

SEA STATEMENT

FOR THE

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

for: Wicklow County Council

County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town



by: CAAS Ltd.

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to

the public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Plan.

This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement.

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan:
 - the environmental report,
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report, and
 - any transboundary consultations (not required for this SEA).
- c) the reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

1.3 Implications of SEA for the Plan

SEA has been undertaken on the Plan and the findings of the SEA are expressed in an Environmental Report, the first published version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display. The Environmental Report was updated in order to take account of changes to the original Draft Plan that were made on foot of submissions and recommendations in the submissions.

Wicklow County Council has been provided with the findings of SEA output during their consideration of the Plan and before the Plan was adopted.

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

2.1 Overview

Environmental considerations were presented to the Council for its consideration through:

1. Consultations;
2. Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process;
3. Appropriate Assessment;
4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
5. Consideration of alternatives;
6. Integration of environmental considerations; and
7. Integration of individual SEA and AA provisions into the Plan.

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan, Members' Amendments to that Plan in advance of public display, Proposed Material Alterations and Further Modifications. The mitigation integrated into the final, adopted Plan includes that identified in Section 9 of this report.

2.2 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

The Plan, considered as a whole, contributes towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development and complies with various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation.

Various Plan provisions that would contribute towards the sustainable development of the County would, at the same time, have the potential to conflict with the environment, were mitigation measures not taken into account. This is normal and mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to deal with these potential effects.


However, various parts of the Plan are internally inconsistent with the overall approach provided for by the Plan:

- A number of amendments to the Chief Executive's Draft Plan (in advance of public display of the Draft Plan) agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process. These amendments and the environmental and planning assessment documented and provided to the Members at the time is provided at Table 3.1.
- A number of proposed amendments to the Draft Plan that was placed on public display agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process. These amendments and the environmental and planning assessment documented and provided to the Members at the time is provided at Table 3.2.



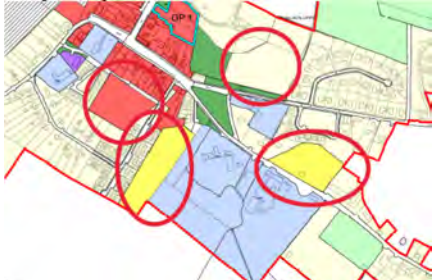

Table 2.1 Amendments to Chief Executive's Draft Plan adopted as part of the final Plan but advised against (including:)

Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was integrated into the Final Plan
Addition of settlements to Level 7 of the Settlement Hierarchy	4 "Settlement Strategy"	Addition of Barndarrig, Ballinaclash, Coolboy, Manor Kilbride and Kilpedder/Willowgrove to Level 7 of the Settlement Hierarchy, from Level 8	<p>In preparing the Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan, including a revised settlement strategy, an assessment of the capacity of each settlement to accommodate additional housing growth was carried out. It is considered that Barndarrig, Ballinaclash, Coolboy, Manor Kilbride and Kilpedder/Willowgrove having regard to the limited range of social, community and retail services, as well as deficiencies in service infrastructure (such as footpaths, cycle lanes, public transport, and in the case of Barndarrig, serious deficiencies in water supply), have a lower capacity for additional growth and should therefore be located in Level 8 of the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>These amendments would dilute the sustainable strategy set out in the Chief Executive's Draft Plan and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and Drinking water and human health. <p>By refining the number of settlements in Level 7, it was intended that these settlements would become a priority focus for new village development and the sourcing of funding for enhanced infrastructure. It is considered that adding to the number of settlements in Level 7 would reduce the potential to achieve these goals.</p>	This was adopted. Note that there was a proposed amendment passed for extending the boundary to Ballinaclash and amending the boundary of Kilpedder/Willowgrove.
Addition of settlements to Level 8 of the Settlement Hierarchy	4 "Settlement Strategy"	Addition of Kirikee, Connary, Greenane, Johnstown Askanagap, Coolattin, Coolkenno, Grangecon, Kilquiggan, Knockanarrigan and Annamoe to Level 8 of the Settlement Hierarchy, from Level 9	<p>In preparing the Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan, including a revised settlement strategy, an assessment of the capacity of each settlement to accommodate additional housing growth was carried out. It is considered that Kirikee, Connary, Greenane, Johnstown Askanagap, Coolattin, Coolkenno, Grangecon, Kilquiggan, Knockanarrigan and Annamoe, having regard to the limited range of community and retail services, as well as deficiencies in service infrastructure (such as footpaths, cycle lanes, public transport, and water services in some settlements), have a lower capacity for additional growth and should therefore be located in Level 9 of the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>These amendments would dilute the sustainable strategy set out in the Chief Executive's Draft Plan and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; Increased loadings on water bodies; and <p>Potential effects on human health and ecology as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors.</p>	This was adopted. Note that there was a proposed amendment passed for extending the boundary to Johnstown.
Addition of settlements to Level 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy	4 "Settlement Strategy"	Addition of Ballyduff, Boleynass, Kilmurray, Tomriland, Barranisky, Glenmalure, Kilcarra, Kingston, Macreddin, Ballyfolan, Ballynultagh, Baltyboys, Carrigacurra, Croneynhorn, Goldenhill, Gorteen, Oldcourt, Rathmoon and Redwells to Level 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy	<p>In preparing the Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan, including a revised settlement strategy, the Level 9 rural clusters were examined to ensure that they had a sense of place and provided the local community with some level of social/community infrastructure and had some potential to accommodate additional housing growth. It is considered that Ballyduff, Boleynass, Kilmurray, Tomriland, Barranisky, Glenmalure, Kilcarra, Kingston, Macreddin, Ballyfolan, Ballynultagh, Baltyboys, Carrigacurra, Croneynhorn, Goldenhill, Gorteen, Oldcourt, Rathmoon and Redwells, having regard to the lack of social and community infrastructure, lack of wastewater and water infrastructure, lack of footpaths, cycle lanes and public transport to serve these nodes, should therefore not be considered as Rural nodes.</p> <p>These amendments would dilute the sustainable strategy set out in the Chief Executive's Draft Plan and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; Increased loadings on water bodies; Potential effects on human health and ecology as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors; and Occurrence of adverse visual impacts on important landscape designations, as many of these locations are located within important landscape designations: Ballyduff, Boleynass, Kilmurray, Tomriland, Barranisky, Glenmalure, Kilcarra, Kingston, Macreddin, Ballyfolan, Ballynultagh, Baltyboys, Carrigacurra are either located within areas subject to either "Area of High Amenity" or "Mountain and Lakeshore Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)" designations. <p>By refining the number of rural nodes in Level 9, it was intended that these settlements would become defined by having a sense of place, which the above rural clusters are identified as not having.</p>	This was adopted.
Occupancy Controls under Levels 7, 8 and 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy	6 "Housing"	Various motions and amendments altering the occupancy controls for Levels 7, 8 and 9, and in some cases (particularly for Level 9) widening the range of persons eligible for permission / occupancy	<p>These changes would dilute the management of housing in the County's settlements and have the potential to result in more housing in settlements in Levels 7-9 than would be within the capacity of the social, community and infrastructural services at these settlements, with potential associated significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; Increased loadings on water bodies; Potential effects on human health and ecology as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors; and Occurrence of adverse visual impacts on important landscape designations as many of these locations are located within important landscape designations. <p>The Amendment to CPO 6.39 loosens occupancy controls in Level 9 Rural Clusters. The main purpose of Rural Clusters is to direct rural housing into</p>	This was adopted.

