.

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

The conservation status of a habitat is defined in Article 1 of the Directive as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions, as well as the long-term survival of its typical species. The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as favourable when:

- Its natural range and the areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing,
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable<sup>1</sup>.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC

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

As set out in MN2000<sup>2</sup>, the conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species forms the most ambitious and far-reaching challenge of the Habitats Directive. This is set out in Article 6 of the Directive, which governs the conservation, and management of European sites. In this context Article 6 is viewed as one of the most important of the 24 articles of the directive being the one which determines the relationship between conservation and land use.

The Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) 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 European 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 European site/s and that the requirements of the directives have been satisfied. If the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European 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 7.

## EU Guidance

A range of guidance regarding natural heritage, biodiversity and ecosystems is provided by the EU. Most recently, the EU has developed guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decisions making (2019). This guidance document aims to help decision-makers who are seeking to improve the impact, cost effectiveness and sustainability of their policies, plans and investments. It does this by (i) highlighting the benefits that flow from nature to people and the need to protect and enhance the ecosystems that deliver these benefits, and (ii) providing an overview of the steps and available tools to assess and integrate these benefits into policy and planning decisions.

The guidance is applicable to all ecosystems across EU landscapes and the marine environment (including artificial and semi-natural habitats that result from interactions with human activities, such as urban or agricultural ecosystems). This guidance draws on key EU policy frameworks, and promotes the integration of ecosystems and their services into decision-making in sector policies and instruments having a connection or dependence with the environment. It is based on the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, and also implements action 1b of the EU action plan for nature, people and the economy.

The guidance is addressed to a range of EU, national and local decision-makers in different sectors. It is also addressed to planners and businesses who may have varying levels of experience in assessing and integrating ecosystem services in policy and planning. It therefore outlines basic concepts, principles and a generic, cross-cutting framework for approaching ecosystem services in the common stages of a decision-making process. Within each decision-making stage, readers can find an overview of (i) entry points and steps for integrating ecosystems and their services, (ii) reflections on aspects that need special attention, and (iii) references to tools and resources and to case studies that illustrate the use of these tools and resources.

Due to its broad scope across a wide range of decision-making processes and target groups, the guidance provided in this document remains at a relatively general level. This is also a static document in a field of constantly developing research and practice.

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<sup>2</sup> MANAGING EUROPEAN SITES, The provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (2000)

## **EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) & EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)**

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an important and innovative piece of EU legislation which was transposed into Irish law in 2003. It aims to protect, improve and use sustainably our rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater through an integrated approach. It mandates public participation in the development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans.

The WFD aims for better management of our water resources and affects conservation, fisheries, flood defence, planning and development. It requires us to control all impacts – physical modification, diffuse and point source pollution, abstraction or otherwise – on our water resource.

The Groundwater Directive complements the WFD by establishing environmental objectives for groundwater chemical status and ensuring continuity with previous Groundwater Directives. Alongside surface waters, groundwater is an important natural resource, which supplies some 20-25% of drinking water in Ireland and is important in maintaining wetlands and river flows through dry periods. Groundwater and aquifers in Ireland are protected under EU and national legislation, and local authorities and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are responsible for enforcing this legislation.

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.

A practical and effective means of protecting groundwater and preventing pollution is through the use of a Groundwater Protection Scheme. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater and aquifers, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. In this way it helps public authorities to meet their responsibility to protect groundwater.

Groundwater protection within the County is carried out through the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme which has been undertaken jointly between the GSI and Wicklow County Council. The purpose of the scheme is to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations. The scheme identifies the vulnerability of areas within the County and Groundwater protection responses for existing and new potentially polluting activities.

### **River Basin Management Plan (RBMPs) 2018 – 2021**

The WFD requires that water quality management be centred on river basins, which are natural geographical areas that occur in the landscape. This is in contrast to other water management systems which use administrative management units which have arbitrary boundaries.

The Government has produced a roadmap to better water quality, known as the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). 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 waterbodies. The River Basin Management Plan lists 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. The plan aims to achieve 'good' ecological status and prevent deterioration in water quality in all waters<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The Government is in the process of preparing the RBMP for Ireland 2022 – 2027.

Waterbodies not meeting the required standards are prioritised for assessment of pressures and the assigning of measures to help improve quality. The most recent updates on the status of water bodies within County Wicklow show a 9% increase in waterbodies at 'Good' or 'High' status, while on average nationally there has been a 5% decline in status. In addition to Priority Areas for Action, 'Blue-Dot' catchments have been designated in the RBMP for the protection and improvement of *pristine* water quality. Wicklow has number of blue-dot catchments, but nationally there is a steady decline in the number each year. These pristine waterbodies are very sensitive to pollution or any changes in the catchment.

Continuous efforts to maintain and restore all water bodies within the County to at least 'good' ecological status will be required throughout the lifetime of this Development Plan.

### **Local Authority Waters Programme**

The Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPRO) was previously called the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office. LAWPRO has three core aims:

- To coordinate efforts by Local Authorities, public bodies and other stakeholders to achieve the environmental objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive;
- To support local communities who wish to get involved in the care of their local waters and engage with river basin planning;
- To build a better understanding of the issues impacting on water quality at a local level and recommend improvement measures.

LAWPRO programmes are delivered by a network of 13 Community Water Officers located in centres throughout the country. These officers engage with Local Authority and Regional Authority Teams, as well as the public through Public Participation Networks, Local Community Development Committees, LEADER Groups, Partnerships, sectoral interest groups, Rural Development companies and the Irish Local Development Network.

Community engagement will include education and awareness campaigns to deliver the right message to the right groups in the right way. It is intended that results and lessons learnt from projects and initiatives with a connection to water will be shared widely on social media platforms, thereby facilitating knowledge and information transfer between communities.

### **Landscape**

Ireland signed and ratified the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention (ELC) which came into effect on 1 March 2004. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as '*...an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*'. The Convention, under Article 5(d), requires landscape to be integrated into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as any other policies with possible direct and indirect impacts on landscape. The Convention, in addition to the obvious environmental benefits from properly protecting, managing and planning landscape, highlights the economic and social benefits that accrue such as tourism potential, economic growth, employment and quality of life enhancement.

The National Landscape Strategy for Ireland (2015-2025) is the national mechanism to ensure compliance with the ELC and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. The NLS recognises the importance of landscape protection and its interconnectivity with biodiversity and climate change.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out that the conservation and enhancement landscapes is a desired 'Regional Strategic Outcome' (RSO 11). The strategy recognises the need for a national GIS platform to provide the structure for on-going collection, monitoring and review of the landscape's physical, scientific, ecological, biodiversity and cultural assets. It is noted that although a number of local authorities

in the Region have undertaken landscape character assessments, there remain gaps in coverage and inconsistencies in approach and that the national landscape character assessment, when complete, will provide consistency in how we characterise and connect with the landscape, and provide a framework for regional and local landscape character assessments.

### **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 to 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 European 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."*

### **National & County Heritage Plans**

The preparation of a local heritage plan and establishment of a local heritage forum became part of Government policy in the National Heritage Plan (NHP) of 2002. The Heritage Council subsequently published guidelines on the preparation of Local Heritage Plans in 2003. The Wicklow Heritage Plan has been produced in accordance with those guidelines.

The third Heritage Plan for County Wicklow covers the period 2017-2022. The overall aim of the plan is to conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all. The Heritage Plan represents a strategic approach to the management of heritage in County Wicklow that is underpinned by both national and local heritage policy.

The Heritage Plan will be implemented through the annual work programme, overseen by the Wicklow Heritage Forum and co-ordinated on a day to day basis by the Wicklow County Council Heritage Officer. While the Wicklow Heritage Forum, Wicklow County Council and the Heritage Council are key partners in the delivery of the plan, there is a significant role for the wider heritage 'community' in Wicklow, which includes additional community groups, agencies, third level institutions and individuals. Successful implementation of the Plan is dependent on the continued active engagement, support and participation of this wider community in Wicklow.

The key objectives of the Heritage Plan are:

- To raise awareness of and enthusiasm for Wicklow's heritage;
- Increase understanding of the value of Wicklow's heritage;
- Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage;
- Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions;
- Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate existing information.

## Biodiversity Plans & Actions

Ireland's national policy is set out in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021. The plan sets out 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.

One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan** is about all in society from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. The first Plan covers the period 2015-2020 and a new version has been developed to cover 2021-2025. In February 2019, a new Council Partnership Framework was launched, which Wicklow County Council has joined, to take the lead in taking actions to support pollinators on public land and to work with local community groups, residents' associations and schools to help raise awareness of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

## 17.2 Key Components of the Natural Environment

### 17.2.1 Protected Habitats

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 legislation<sup>4</sup>. County Wicklow has one National Park, 17 Special Areas of Conservation<sup>5</sup> (SAC), 35 (proposed) Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), 4 Special Protection Areas (SPA), and 6 Nature Reserves (as set out in Schedules 17.01, 17.02, 17.03 & 17.04 and Maps 17.01, 17.02, 17.03 & 17.04 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. Collectively, these various natural landscape features function as ecological "corridors" and "stepping stones" which enable wildlife to exist, move and flourish.

<sup>4</sup> 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 'European' sites. NHAs are legally protected under The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Within or in proximity to County Wicklow.

### 17.2.2 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 individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands 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 (TPOs are set out in Schedule 17.05 and Maps 17.05 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.

### 17.2.3 Water Systems & Wetlands

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 and 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.

Wetlands were identified in the Wicklow Biodiversity Plan as a vulnerable habitat in Wicklow for which little information exists. A phase 1 study of wetlands in Co. Wicklow carried out in 2011 resulted in the generation of a preliminary GIS-based wetland map for the County, identifying for the first time known wetland sites and potential wetland areas. A phase 2 survey in 2012, called the Wicklow Wetland Survey, generated records for 55 additional sites. The sites selected for survey were those most likely to contain notable wetland habitats including transition mire, bog, fen and wet heaths, as well as potential breeding sites for marsh fritillary butterfly. This information is a valuable resource when it comes to making land-use decisions, and will be of use for landowners and for community-based groups looking to develop local sites for recreational amenity.

### 17.2.4 Soils & 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 17.07 and Map 17.07 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.

### 17.3 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 was undertaken for the previous County Development Plan in 2016 has not been updated for the purposes on this plan, and is considered to remain a robust and up to date reflection of the landscape character zones of the County.

This detailed Landscape Character Assessment identified 15 distinctive landscape categories, which were placed within a landscape hierarchy detailed below and as shown on Map 17.09A-E of this plan and remain as described as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment appendix of the 2016 plan, which is herewith subsumed and carried forward into this plan.

The following provides a generalised description of each of the 15 landscape areas identified within the County and should be read alongside the additional detail, including the key features and characteristics of each area, as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment appendix of the 2016 County Development Plan.

**Table 17.1 Wicklow Landscape categories**

HIERARCHY	1	2	3	4	5	6
LANDSCAPE CATEGORY	Mountain and Lakeshore AONB	Coastal Areas AONB	Areas of High Amenity	Corridor Area	Lowlands	Urban Area
LANDSCAPE AREA	<p>The Mountain Uplands</p> <p>The Blessington Lakes Area</p> <p>The Bray Mountains Group</p> <p>The North Eastern Valley / Glenree</p>	<p>Northern Coastal Area</p> <p>Southern Coastal Area</p>	<p>North East Mountain Lowlands</p> <p>South East Mountain Lowlands</p> <p>Southern Hills</p> <p>Baltinglass Hills</p> <p>Transitional Lands</p>	<p>N11 Corridor</p> <p>N81 corridor</p>	<p>Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6</p>	<p>All towns ranging from Levels 1-6 of the Wicklow Settlement Hierarchy</p>

## 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 Aughrim 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 300m+ contour line.

### 1(b) - The Blessington Lakes Area

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/Glenree

This area is situated along the northern extremities of the County and is based around the drainage pattern of the Glenree 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, Charleville Demesne and Glenree 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 to 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 European 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 beginning at the Glen Turn, encompassing Wicklow head and extending as far as south of Arklow Rock. This area comprises of the main sandy beaches of Brittas Bay, Ennereilly and Clogga 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 Magherabeg 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.

## 3. 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 Devil's 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 Kilcavan 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.

**4. Corridor Area****4(a) - The N11 Corridor**

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 major towns along the east coast of the County.

**4(b) - The N81 Corridor**

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.

**5. 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 Knockanna;
- 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;
- 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.

## 6. 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.

### Views & 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-Delgany 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 17.11 & 17.12 and Maps 17.10 A, B, C, D & 17.11 of this plan.

## 17.4 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives

### General

- CPO 17.1** To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non-renewable resource.
- CPO 17.2** Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.
- CPO 17.3** To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.

### Protected Sites and Species

- CPO 17.4** To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) 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 but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)<sup>6</sup>, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)<sup>7</sup>, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)<sup>8</sup>, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019);
- National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended)<sup>9</sup>, European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, 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), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended)<sup>10</sup> and the Flora Protection order 2015;
- National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010);
- Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same);
- Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.

**CPO 17.5** Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) 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 not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>11</sup>.

**CPO 17.6** Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

**CPO 17.7** To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites<sup>12</sup> in Wicklow.

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Including protected species and natural habitats.

<sup>9</sup> Including species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.

<sup>10</sup> Including protected species and natural habitats.

<sup>11</sup> Except as provided for in Article 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.

<sup>12</sup> Along with SACs, 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).

- CPO 17.8** 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.
- CPO 17.9** 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.
- CPO 17.10** To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.
- CPO 17.11** To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.12) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.

#### **Sites & Corridors of Ecological & Biodiversity Value**

- CPO 17.12** 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, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.
- CPO 17.13** To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.
- CPO 17.14** Ensure that development proposals 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, stonewalls, 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 European network in Wicklow.
- CPO 17.15** To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.
- CPO 17.16** Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Land utilised for such planting spaces may include the smaller spaces / strips of open space in new residential development that are not large or wide enough to be counted as part of the 15% amenity open space.

- CPO 17.17** Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.

### Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows

- CPO 17.18** 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 the long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 17.05 and Maps 17.05 and 17.05A - H of this plan.
- CPO 17.19** To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value.
- CPO 17.20** 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.
- CPO 17.21** To strongly discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling if such is essential to enable development to proceed.
- CPO 17.22** To require and ensure 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 broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.
- CPO 17.23** To require 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).

### Water Systems

- CPO 17.24** To ensure and support the implementation of the *EU Groundwater Directive* and the *EU Water Framework Directive* and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, 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. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- CPO 17.25** Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.
- CPO 17.26** Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban locations) free from inappropriate development, with

undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.

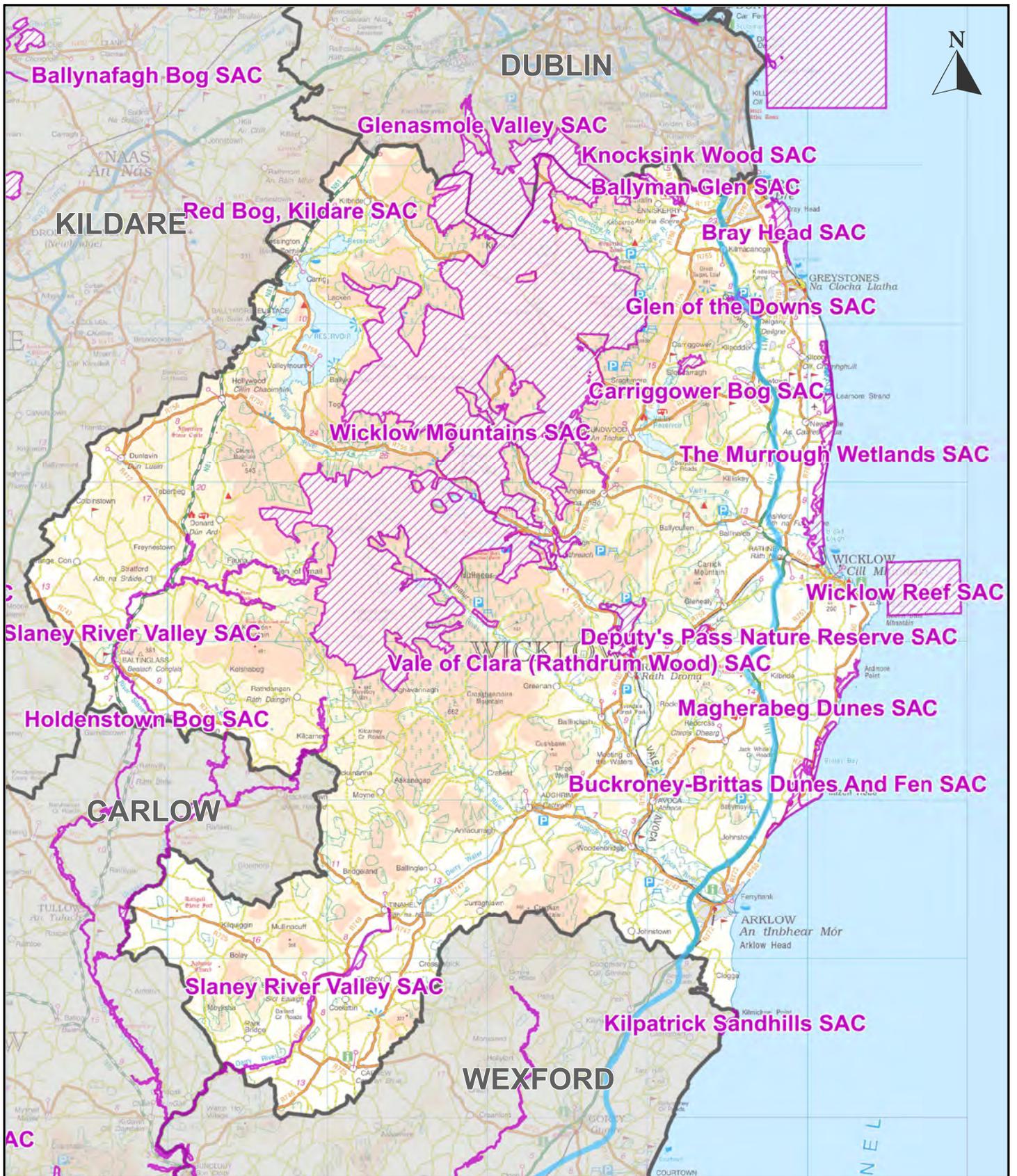
### Soils & Geology

- CPO 17.27** 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.
- CPO 17.28** Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 17.07 and Map 17.07 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.
- CPO 17.29** 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.
- CPO 17.30** 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.
- CPO 17.31** 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.
- CPO 17.32** To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design & Development standards of this plan.
- CPO 17.33** To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.
- CPO 17.34** Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to:
- Peatland stability;
  - Carbon emissions balance; and
  - Hydrology and ecology.

### Landscape, Views & Prospects

- CPO 17.35** 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 the 2016 County Development Plan ) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment.

- CPO 17.36** 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.
- CPO 17.37** 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.
- CPO 17.38** To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / 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.



**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.01**



**Legend**



**European Sites**  
Special Area of Conservation

**WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028**

Wicklow County Council  
Planning Department

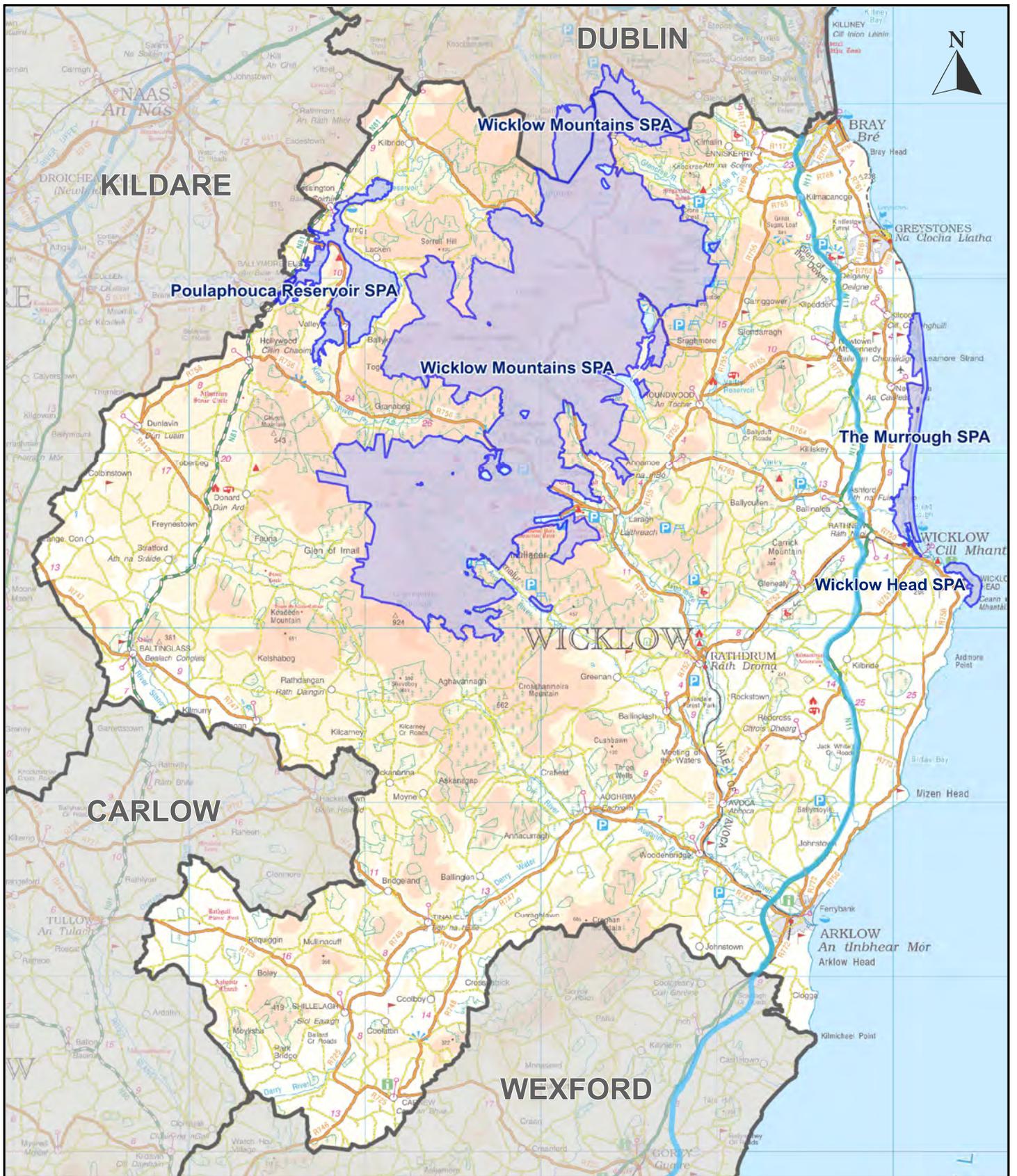


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**Schedule 17.01 Special Areas of Conservation (within and in proximity to County Wicklow)**

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



**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.02**



**Legend**

-  **European Sites**
-  **Special Protection Area**

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## Schedule 17.02 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 & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.03**



**Legend**

 Proposed Natural Heritage Area

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### Schedule 17.03 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	Buckronev-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	Glencree 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



## Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Map No. 17.04



## Legend

 Nature Reserves

## WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

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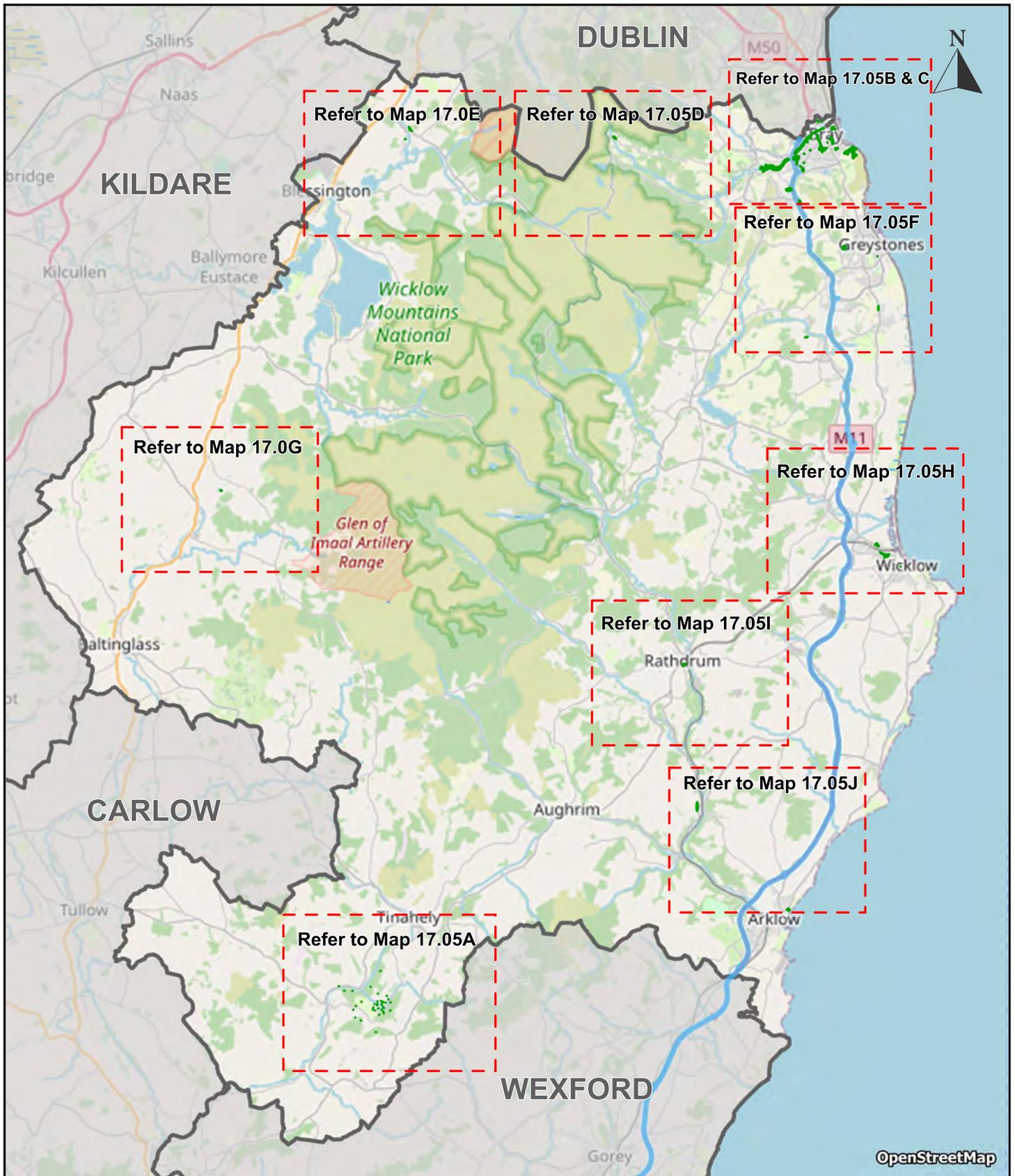


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#### Schedule 17.04 Nature Reserves

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



**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05**



**Legend**



Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders County Wide

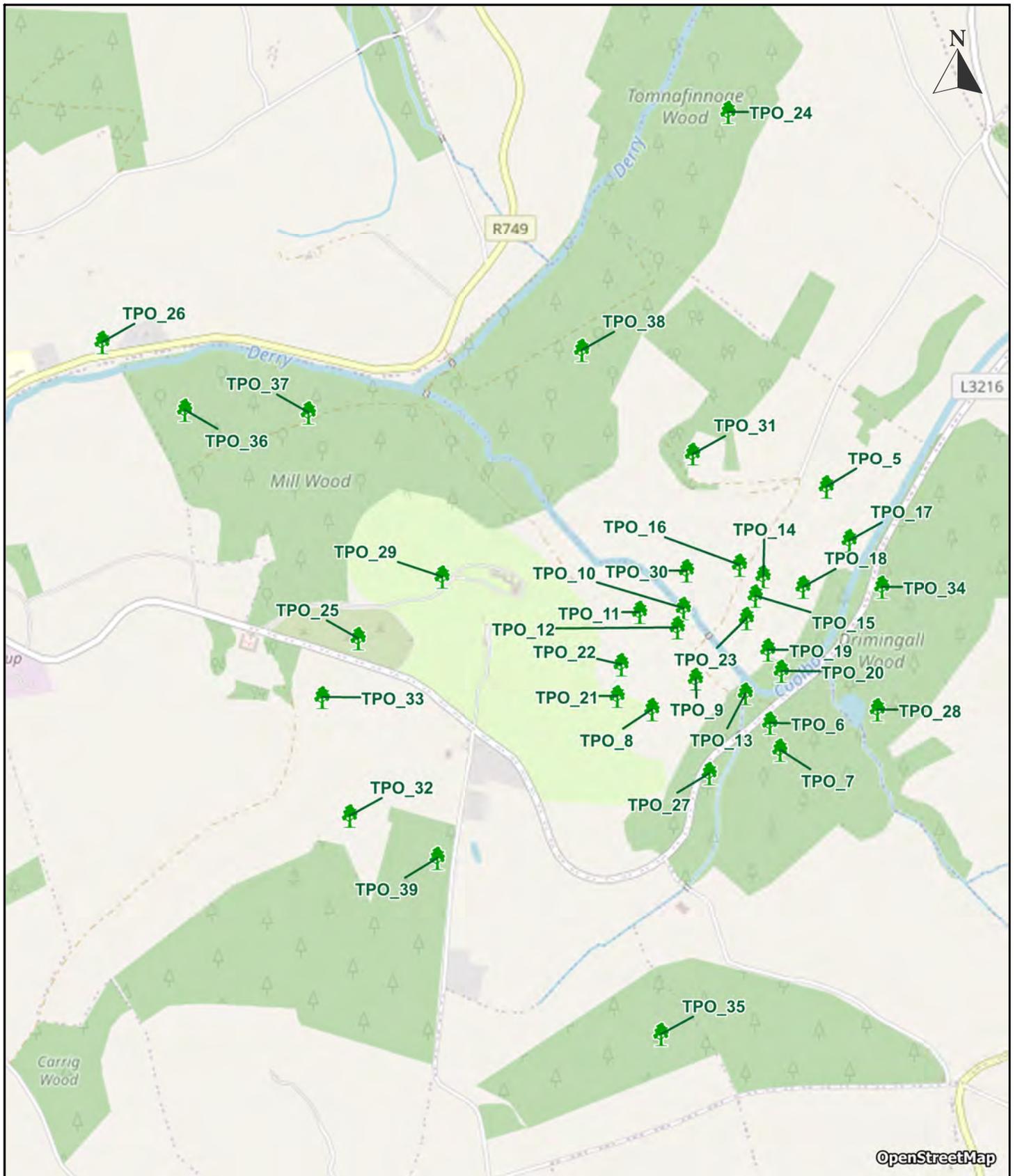
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05A**



**Legend**

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Coolattin

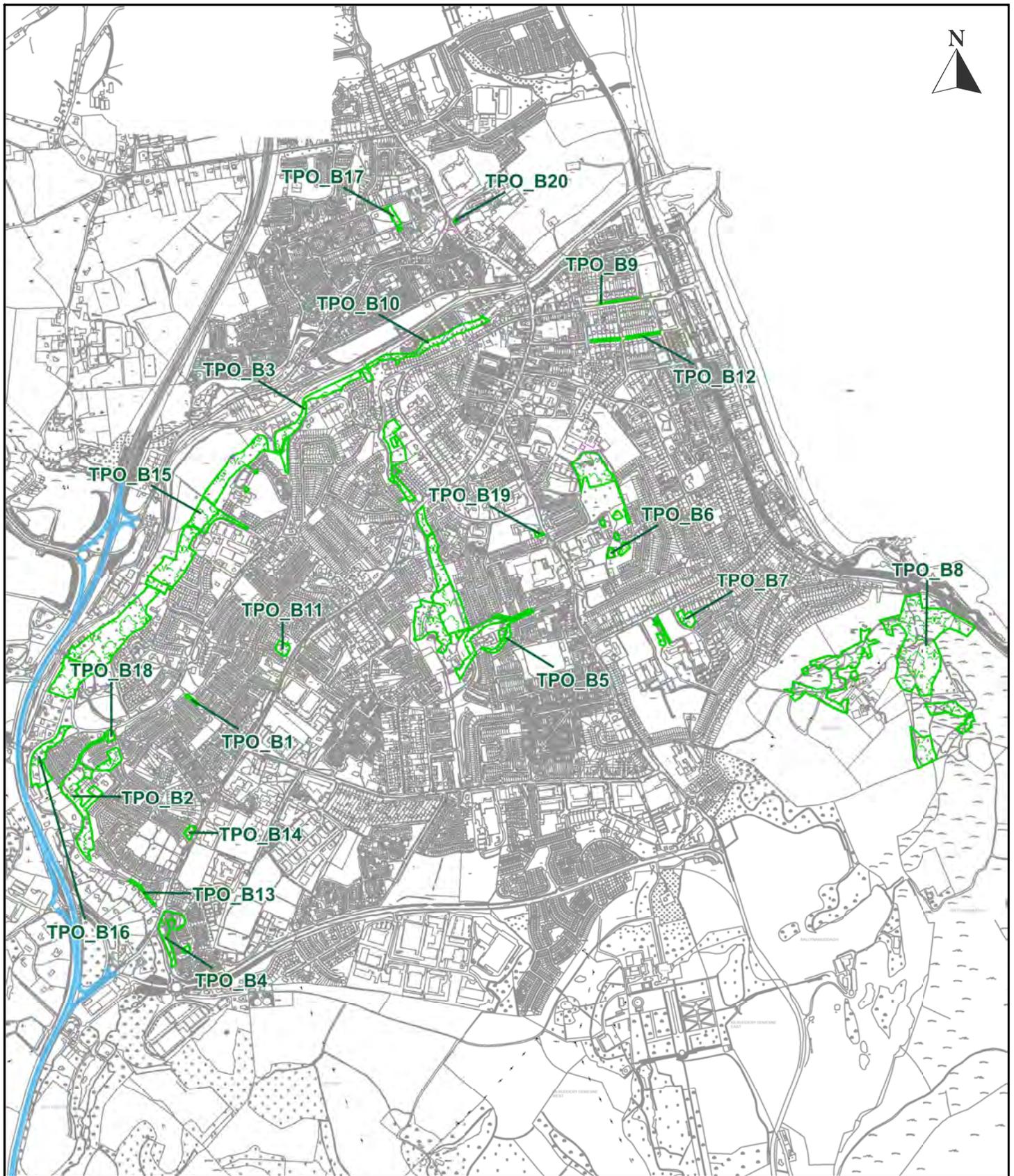
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**Map No. 17.05B**