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			<p>the cluster and away from the countryside. To expand and include residents of Level 4-7 settlements would allow for residents from outside of the rural area to build in the area and would be therefore contrary to the purpose of the rural cluster. It is considered that the changes would put significant pressure on clusters and would make it difficult for people who have a genuine need to reside in these settlements to get sites. The changes would put pressure on services and the environment at Rural Clusters.</p>	
Housing in the Open Countryside	6 "Housing"	<p>Amended CPO 6.41 Facilitate residential development in the open countryside for those with a housing need based on the core consideration of demonstrable functional social or economic need to live in the open countryside in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 6.3. *see Plan document for more detail on social and economic criteria*</p> <p>In the event of conflict of any other settlement strategy objective / Landscape Zones and categories, a person who qualifies under policy CPO 6.41 their needs shall be supreme, except where the proposed development would be a likely traffic hazard or public health hazard. With regard to the preservation of views and prospects, due consideration shall be given to those listed within the area of the National Park; and with respect to all other areas, to generally regard the amenity matters, but not to the exclusion of social and economic matters. The protection and conservation of views and prospects should not give rise to the prohibition of development, but development should be designed and located to minimise impact.</p>	<p>The amended CPO 6.41 identifies need under the social and economic criteria as "supreme" i.e. ahead of other considerations including environmental.</p> <p>These changes would dilute the management of rural housing and has the potential to result in more housing in the Open Countryside with associated significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and ecological connectivity; • Increased loadings on water bodies; • Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts on important landscape designations; • Cultural heritage; and • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. <p>The changes could present potential conflicts with legislative requirements including the European Habitats and Water Framework Directives that would be challenging to mitigate.</p>	This was adopted. Note that there was a proposed amendment passed for amending the 'Social need' criteria passed.
Luas	12 "Sustainable Transportation"	<p>Addition of following to CPO 12.21</p> <p>"To promote the development of transport interchanges and 'nodes' where a number of transport types can interchange with ease. In particular:... to promote the Luas extension from City West/ Tallaght to Blessington;"</p>	<p>Luas proposals are included in the National Transport Authority's "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035". There is no proposal to extend the Luas to Blessington. The Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is required by legislation to be consistent with the Strategy and, in accordance with Section 10 (1A) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, the County Development Plan is required to be consistent with the RSES. This amendment is not consistent with the RSES or the NTA strategy in terms of future public transport provision.</p> <p>There is no established planning justification for this Amendment and as a result it would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on environmental components including ecology and ecological connectivity, surface and ground water bodies, soil, human health and cultural heritage. It is uncertain how such a project would impact upon the economic and operational efficiency of infrastructure provision. Expansion of the Luas network could provide an alternative to car journeys with associated positive interactions with emissions.</p> <p>CPO 12.10 requires that where projects for new infrastructure identified in Chapter 12 are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility.</p>	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	<p>Extend plan boundary and zone land RE Existing Residential in Baltinglass</p> 	<p>The amendment will exacerbate ribbon development along this stretch of road. Furthermore, adequate lands have already been identified to cater for the housing target identified in the core strategy. The increase in the amount of zoned land in Baltinglass would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town.</p> <p>The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.

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Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was integrated into the Final Plan
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land NR New Residential (in yellow) in Newtownmountkennedy 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	The plan was extended and the parcel of land was zoned RE (Existing Residential).
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land Residential in Aughrim 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; o Occurrence of adverse visual impacts; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Change zoning at various locations in Dunlavin 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The amended zoning, including from Strategic Land Bank to New and Existing Residential, would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land Tertiary Zone in Roundwood 	The amendment would potentially allow for the extension of the developed area of Roundwood into its Hinterland area, contrary to the overriding goal for towns to consolidate and re-invigorate town centres. The sprawl of new development into the hinterland would be contrary to this objective and would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; o Occurrence of adverse visual impacts; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.

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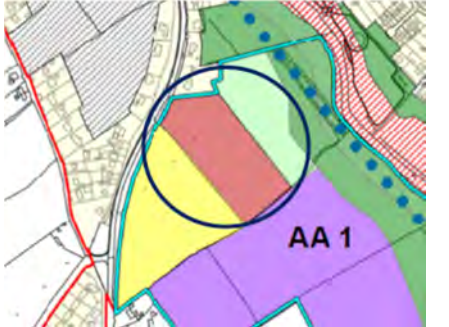
Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was Integrated into the Final Plan
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land Secondary Zone in Shillelagh 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land for Mixed Use in Ballinglass 	The purpose of the amendment is to accommodate a low cost retail unit. Such a use should be directed towards the town centre where there is adequate zoning and were it to be developed at this location would have the potential to adversely impact the vitality and viability of the town centre. amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted subject to amendment that was not supported by the Executive.

Table 2.2 Amendments to Draft Plan adopted as part of the final Plan but advised against (including:)

Proposed Amendment ¹	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption	Mitigation Identified
No. V1-11	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilpedder - Willowgrove) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V1-13	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Johnstown) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V1-31	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilmullen, Newcastle) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>

¹ For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

SEA Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Proposed Amendment ¹	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption	Mitigation Identified
No. V2-99	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Ballinalea), including for New Residential zoning, is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>Proposed Amendment V2-99 relates to land use zoning and have been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines, however mitigation has been identified, including that within the Plan, that applies. Once these measures are complied with, effects on environmental components including human health and material assets would be mitigated.</p> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V2-100	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Inchanappa) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and associated landscapes, including context • Effects on entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and associated landscapes, including context • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>Proposed Amendment V2-100 relates to land use zoning and have been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines, however mitigation has been identified, including that within the Plan, that applies. Once these measures are complied with, effects on environmental components including human health and material assets would be mitigated.</p> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V2-103	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland and the Croneynhorn Upper watercourse • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>

2.3 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Wicklow County Council²: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Environmental Protection Agency; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kildare County Council; South Dublin County Council; and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Detail on submissions made on foot of the SEA scoping notice is provided under Section 3.2.

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Draft Plan and/or the SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3).

2.4 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan before it was placed on public display. Individual sensitivities that were considered by the Planning Team preparing the Plan included the following:

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations;
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;

² The names of some of the relevant authorities have changed since notification was provided.

- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figures 2.1 to 2.3.

Overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities was also prepared and a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 2.4 provides the overlay mapping of Environmental Sensitivities that was prepared. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity.

2.5 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.³

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

2.6 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. Recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan.

³ 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 plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

2.7 Consideration of Alternatives

Consideration of the environmental effects arising from a variety of different alternatives for the Plan (see Section 4) has contributed towards the protection and management of the environment within the Plan.

informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

2.8 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.

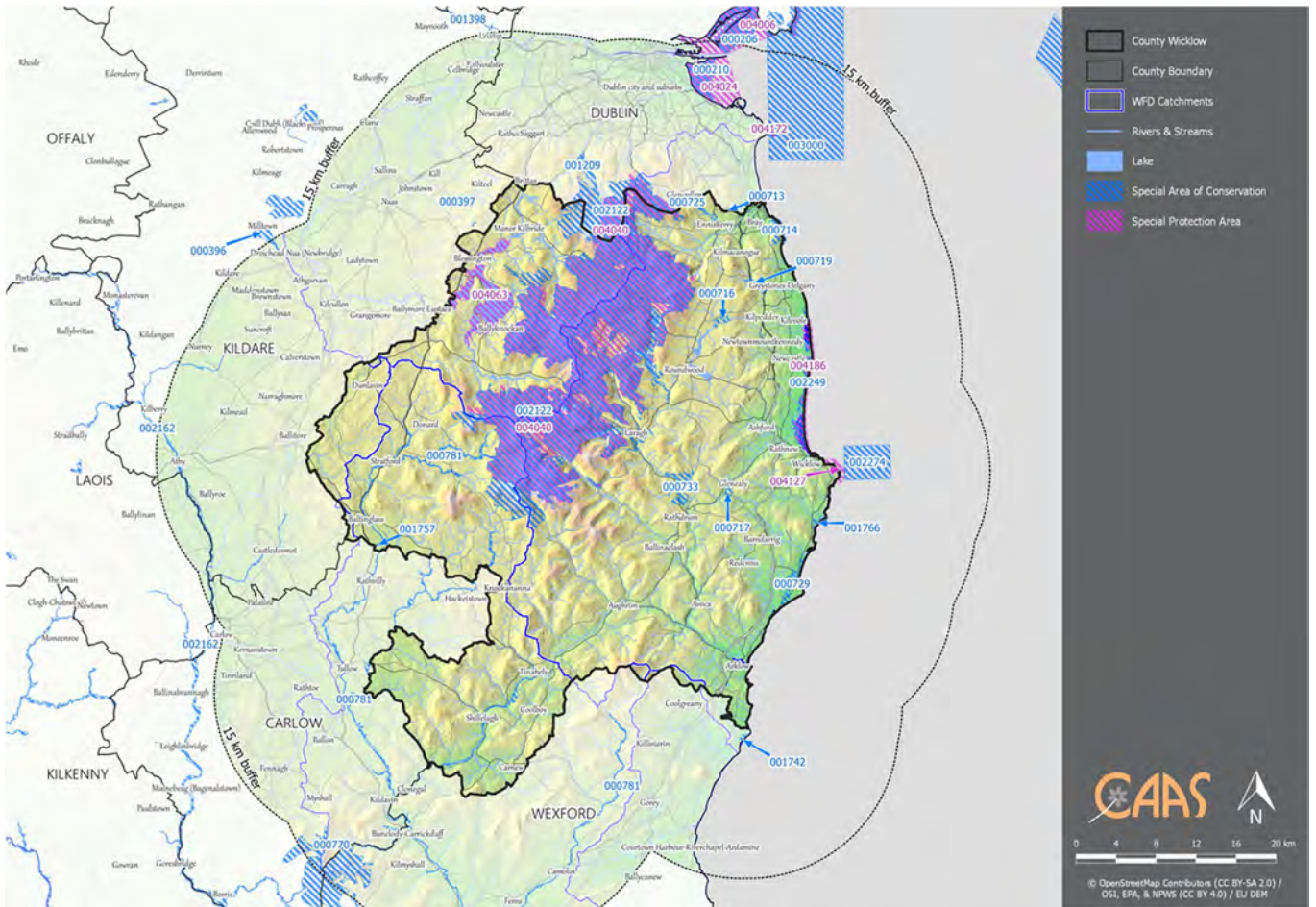
Land use zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES.

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level.