**Legend**

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Bray

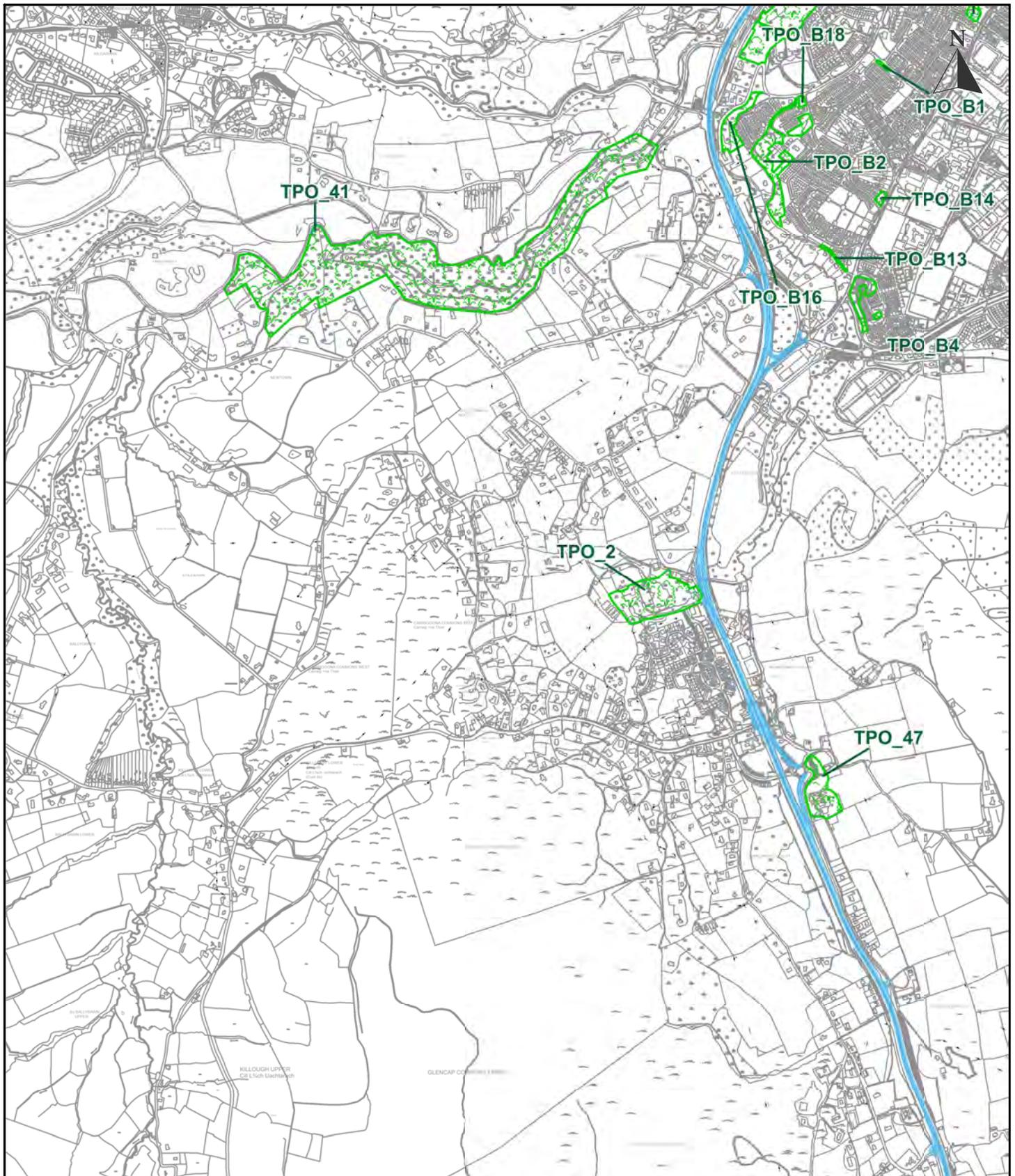
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05C**



**Legend**


 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Avoca Handweavers, Kilcroyne and Kilmacanogue

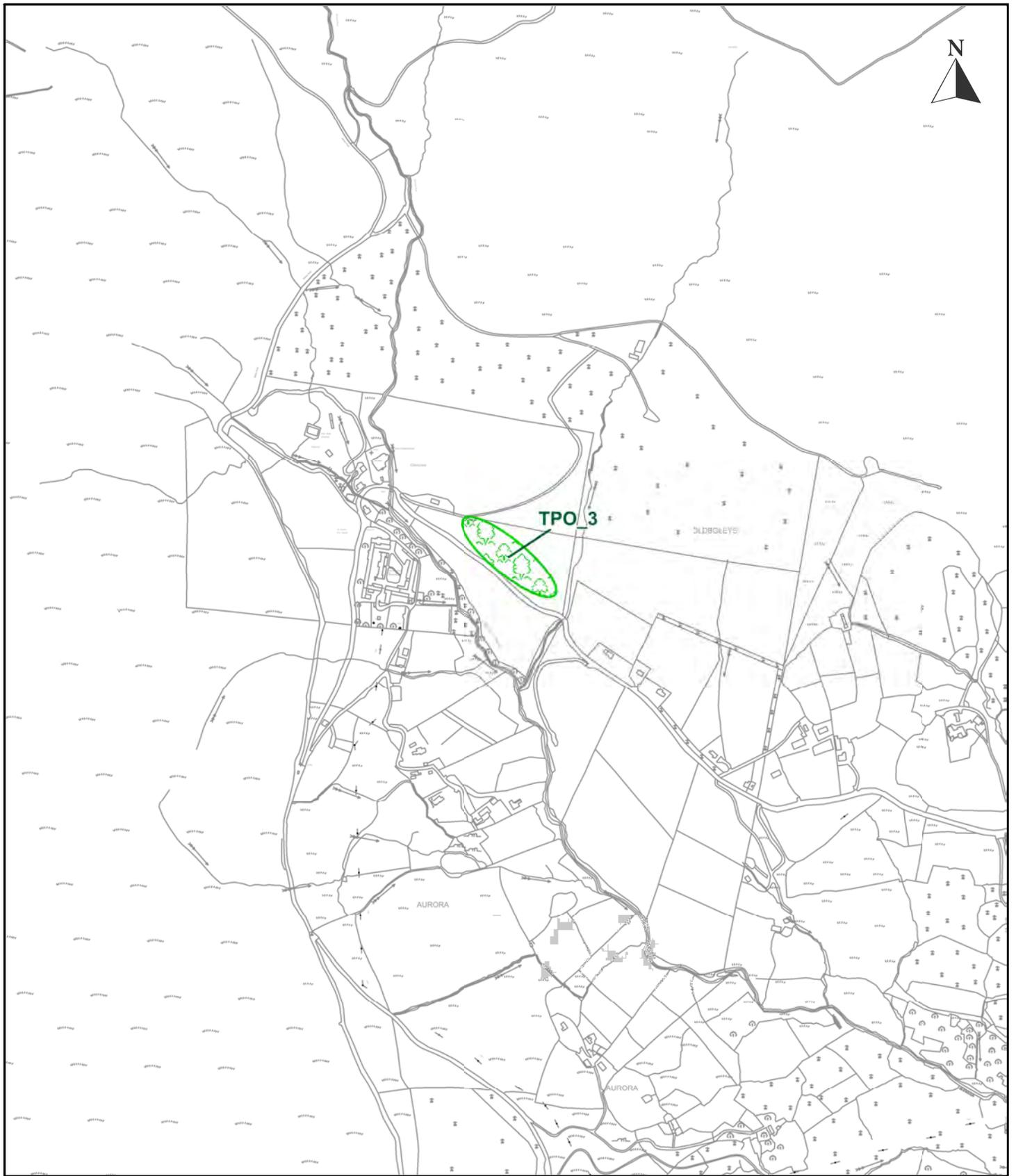
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05D**



**Legend**

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in the vicinity of Glencree Village

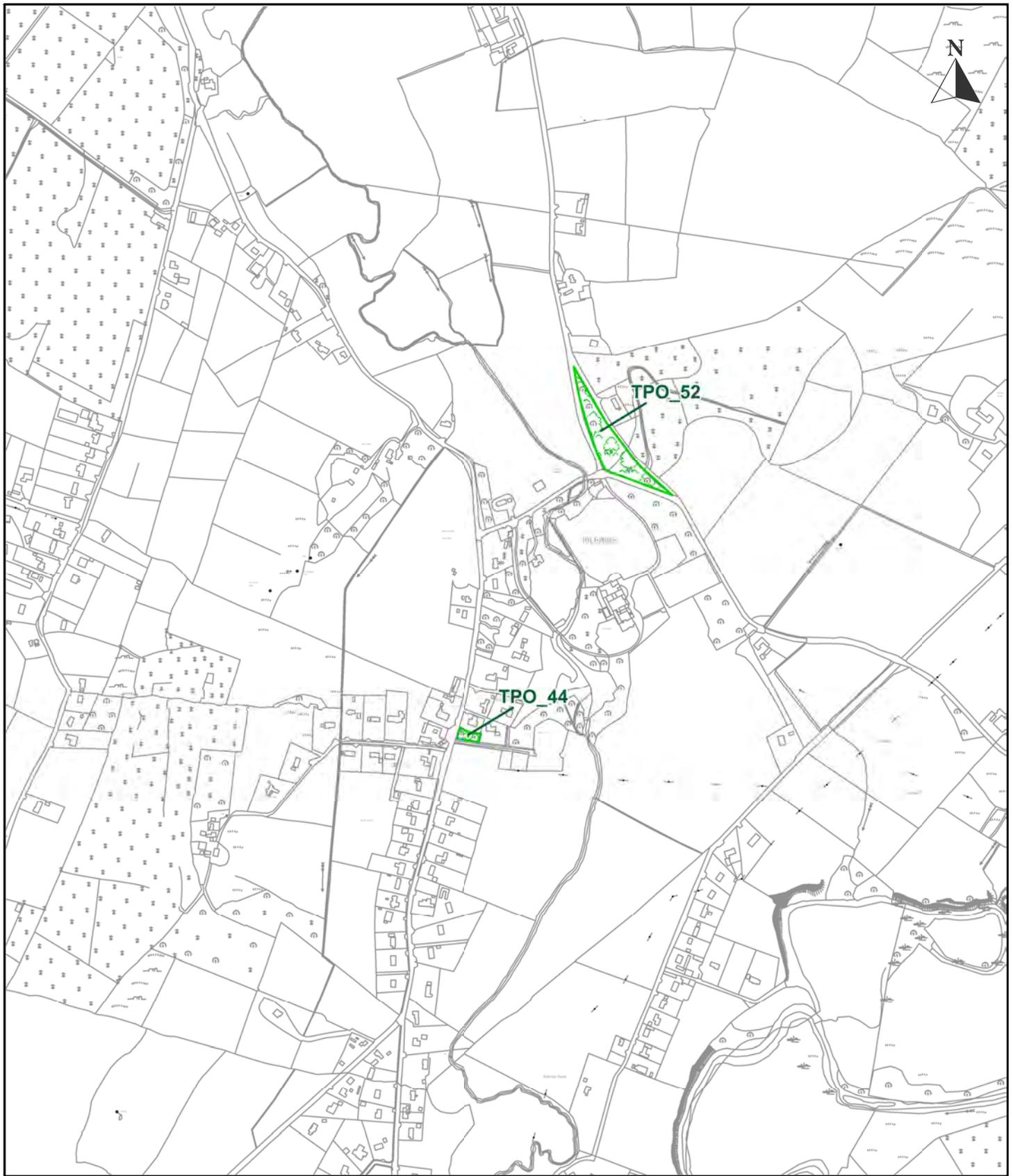
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05E**



**Legend**



Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Kilbride

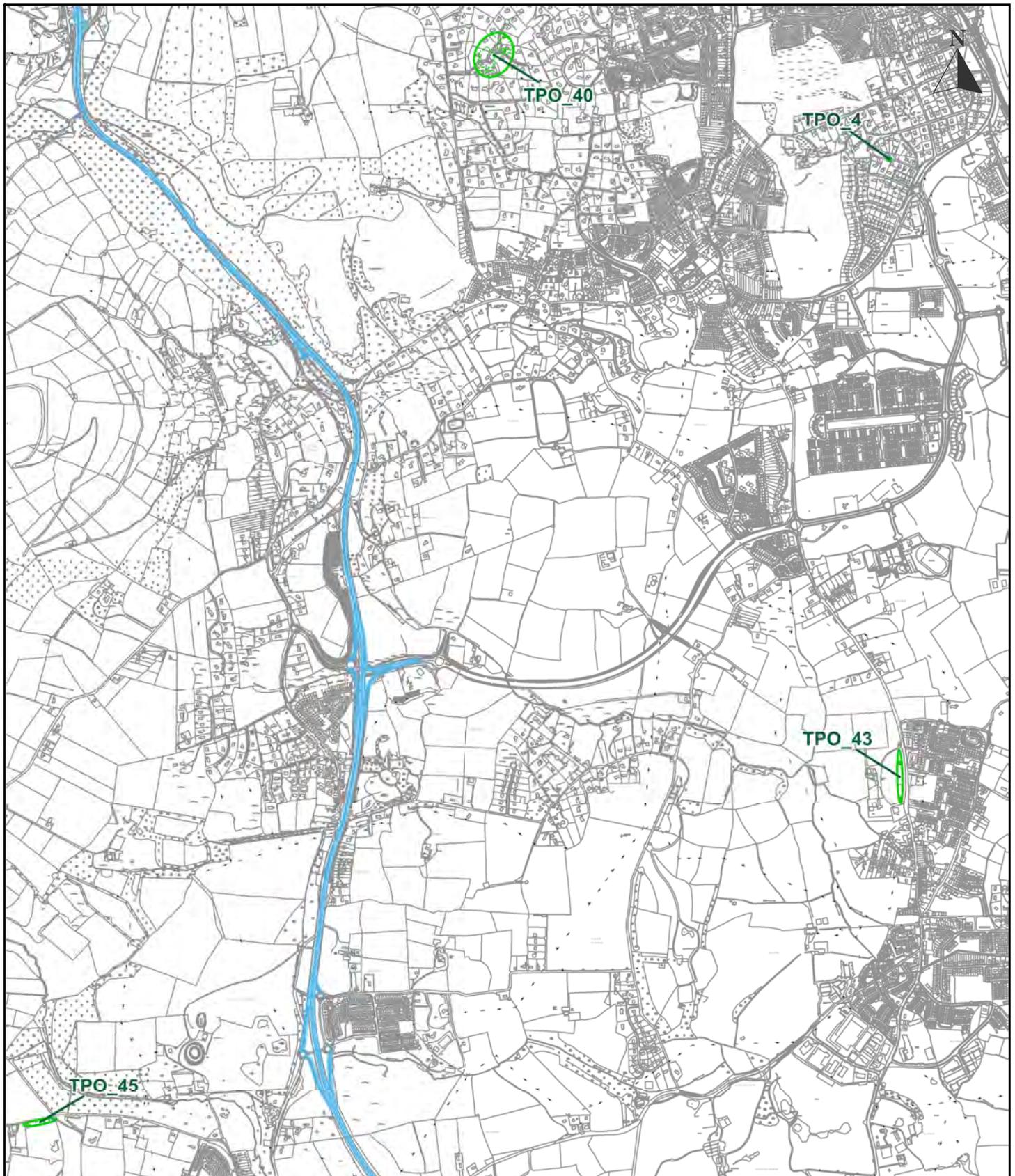
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05F**