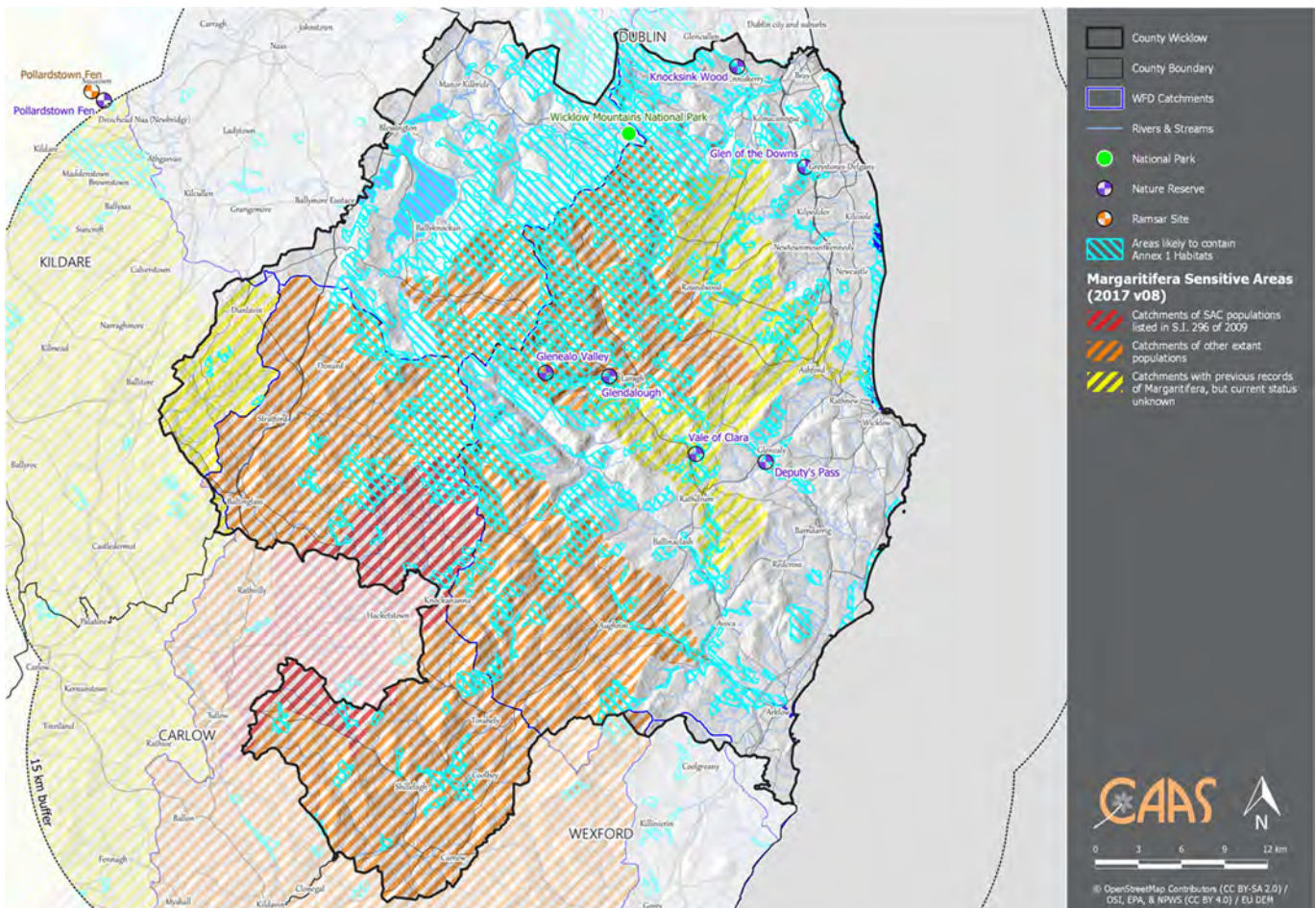
Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

2.9 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

Table 2.3 links key mitigation measure(s) - which have been integrated into the Plan - to the potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The integration of these measures into the Plan occurred over a number of iterations and was

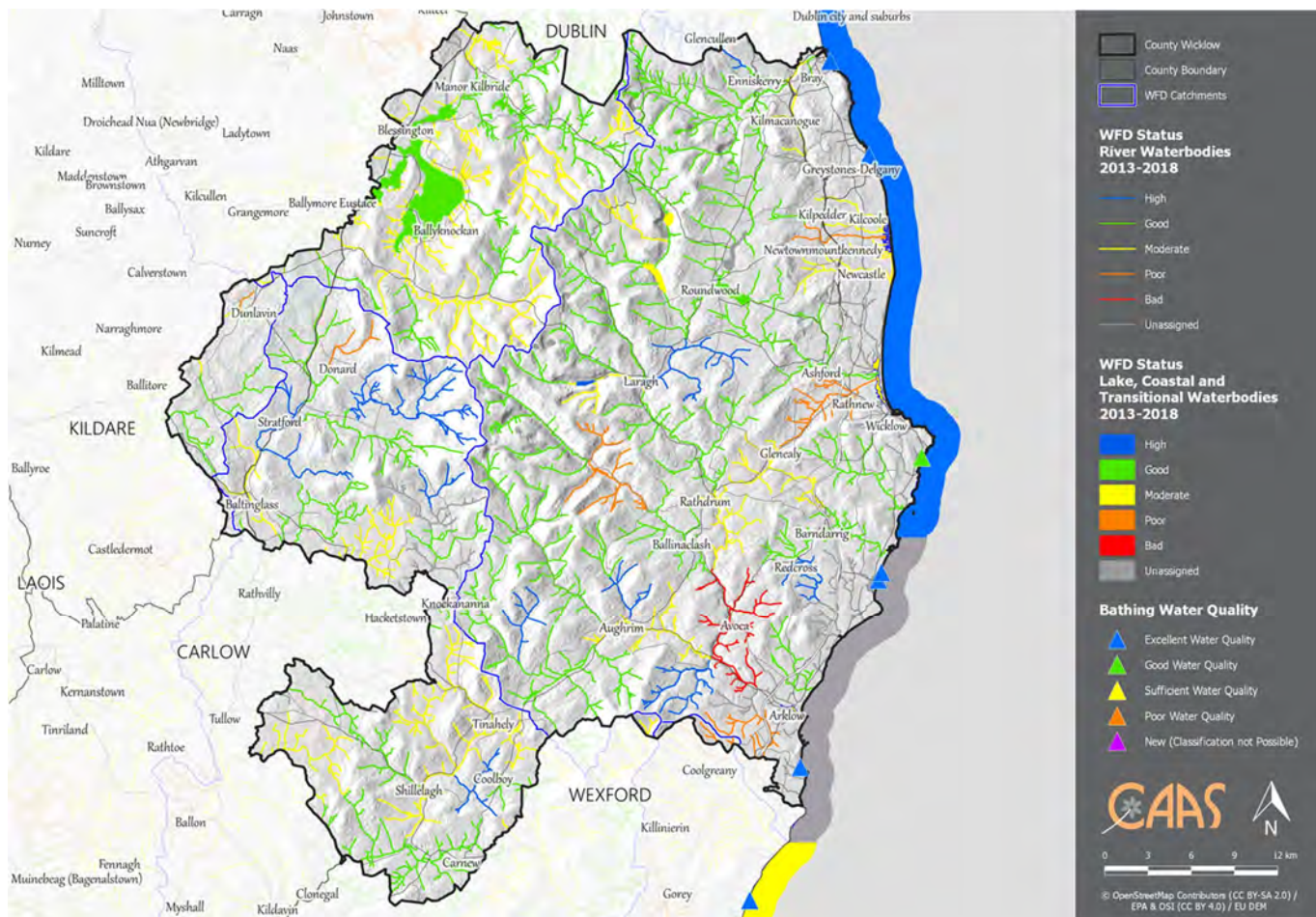


European Sites within and adjacent to the Plan area

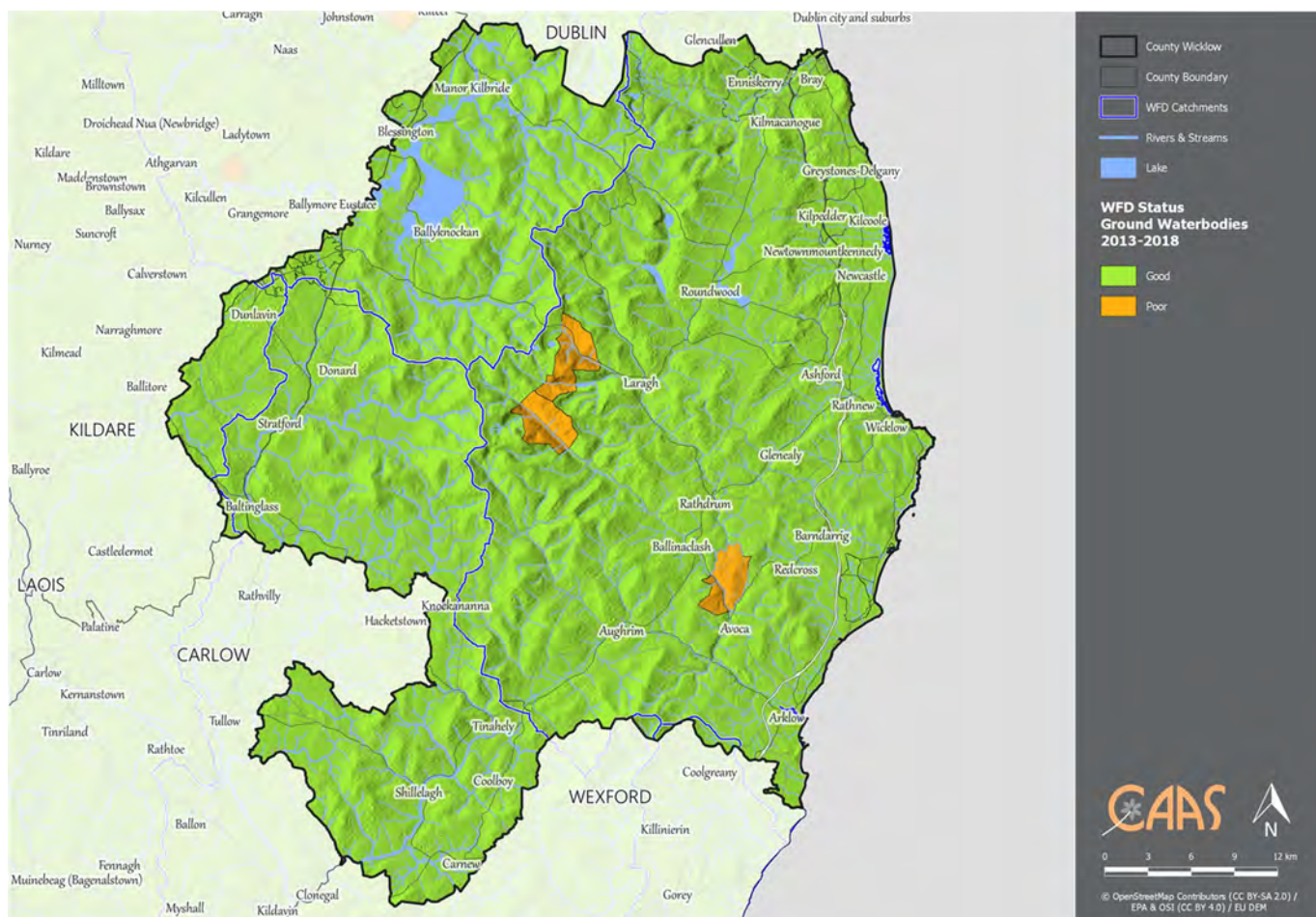


Selection of Other Ecological Designations within and adjacent to the Plan area

Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)