**Legend**

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole and Newtownmountkenny

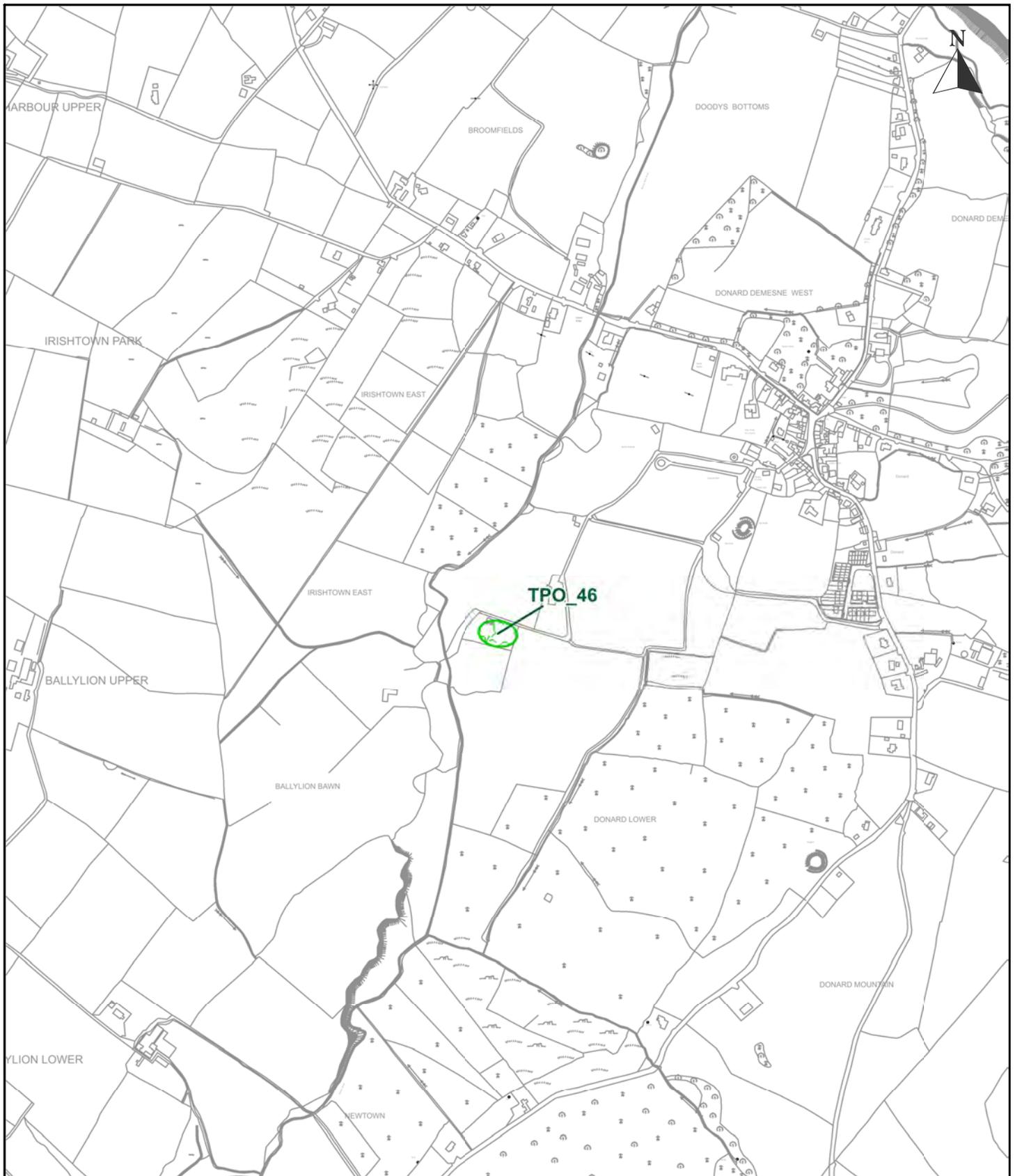
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05G**



**Legend**



Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Donard

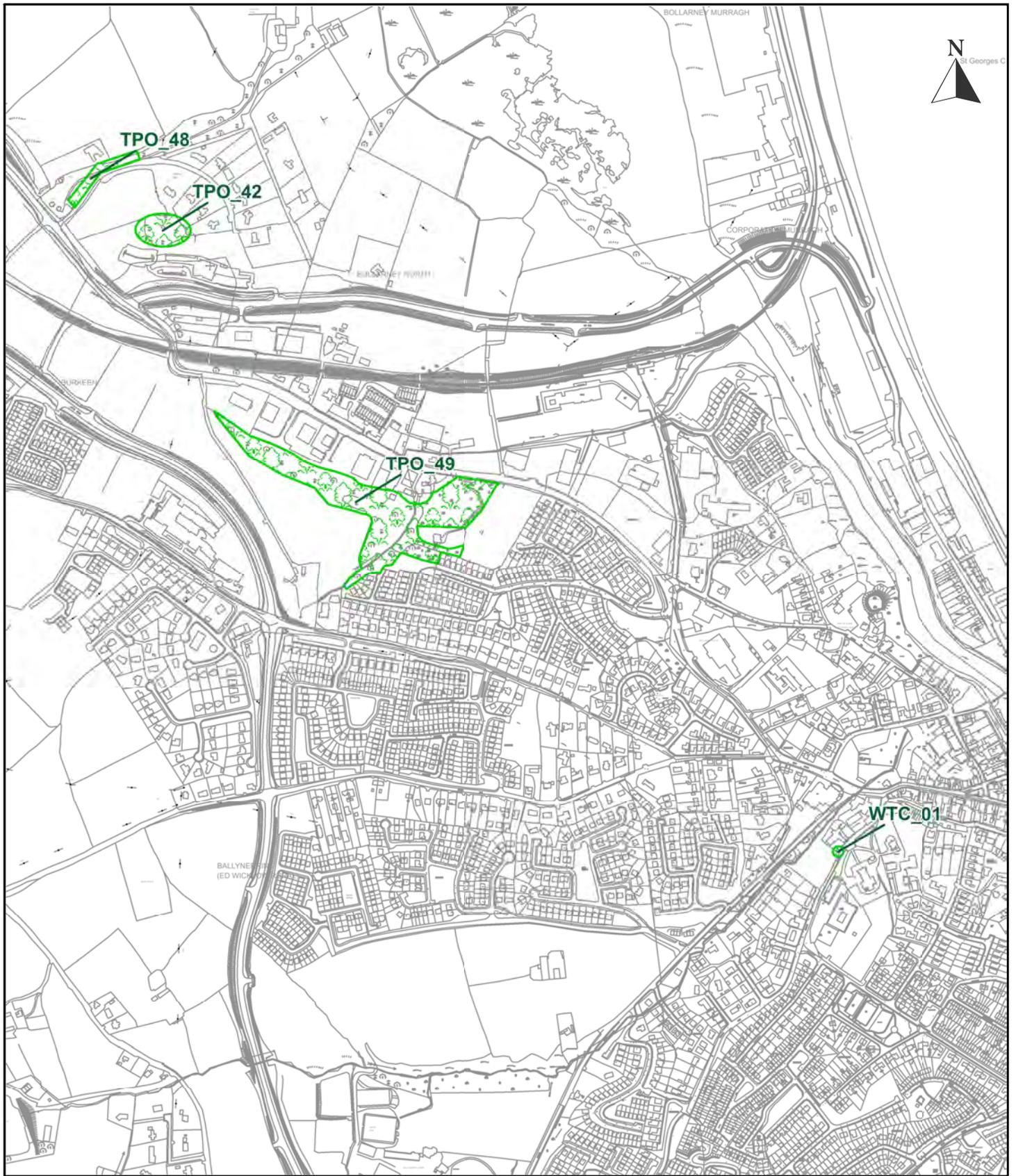
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## Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Map No. 17.05H



## Legend

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Rathnew and Wicklow Town

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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.051**



**Legend**

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Rathdrum

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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.05J**



**Legend**

 Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders in Avoca and Arklow

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## Wicklow County Council

### Tree Preservation Orders

(updated 2022, updates shown in blue)

#### Schedule 17.05 Existing Tree Preservation Orders

##### County wide

ID	Description	Location
1	Birch Trees	Kilqueeny, Avoca
2	Trees at Avoca Handweavers	Glencormick South, Kilmacanogue; <i>in particular (but not limited to):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The Yew walk, containing 12 mature Yew trees</i></li> <li>- <i>Sessile oak and beech within garden area</i></li> <li>- <i>Weeping Monterey cypress</i></li> <li>- <i>Redwoods</i></li> <li>- <i>Blue atlas cedar</i></li> </ul>
3	Trees in the vicinity of Glenree	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
16	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
17	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
18	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
19	Parkland trees	Coolattin Estate
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
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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	Tinahinch Newtown, Cookstown and Kilcronev 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 ( <a href="#">map updated</a> )
45	Scots Pine and Spruce trees	Morepark, Newtownmountkennedy
46	Trees	Donard Lower (Ref 7654/02)
47	Mature Scots Pine, mature Beech trees, mature Monterey pine, Monterey Cypress, Blue Atlas Cedars, east of N11 bridge at roundabout	<a href="#">Kilmacanogue, east of N11 bridge at roundabout</a>
48	A group of c. 33 mature sessile oak and large mature Scots pine.	<a href="#">Rathnew; Knockrobin</a>
49	Large mature woodland consisting of mature oak, ash, sweet chestnut, beech and sycamore	<a href="#">Rathnew; Burkeen Wood</a>
50	Corsican Pine trees at Kynoch's Lodge	<a href="#">Arklow, Coast Road</a>
51	Trees in the Parnell Memorial Park; including blue atlas cedar, common alder, sycamore (4 No.), Scots pine.	<a href="#">Rathdrum, Parnell Memorial Park</a>
52	Small woodland containing c. 150 trees of predominantly beech, with sycamore, oak and pine.	<a href="#">Manor Kilbride, east of Kilbride Bridge</a>