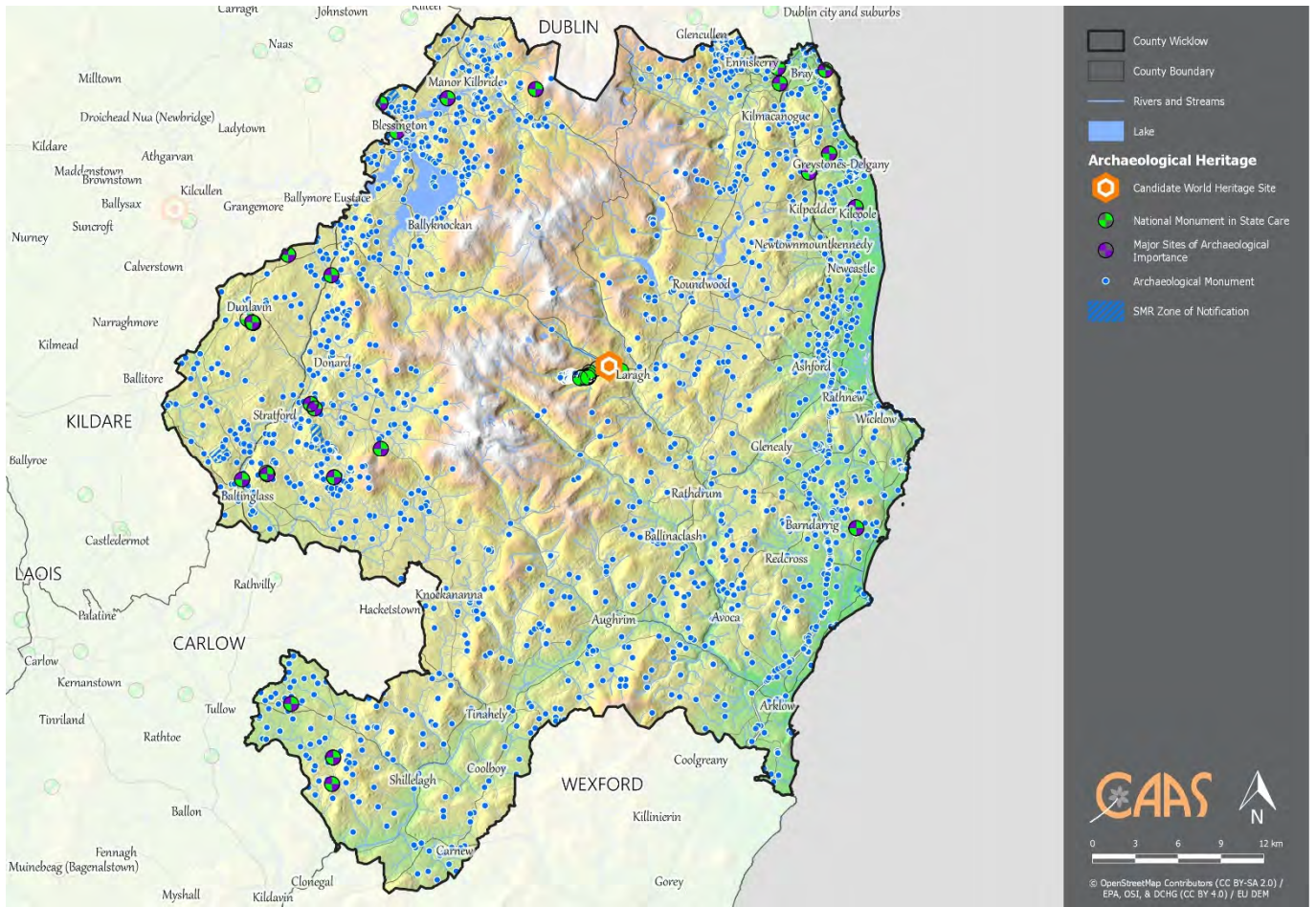


Surface Water Status

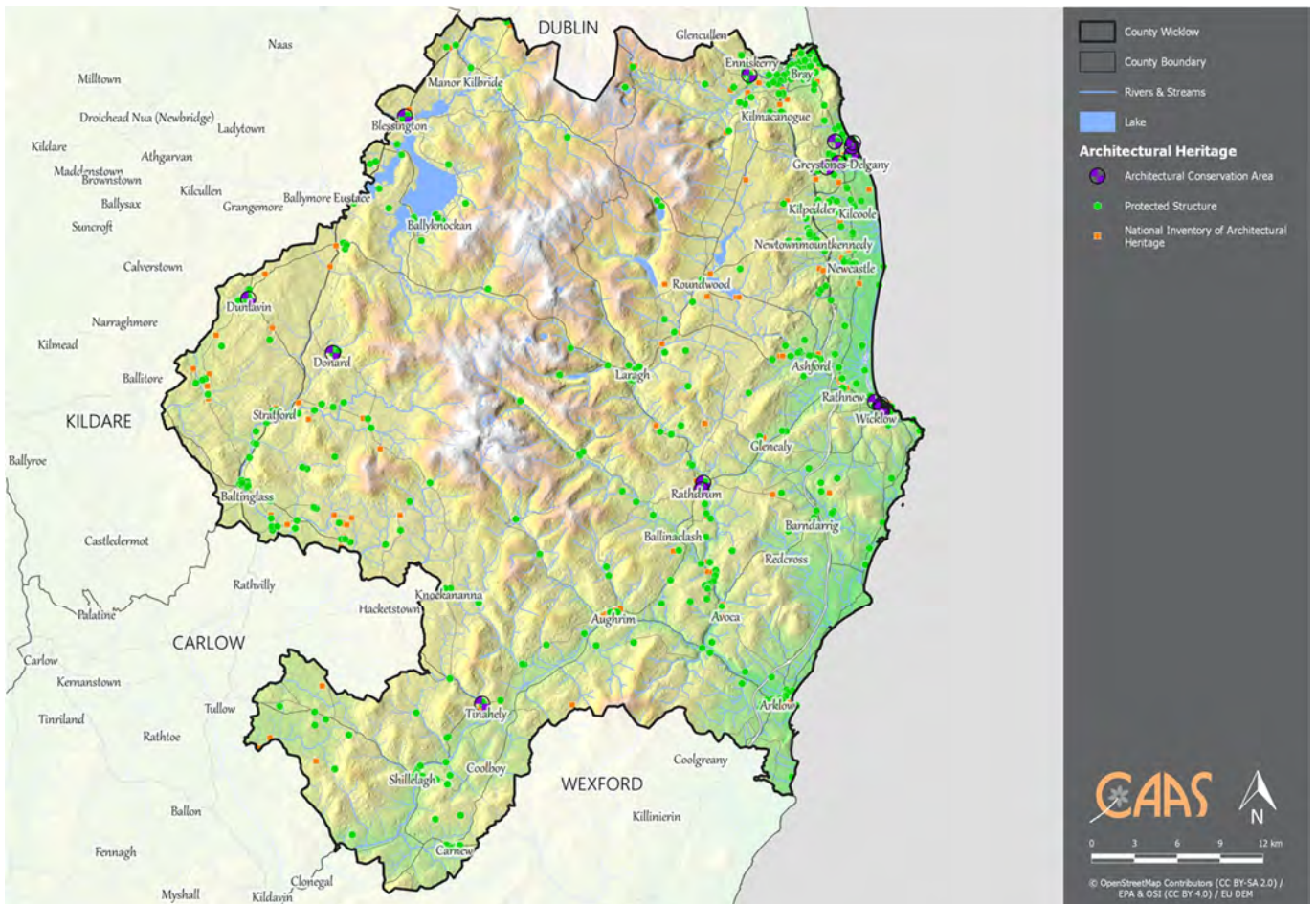


Groundwater Status

Figure 2.2 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (2 of 3)



Archaeological Designations



Landscape Types

Figure 2.3 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (3 of 3)