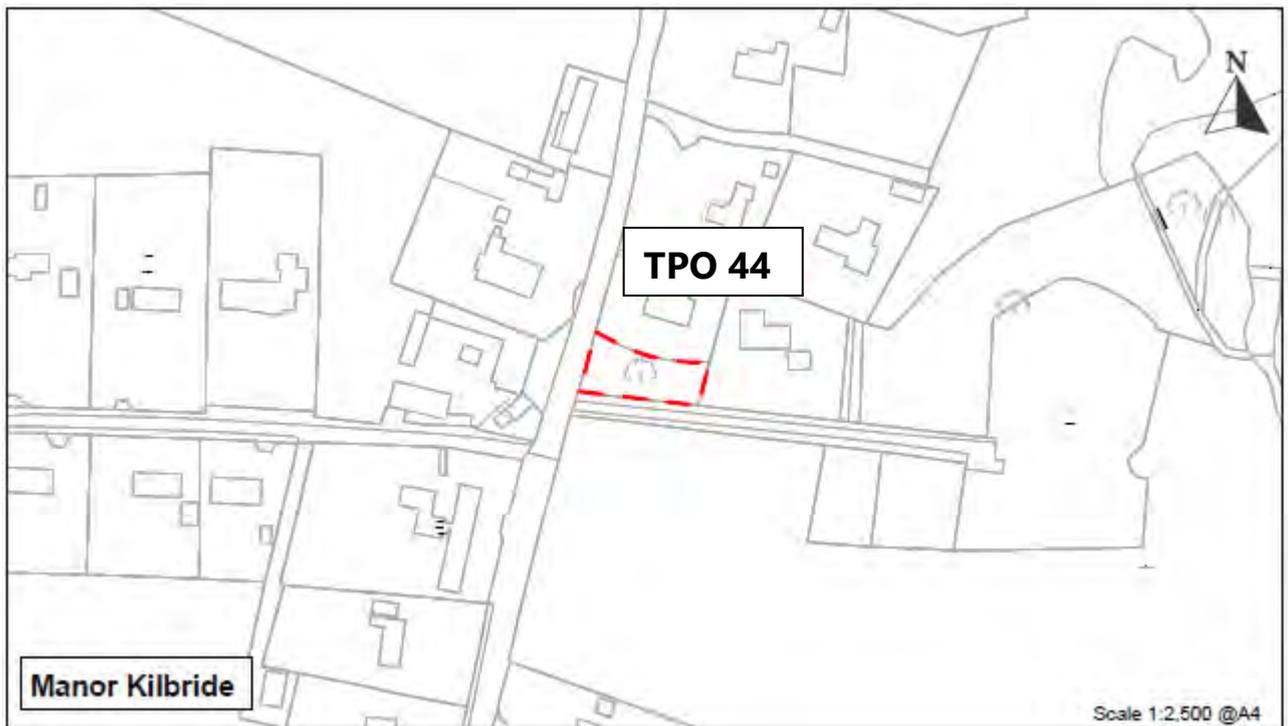
## Wicklow Town

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

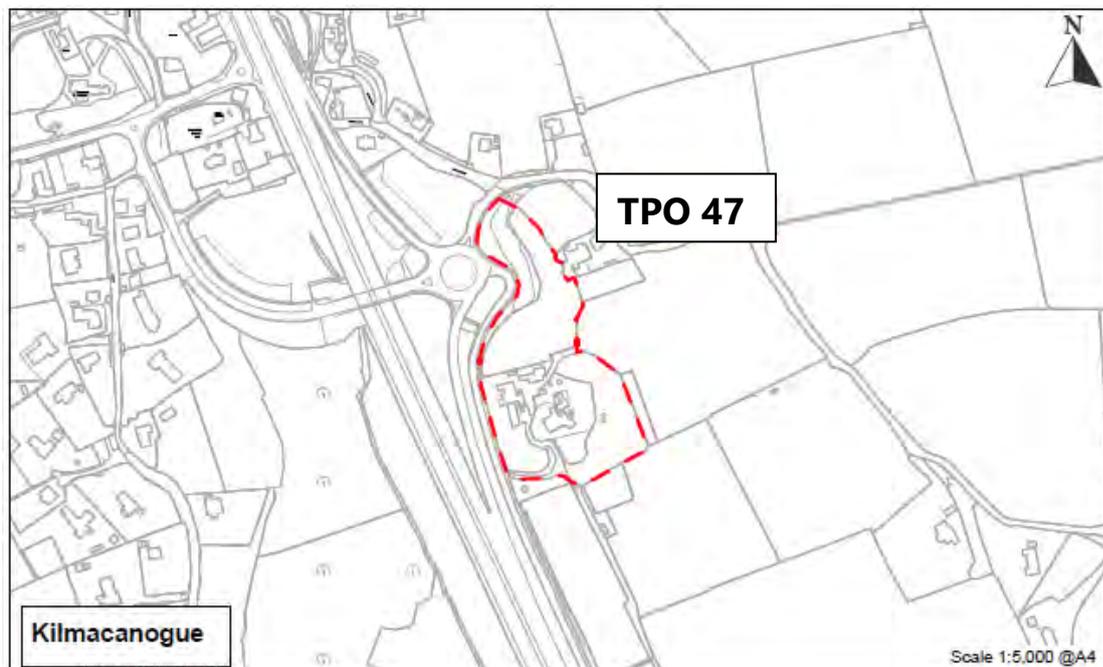
## Bray

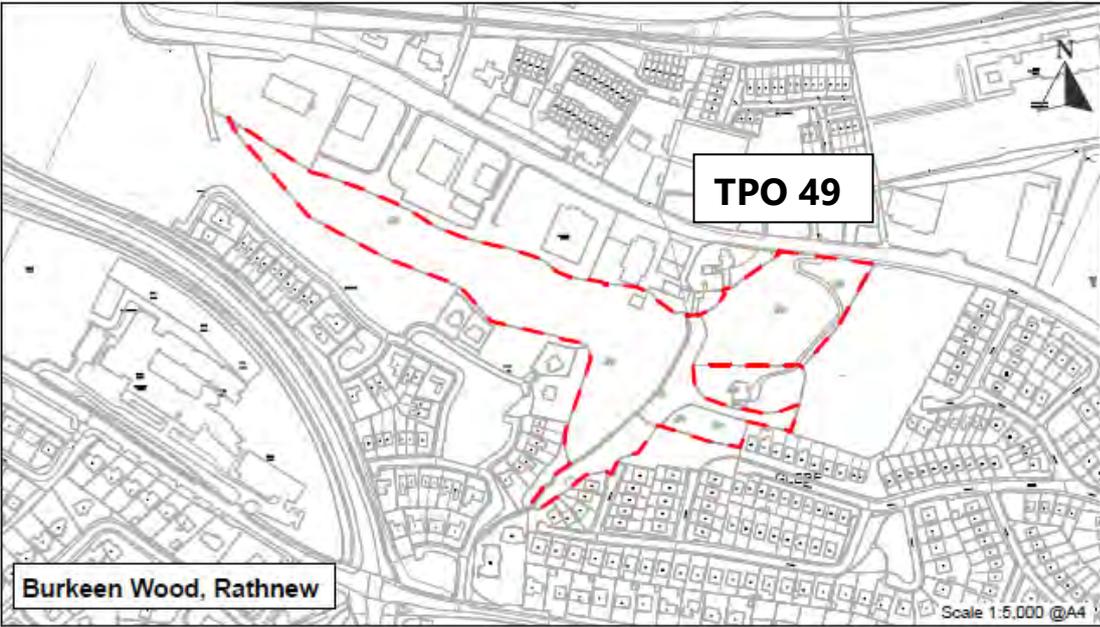
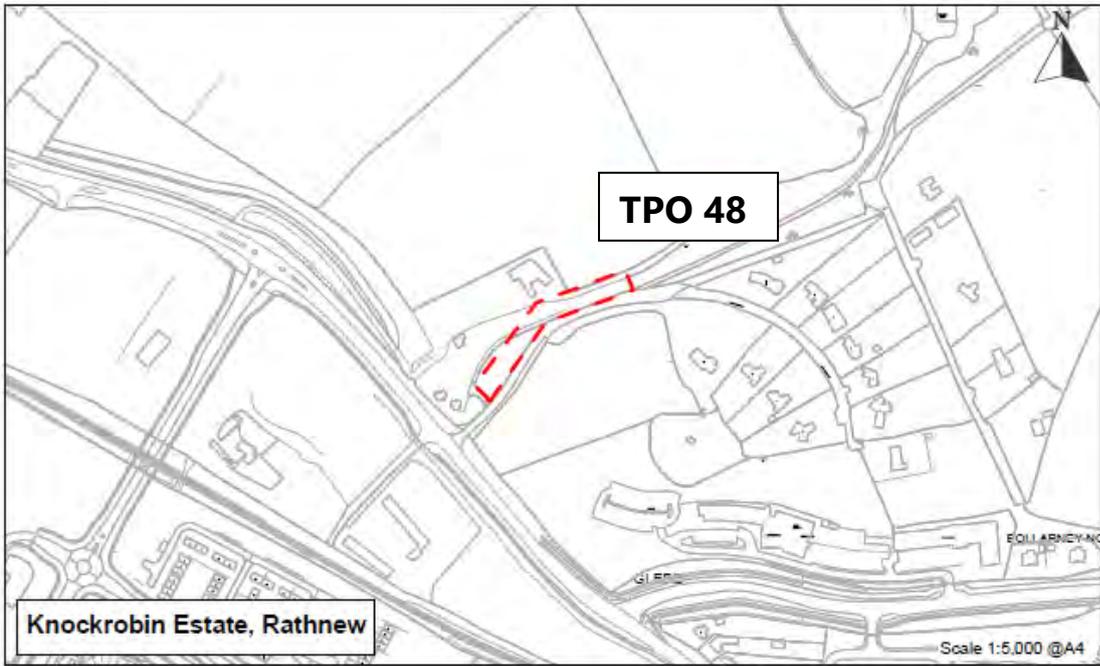
ID	Location
B1	Kilbride Lane
B2	Violet Hill
B3	Brook House School and Killarney Glen, Herbert Road
B4	Ballywaltrim Grove, Killareny Road
B5	Oldcourt House and Vevay House, Swan River Valley <i>'including row of mature oak and beech trees along the western boundary of Charnwood Estate; stand alone mature oak in open area to west of Charnwood, to east of Swan River valley woodlands'</i>
B6	Grounds of Loreto Convent
B7	Grounds of Presentation College
B8	Bray Head
B9	Duncairn Terrace
B10	Swan river valley to Bray Bridge (The Maltings)
B11	Small woodland and ecclesiastical remains, Fairyhill housing estate
B12	Florence Road
B13	Ballywaltrim Lane
B14	Entrance to Elgin Wood, Killarney Road
B15	Wooded slopes east of Dargle River
B16	Wooded slopes from St. Valery's Bridge to Kilbride Church
B17	Ledwidge Crescent
B18	Richmond Park A: 1 <sup>st</sup> green, Mature Redwood B: 2 <sup>nd</sup> green, Scots Pine (2 No.), Beech (4 No.)
B19	Rockbrae House (FCA) Redwood, left of entrance
B20	Ravenswell School Large Pine right of entrance

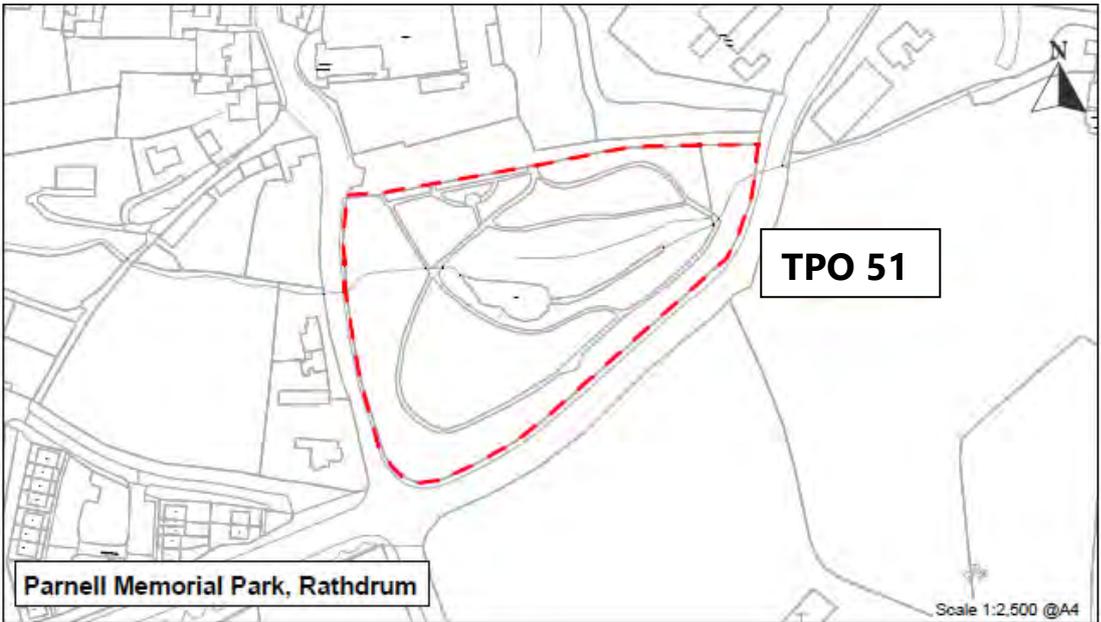
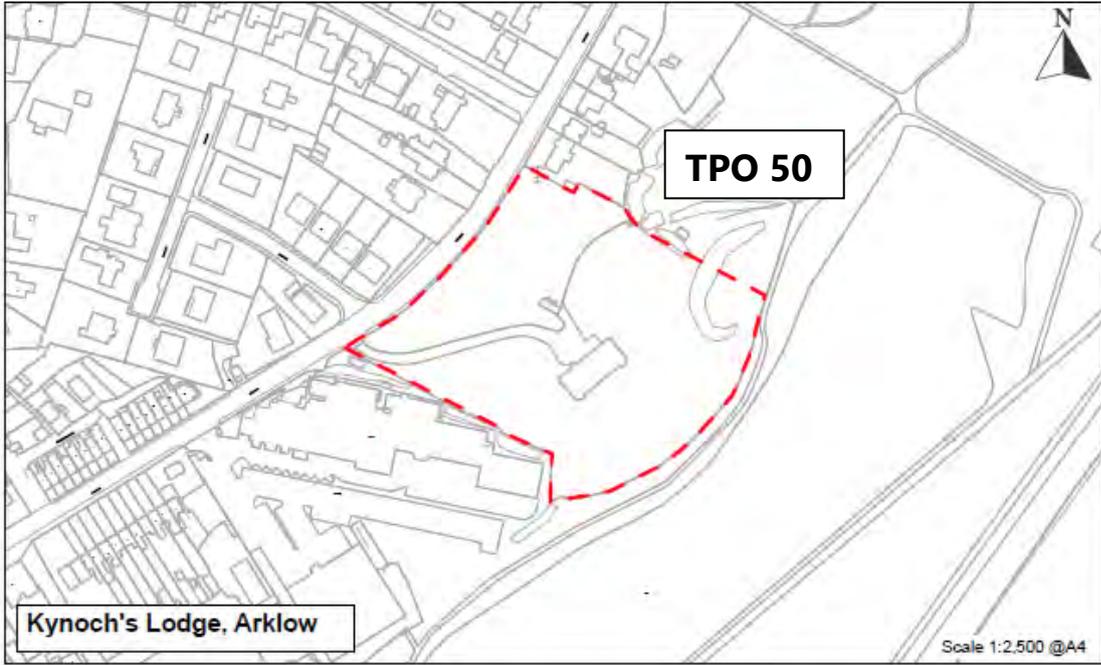
**Updated maps**

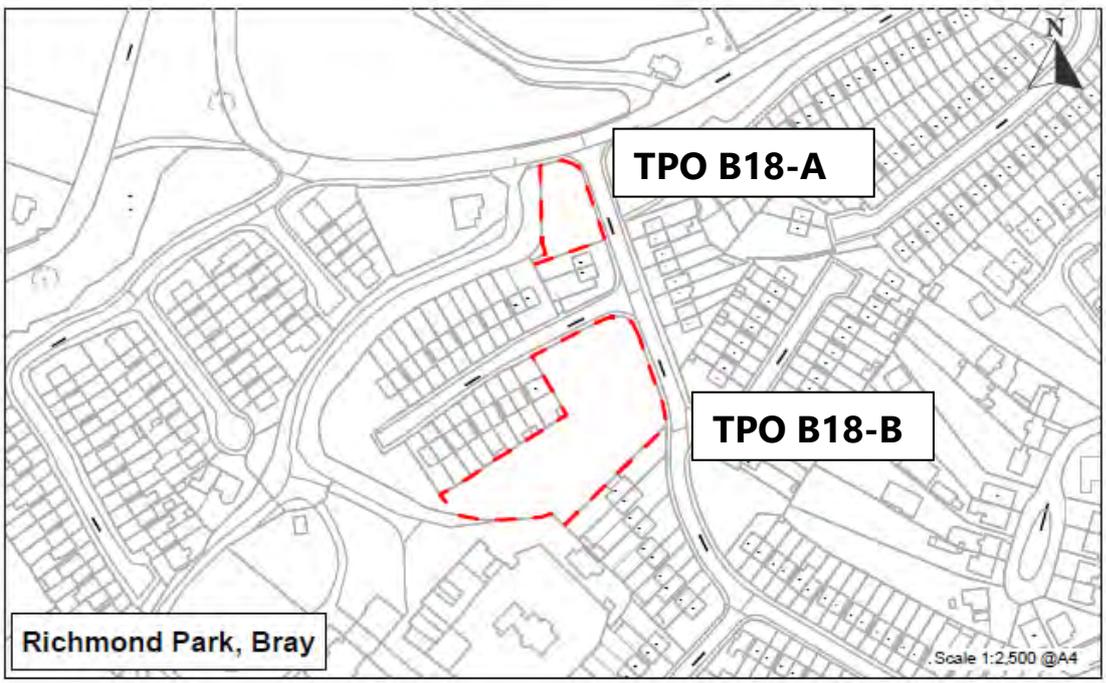
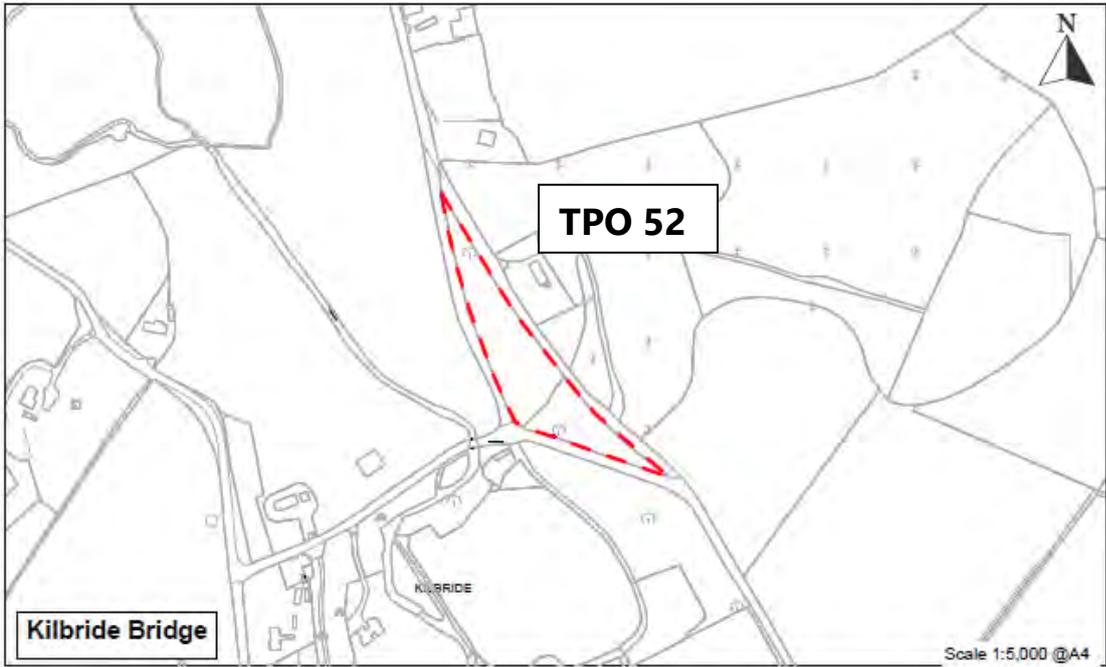


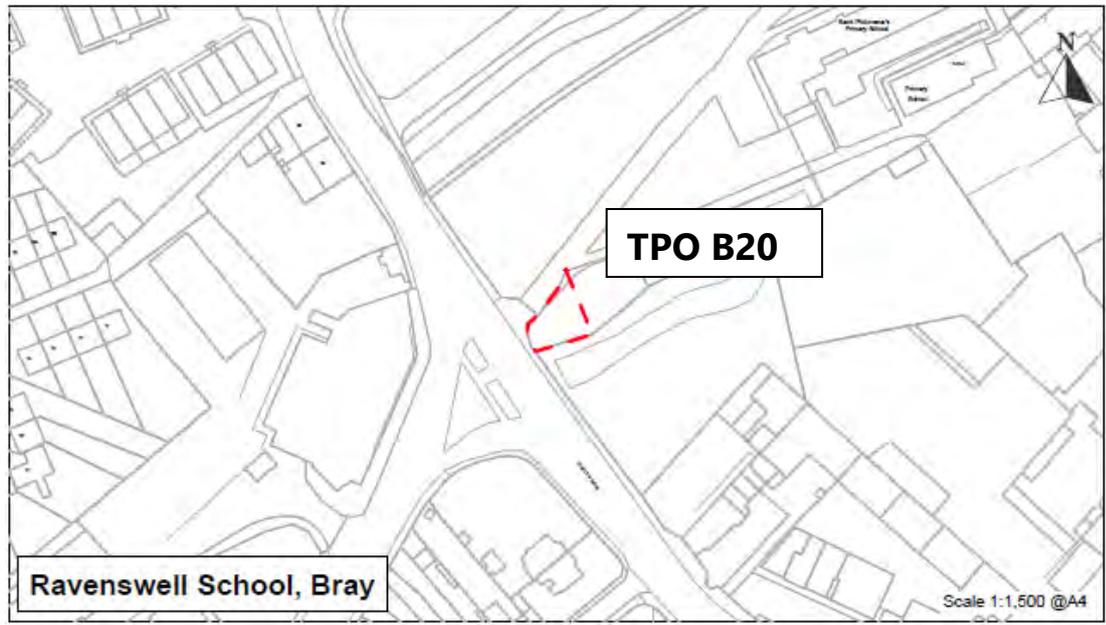
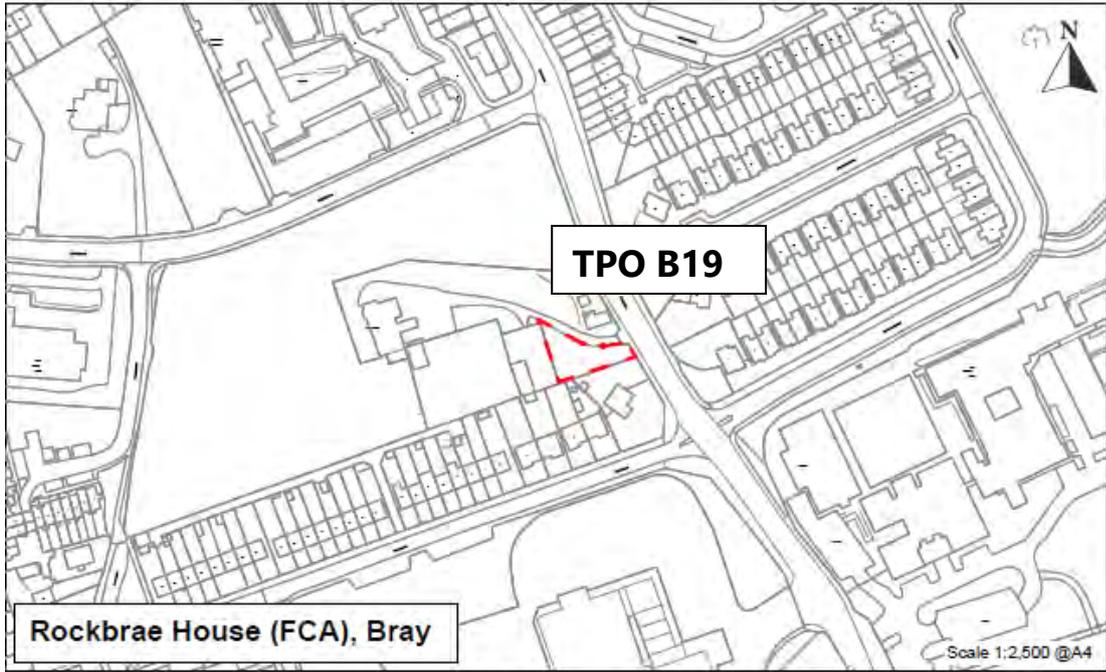
**New maps**

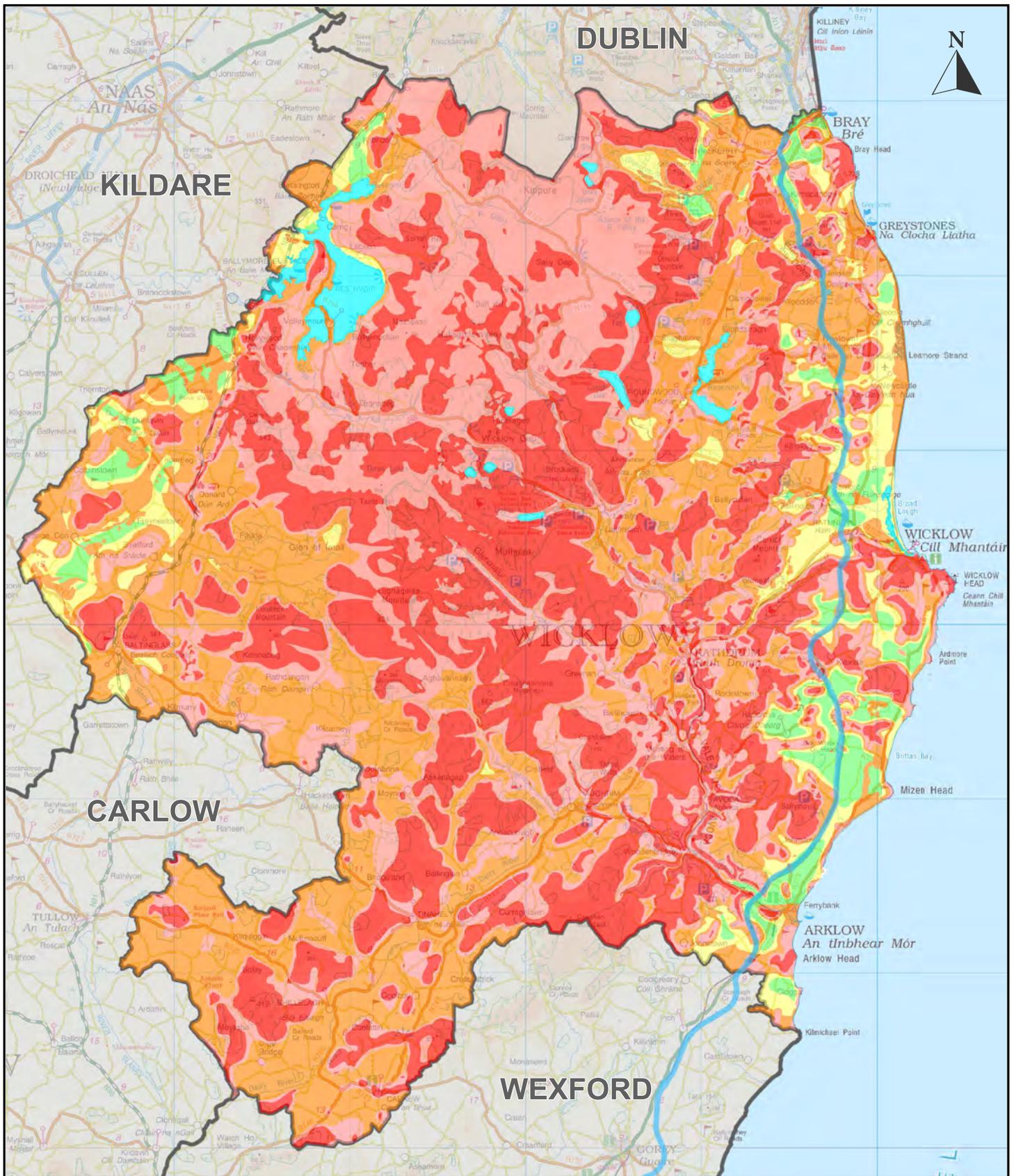












**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.06**



**Legend**

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

Scale 1:300,000 @A4

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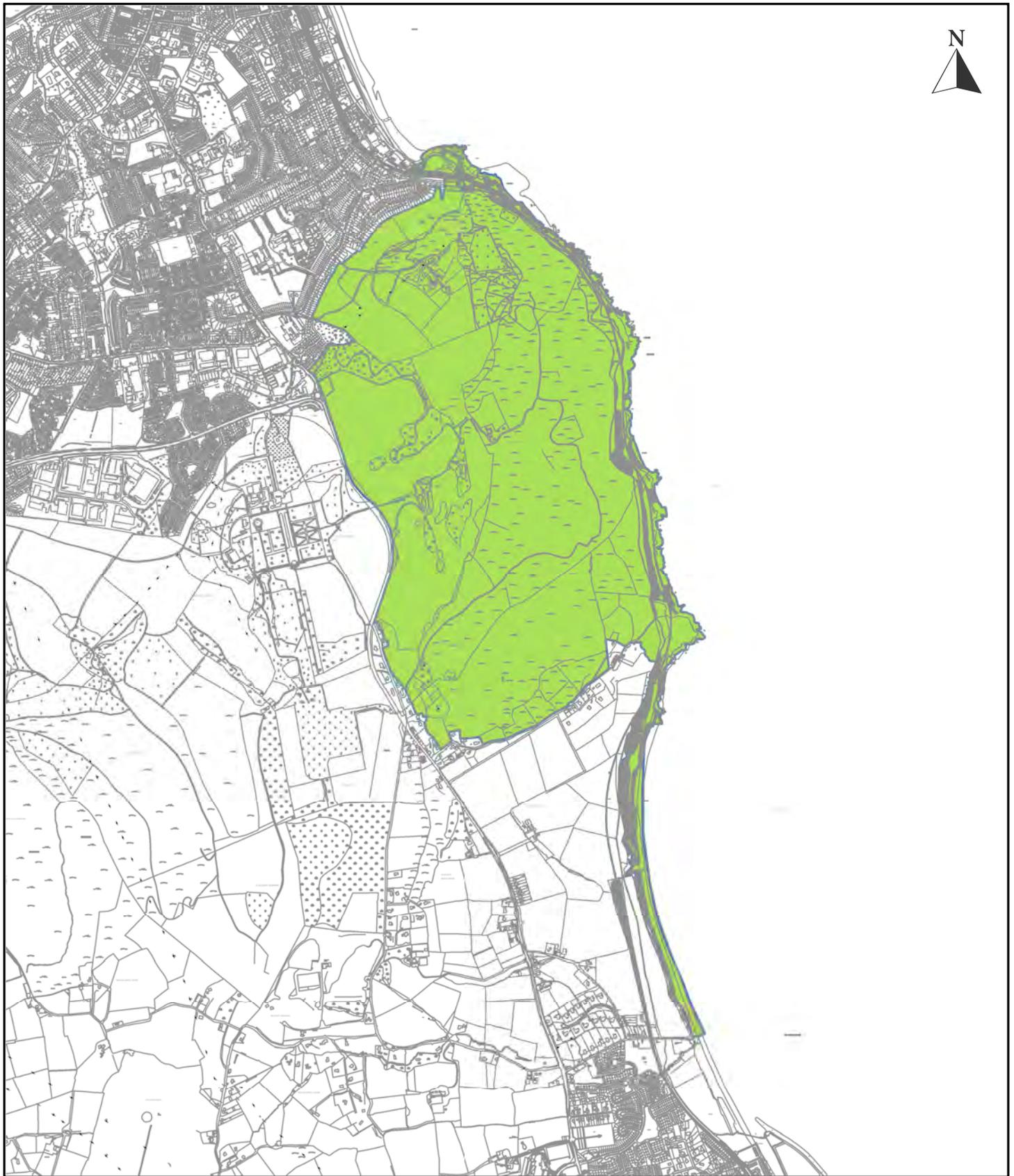
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	Site Name	Site Description	Recommended candidate NHA	Geological Feature
1	Powerscourt Waterfall	A large corrie with a notable waterfall in the corrie backwall		Important for both the glacial feature and for the rocks influence in forming the waterfall
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 & gravels deposited at the end of the lastIceAge.		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 under pasture		The fields comprise a 'delta' feature composed of deep glaciofluvial and 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 & 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 & 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& 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 River	The site consists of a c. 1.5km-long section of river, typically 2-3 m wide		This is the site of Wicklow's gold rush or 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 & 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	Mullaghcleevaun	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-Greystones Coast	An uninterrupted shingle beach extending for over 17km long between Greystones and Wicklow	●	The shingle ridge (beach) is a feature understood to have formed around 5,000 years ago



**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.08**



**Legend**

- Bray Head - Special Amenity Area Orders

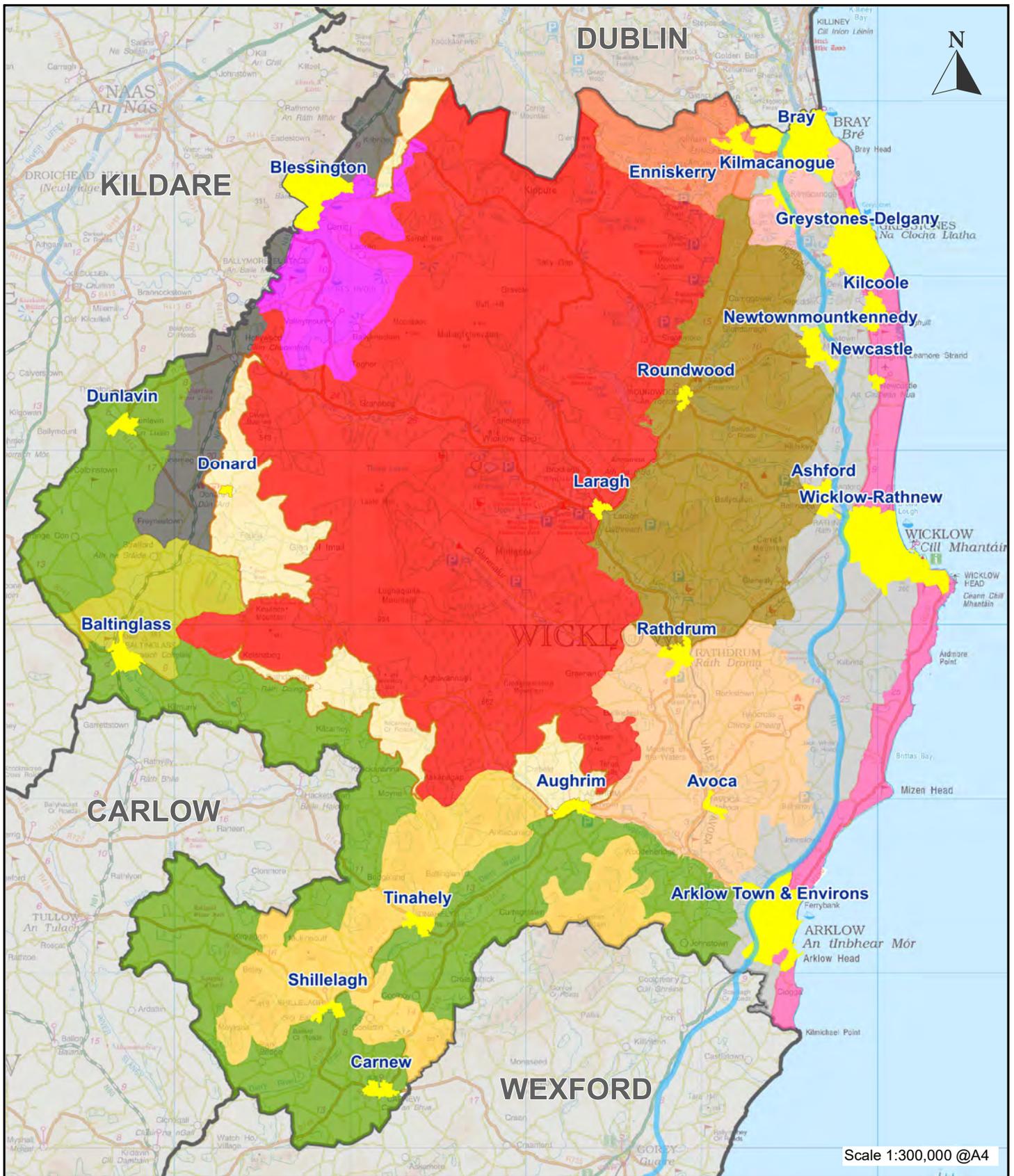
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.09A**

**Wicklow Landscape Category Map**

**WICKLOW**  
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

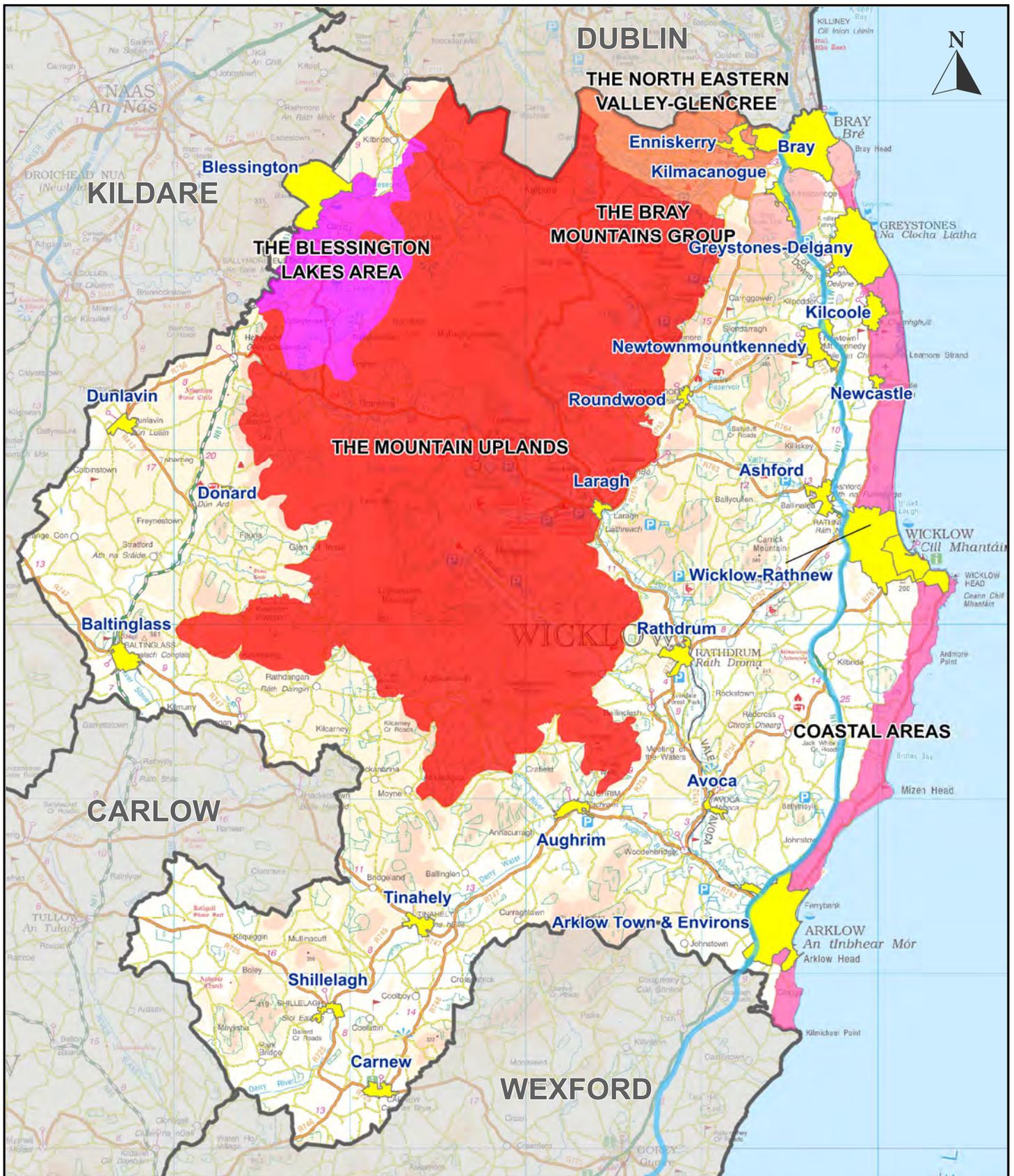
**Legend**

	The Mountain Uplands (1 - AONB)		North East Mountain Lowlands (1 - AHA)
	The Blessington Lakes Area (2 - AONB)		South East Mountain Lowlands (2 - AHA)
	The Bray Mountains Group (3 - AONB)		Southern Hills (3 - AHA)
	The North Eastern Valley / Glenree (4 - AONB)		Baltinglass Hills (4 - AHA)
	Coastal Areas (AONB)		Transitional Lands (5 - AHA)
	Corridor Area West		Rolling Lowlands
	Corridor Area East		Urban Areas