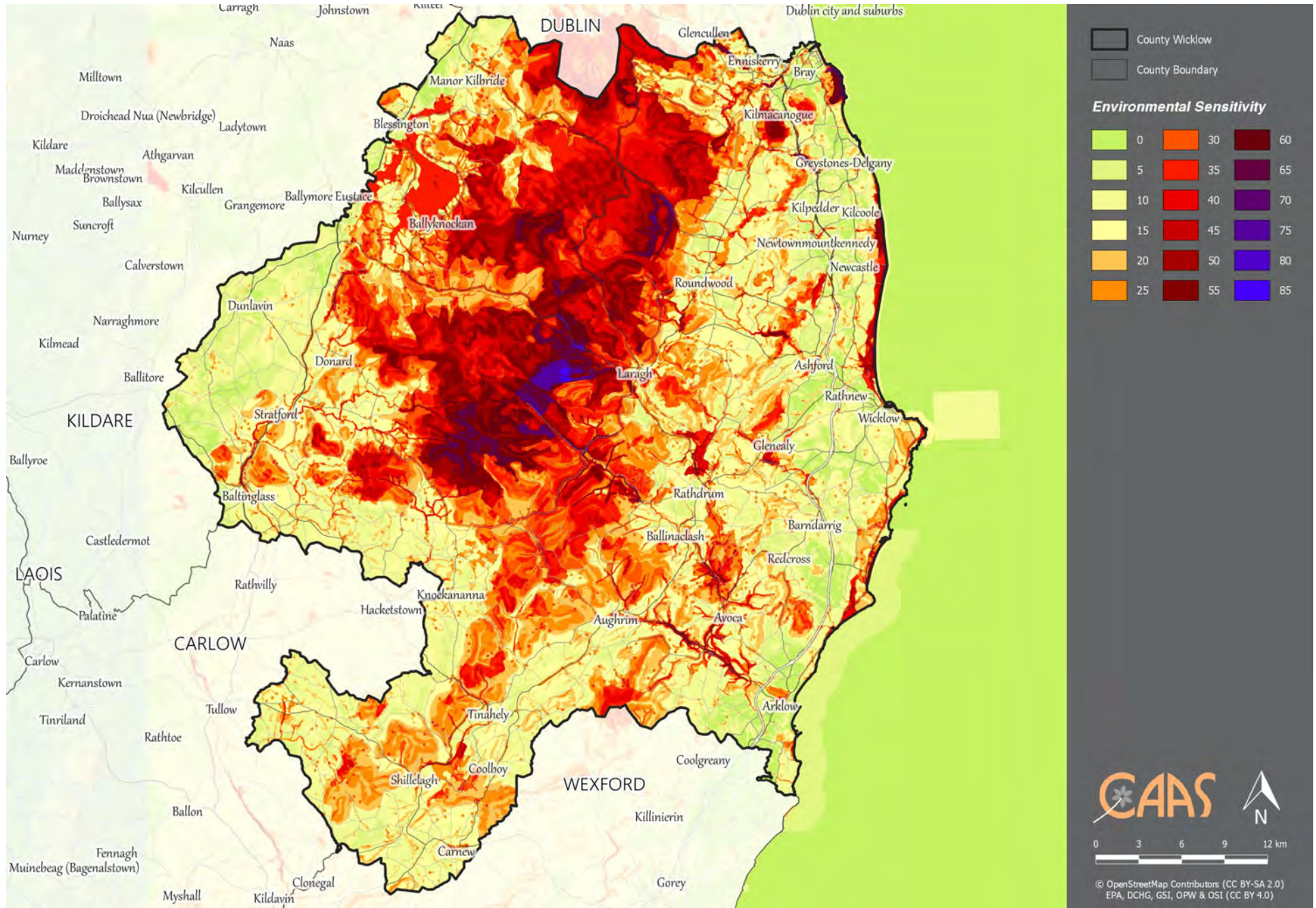


Figure 2.4 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

Table 2.3 Integration of Environmental Considerations

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity</p> <p>Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p>Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>Environmental Protection</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Corridor and Route Selection</p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives</p> <p>General</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Protected sites and species</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , 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) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) 	

SEA Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>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) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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 .</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) 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.</p> <p>Sites & Corridors of ecological & biodiversity value</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</p> <p>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 long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>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).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inland linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p> <p>In particular, to support the development of existing and examine the feasibility of new walking, cycling, horse riding and water based routes and trails along the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way; • the extension of the 'Blessington Greenway' walk around the Phoulaphuca reservoir; • the expansion of a lakeshore walk around the Vartry reservoir; • the extension of the old Shillelagh branch recreational trail - railway walk from Arklow to Shillelagh; • the development of a route along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass. • the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road; • the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes). • the Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells. • 'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle. <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Recreation and Tourism</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes ; • Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16. <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and</p>

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		<p>appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Light Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development & Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 19.13 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 plan⁴.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cell 2 Bray Head CPO 19.17</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect and enhance Bray Head, in accordance with the SAAO. 2. To maintain and enhance amenity routes on Bray Head and in particular the cliff path from Bray to Greystones. 3. To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps, while preserving the rugged and natural character of the area and its paths 4. To protect all listed views and prospects to or from Bray Head as set out in the Local Area Plan for Bray MD and County Development Plan. 5. Development, which would reduce existing areas of heathland, maritime grassland and wooded areas, will not normally be permitted except for reasons of overriding public interest. 6. To facilitate existing agricultural usage of Bray Head, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitat diversity. 7. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its amenity and green break function between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding; b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area; c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell. 8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft or hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown) CPO 19.18</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its function as a green break between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding; b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area; c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell. 2. To maintain and enhance the cliff path from Bray to Greystones, while preserving its rugged and natural character. 3. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.

⁴ 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 plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

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			<p>Cell 4 Greystones Town CPO 19.19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole, in particular to provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park. The development shall provide leisure, recreational, open space and marine facilities, and mixed form residential, commercial, civic and social amenities, centred around the harbour and marina. The development shall provide a link to the coastline with public access and coastal protection works provided to preserve the landscape from further erosion in the future. 2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage and changing / toilet facilities. <p>Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin) CPO 19.20</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats. 2. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations. 3. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline. 4. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell. 5. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 6. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective. 7. To facilitate and support the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities. 8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the ecological and amenity value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon. 2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats. 3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla. 4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations. 6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline. 7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective. 8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell. 9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area. 10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew. 2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively. 3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs. 4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port. 5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south. 6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head. 2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.