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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

Map No. 17.09B

**Wicklow Landscape Category Map**



**Legend**

**Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Categories**

- The Mountain Uplands (1 - AONB)
- The Blessington Lakes Area (2 - AONB)
- The Bray Mountains Group (3 - AONB)
- The North Eastern Valley / Glenree (4 - AONB)
- Coastal Areas (AONB)
- Urban Areas

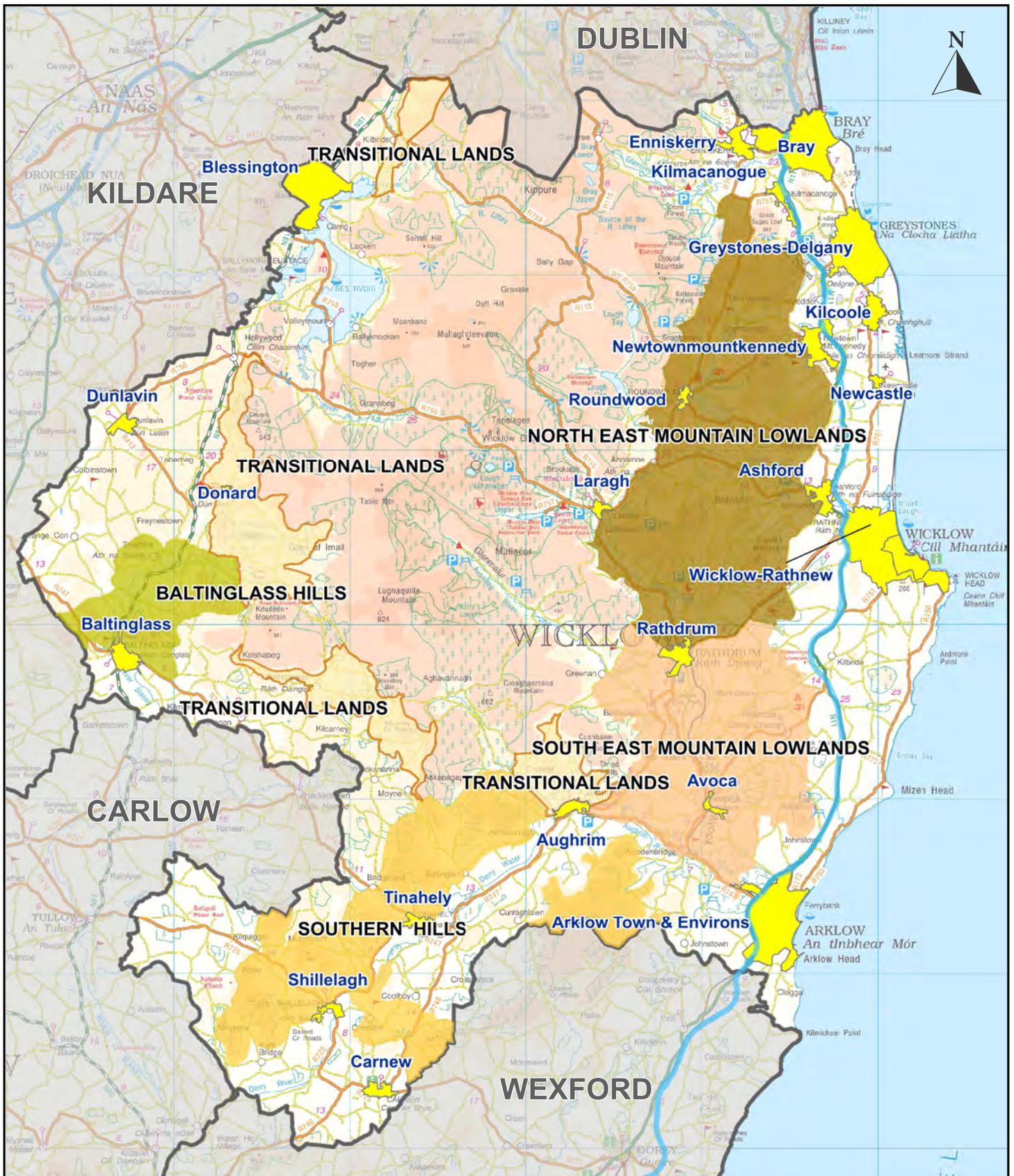
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

Map No. 17.09C

**Wicklow Landscape Category Map**



**Legend**

- Areas of High Amenity (AHA) Landscape Categories**
- North East Mountain Lowlands (1 - AHA)
  - South East Mountain Lowlands (2 - AHA)
  - Southern Hills (3 - AHA)
  - Baltinglass Hills (4 - AHA)
  - Transitional Lands (5 - AHA)
  - Urban Areas

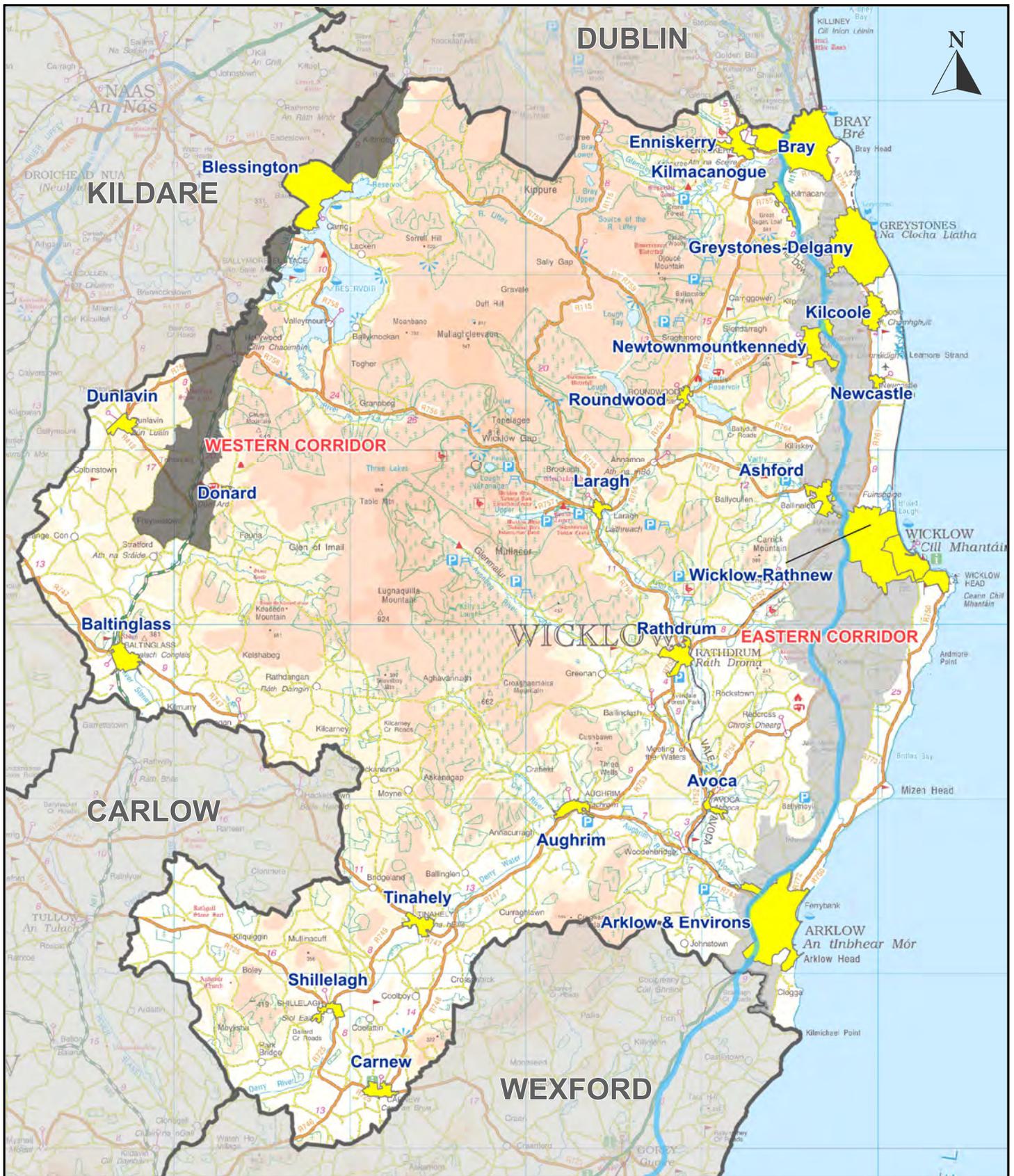
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

Map No. 17.09D

**Wicklow Landscape Category Map**



**Legend**

**Corridor Area Landscape Categories**

-  Corridor Area West
-  Corridor Area East
-  Urban Areas

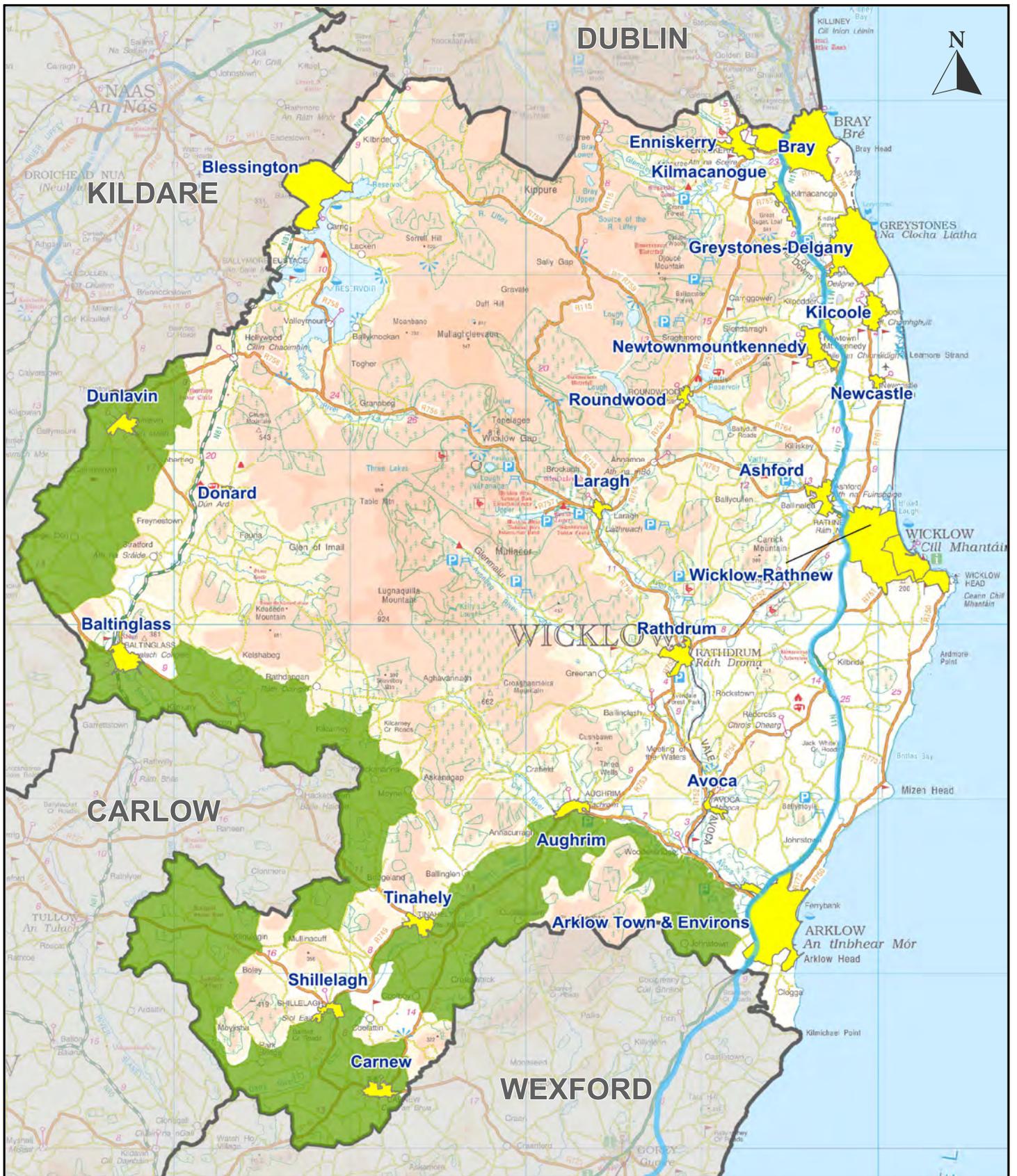
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.09E**

**Wicklow Landscape Category Map**

**Legend**

**Rolling Lowlands Landscape Categories**

- Rolling Lowlands
- Urban Areas

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## Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Map No. 17.10A



## Legend

Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest



View

Views listed for the towns of Bray, Wicklow - Rathnew, Greystones - Delgany - Kilcoole are listed and mapped in each individual local plan.

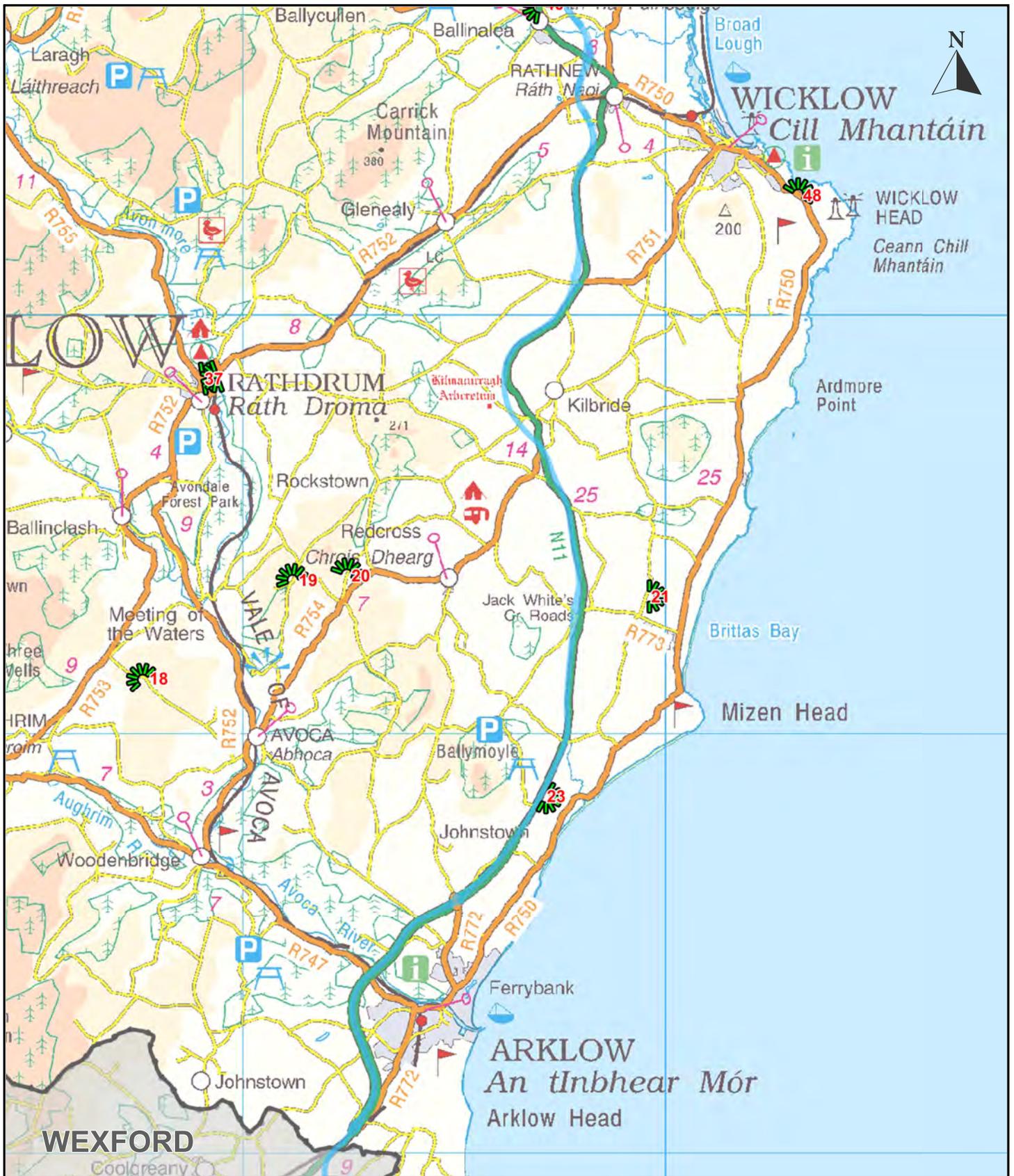
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## Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Map No. 17.10B



### Legend

Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest



View

Views listed for the towns of Bray, Wicklow - Rathnew, Greystones - Delgany - Kilcoole are listed and mapped in each individual local plan.

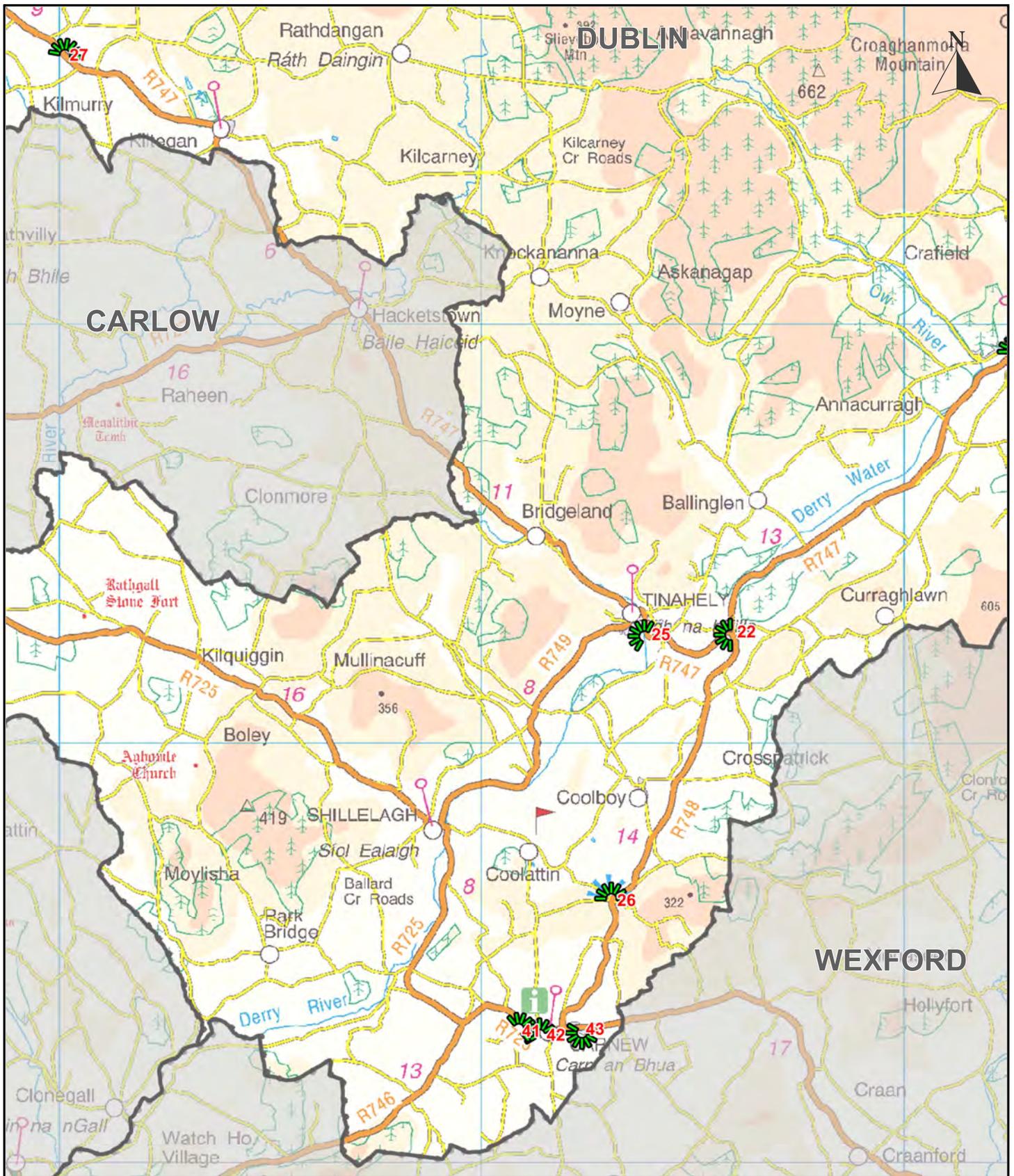
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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.10C**



**Legend**

Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest



View

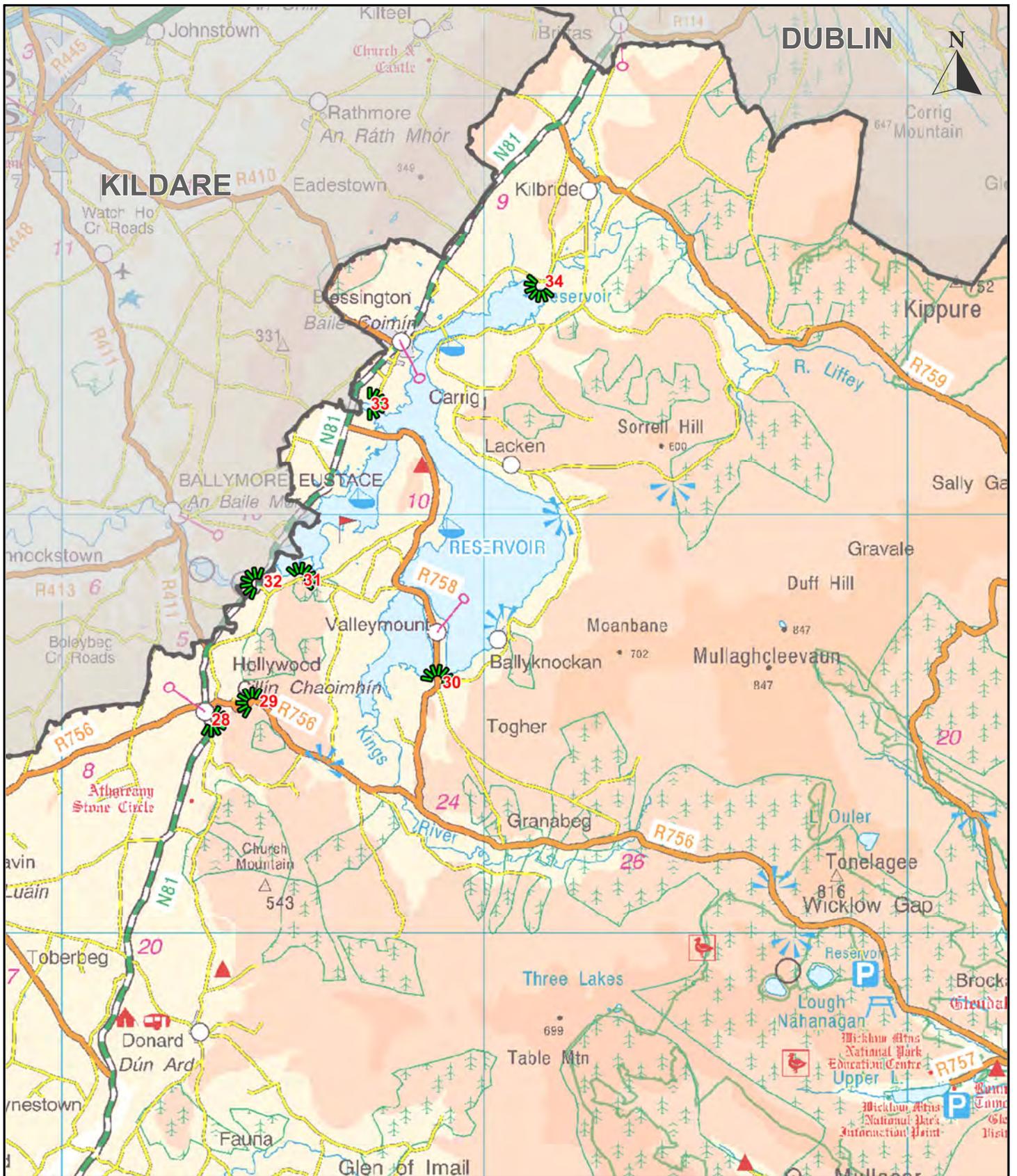
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## Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Map No. 17.10D



### Legend

Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest



View

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**Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

**Map No. 17.11**



**Legend**

**Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest**

 **Prospects**

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### Schedule 17.11 Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest

	<b>Origin of view</b>	<b>Description</b>
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
3	L5507 Ballyman Road, Enniskerry	View of The Scalp and the Scalp Valley from Ballyman
4	The lands near Monastery House	View south towards Djouce Mountain
5	From the Glencree Road	View towards Carrigollgan
6	Summerhill House Hotel	View towards the Cookstown Valley and Ballyman Glen
7	From Cookstown Road	View towards the Great Sugarloaf Mountain
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 Vartry 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 Tonlaguee, 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 north-eastwards of Poulaphuca Reservoir
31	L8361, Willmount Valleymount	View north-eastwards of Poulaphouca 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 Threecastles, 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 Stylebawn areas from the upper paths within the Nature Reserve.
36	L5529, Templecarrig, southern slopes of Little Sugar Loaf	View to the south and southeast of Kindlestown Hill and the coast
37	The R755-0 at Rathdrum Catholic Church	View across and along the Avonmore river, Rathdrum
38	The R752-90 above Rathdrum Mills	View across the Avonmore river valley, Rathdrum towards the town of Rathdrum
39	N11 Kilmacanogue	View of Little Sugarloaf
40	Looking westwards from bridge in Ashford	View of River Vartry and riverside trees
41	From the approach road, Carnew	Views to Carnew mart/graveyard towards the spire of the Catholic Church and Carnew Castle.
42	From the Main Street, Carnew	Views looking westward across the Derry river valley towards south Wicklow
43	From the Gorey Road, Carnew	Views southwards towards Slieveboy and Slievegower uplands areas located in County Wexford
44	Main Street, Newtownmountkennedy	View river valley
45	St. Catherine's School, (Newtownmountkennedy)	View to southwest

46	Old N11, Newtownmountkennedy	View to the northwest
47	Kilcoole Road, Newtownmountkennedy	View to the south
48	Coast road, Wicklow Town	View / panorama towards Wicklow Golf Course, Brides Head, Wicklow Head and the coastline

## Schedule 17.12 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 Balysmutton, 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 Rathcornea hillforts and towards Spinan Hill and Brusseltown 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 Ardinary
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 Sugar 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

### Wicklow Town Views

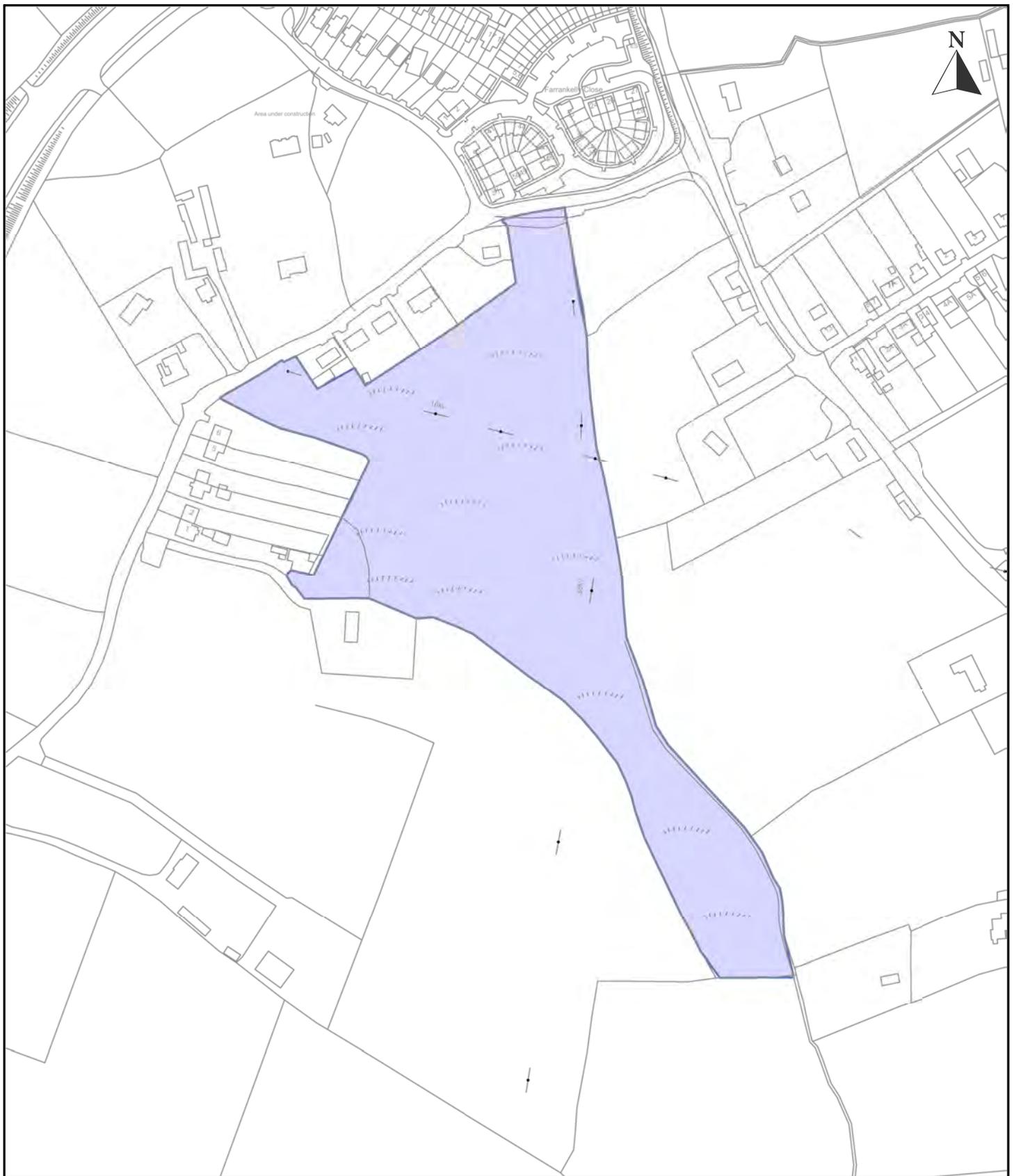
	Origin of view	Feature
WTC1	From Black Castle, Dunbur Road	View towards coastline
WTC2	From Black Castle, Dunbur Road	View towards coastline
WTC3	From Dunbur Road	View towards coastline
WTC4	From Dunbur Road	View towards coastline
WTC5	From Dunbur Road	View towards coastline

### Bray Views

	Origin of view	Feature
BTC1	From the town generally	The view of Bray Head and the Little Sugar Loaf
BTC4	From both sides of the bridge on the Killarney Road	The view both up and downstream of the Swan River Valley
BTC5	From below Granite Cottage off Boghall Road towards Oldcourt House.	The view down the River Valley
BTC8	From below Fiddlers Bridge	The view leading to Bray Head back along the Esplanade towards Martello Terrace and the Sailing Club, particularly of the houses along Strand Road
BTC 9	From Hedge End on Herbert Road	The view across the wooded area towards King Edward Road.
BTC10	From the fenced area above Mount Herbert on Herbert Road.	The view towards Fassaroe
BTC11	From the high ground near the Ravenhall site of the churches in Bray namely, St. Paul's the Holy Redeemer and Christ Church.	
BTC12	From the Harbour Bridge	The view of the Maltings and the former power station chimney.
BTC13	From Old Court Drive	The view towards the Sugar Loaf Mountain and Little Sugar Loaf
BTC14	From Fiddler Bridge on Bray Head.	The view of Loreto Convent and the spire of Christ Church
BTC15	From the south harbour along the Promenade and Strand Road	

### Bray Prospects

	Origin	Feature
BTC2	From N11.	The prospect towards the River Dargle, its flood plain and adjoining steep-sided wooded slopes
BTC3	From the N11	The prospect of the town's steep western wooded slopes between St. Valery's Bridge and Kilcrouney
BTC6	From Killarney Road (between cemetery near Elgin Wood and Fairy Hill)	The prospect of the Western side of Bray Head
BTC7	From the Southern Cross	The prospect of the western side of Bray Head



## Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Map No. 17.12



### Legend

 **Special Zoning - Objective CPO 17.11**

To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.

Scale 1:3,500 @A4

## WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council  
Planning Department



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