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Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites; b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and d) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types; e) automated gates will not be permitted on any development. <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p>Cell 9 Brittas Bay CPO 19.24</p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. To protect, conserve and encourage the recovery of the beach-dune system at Brittas Bay, in accordance with the conservation objectives for which the SAC is designated, and as per site specific conservation management prescriptions prepared in 2018. Development that results in the erosion of the beach-dune system will not be permitted. In this respect, the Council will particularly ensure protection against erosion caused by amenity and recreational use of the dunes.</p> <p>4. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>7. All services and facilities to serve the local community and tourists shall be located within the boundaries of Ballynacarrig Village. Notwithstanding this, one small-scale local service type development shall be considered in proximity to the South Beach car park. The development may comprise a shop/service garage/pub/restaurant/café development. The maximum floor area of the development shall be 200m².</p> <p>8. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New tourist accommodation shall be directed into one of the three identified development clusters of Ballynacarrig Village, Brittas Bridge and Cornagower (as shown on Map XX.02), or to existing developed sites. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where the following criteria are complied with, will accommodation be considered on a greenfield site outside a cluster: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the development shall be located in close proximity to the identified clusters and shall have or be provided with direct and high quality connections to the clusters and to the coast; ii. the development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design. b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design; d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types; e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development. <p>9. To limit the size of existing public car parks to the present levels and to support the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the road at Cornagower</p>

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		<p>East.</p> <p>10. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>11. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>12. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p>Cell 10 Mizen Head to Arklow (Sallymount / Johnstown) CPO 19.25</p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> New tourist accommodation shall be limited to suitable sites west of the coast road that are served by high quality road network and are or can be provided with direct and proximate access to the coast. Permission will only be considered for new tourist accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc). The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design. The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types. Automated gates will not be permitted on any development. <p>7. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>8. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the coast road, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>9. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>10. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water and energy infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p>Cell 11 Arklow Environs CPO 19.26</p> <p>1. To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Arklow coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the Arklow Town and Environs Local Area Plan.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>3. To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour / marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone jetty.</p> <p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p>Cell 12 Arklow Head / Clogga CPO 19.27</p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>3. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>4. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would</p>

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		<p>assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>6. New tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing developed cluster at Clogga or to existing developed sites;</p> <p>a) permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</p> <p>b) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited;</p> <p>d) automated gates will not be permitted on any development; and</p> <p>e) new development shall have or be provided with high quality direct access to the main traffic routes;</p> <p>f) development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</p> <p>7. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>8. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</p>
<p>Population and human health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Seveso Sites</p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the “COMAH Regulations”, (S.I. No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, b) public health and safeguarding of public health, and c) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2.</p>
<p>Soil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Soils & Geology</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance ‘County Geological Sites’ (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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		<p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatland stability; • Carbon emissions balance; and • Hydrology and ecology.
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p>Water Quality Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.1 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 Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO 13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (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 location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO 13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newtownmountkennedy - Rathdrum - Dunlavin - The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the</p>

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water efficient equipment; - Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; - Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; - Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; - The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; - In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arklow - Blessington - Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca - Laragh – Glendalough - Lakes area around Blessington - Large and Small Villages <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; • the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); • the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and • in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>Flood Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures, and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme; - Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme; - Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme; - Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows; and - Ensure that development proposals support, and do not impede or prevent, progression of such schemes. <p>CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).</p> <p>CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary.</p> <p>CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines).</p> <p>CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. • An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding. • Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed. • Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines. • Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA. <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>CPO 14.10 To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.</p> <p>CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving.</p> <p>CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Water Systems</p> <p>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,</p>

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		<p>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 Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 location) 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.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Air Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p>Noise Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Refer to Section Error! Reference source not found. "Error! Reference source not found."</p>
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG); • 'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)', EPA 2006; • 'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009; • 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and • 'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009. <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support</p>

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	<p>services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<p>and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newtownmountkennedy Rathdrum Dunlavin The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Varty Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of water efficient equipment; Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arklow Blessington Aughrim Tinahely Avoca Laragh – Glendalough <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p>

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			<p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity. CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>Solid Waste Management Objectives CPO 15.1 To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site. CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development & Design Standards of this plan). CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites. CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste. CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area. CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Hazardous Waste Objectives CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan. CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of open space amenities, • sustainable management of water, • protection and management of biodiversity, • protection of cultural heritage, and • protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and • the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment) <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption), • the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority, • the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow, • the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area, <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrrough Coastal Protection Study , the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities 		<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan. CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality. CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture. CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p>

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>Archaeology Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules X.01 & X.02 and Maps X.01 & X.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate new or improved public access to and erection of appropriate interpretive signage at National Monuments, archaeological sites, castles, sites of historic interest and archaeological landscapes in State or private ownership, as identified in Schedule 08.02 and Map 8.02 of this plan, in co-operation with landowners.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p>Other Structures & Vernacular Architecture Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas,</p>

SEA Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA. The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line. The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings. Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible. A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required. The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used. Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA. <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p>Historical & Cultural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p> <p>CPO 8.28 Any road or bridge improvement works along the Military Road shall be designed and constructed with due regard to the history and notable features of the road (in particular its original support structures, route and alignment), insofar as is possible and reasonable given the existing transport function of the road.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p>Landscape, Views & Prospects</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Wicklow County Council on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan and the SEA.

3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the scoping process for preparation of the Plan, environmental authorities⁵ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council.

Submissions were made by the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The issues raised in these submissions and how these issues have been taken into account during preparation of the Plan and the SEA are provided on Table 3.1 below. Taking into account these submissions included integrating environmental considerations into the Plan, including through the selection of Plan provisions identified on Table 2.3.

⁵ The following authorities were notified: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Environmental Protection Agency; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kildare County Council; South Dublin County Council; and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Table 3.1 Taking into account SEA Scoping Submissions

No.	Submission Text	SEA Response
1	Submission from the Environmental Protection Agency	
A	The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.	Noted.
B	As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and was be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process.
C	Specific Comments on the Plan <i>Critical service infrastructure</i> In proposing and in implementing the Plan, you should ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.	Noted. The SEA will ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development and that it will provide for adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.
D	<i>Climate Action</i> In preparing the Plan, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including those set out in the new <i>Climate Action Plan</i> , as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations and measures in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation and mitigation plans. The Agency recently published <i>Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2018-2040</i> (EPA, 2019) which should be taken into account in preparing the Plan, as appropriate and relevant. We have also published an update of our existing good practice guidance note on how to incorporate climatic factors into plans and programmes falling under the remit of the SEA Directive – <i>Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland</i> (EPA, 2019). Key climate-related aspects to consider in the Plan and SEA, where relevant, include: - Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (Mitigation) - Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g. the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (Adaptation) - The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships).	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.
E	<i>Coastal Zone Management</i> The Plan should include specific coastal zone management objectives and should consider future climate scenarios in terms of predicted higher sea levels and periods of increased frequency of storm conditions and associated flooding. The Plan should ensure the protection of ecological buffers/marshlands/estuaries, in order that the effects of coastal squeeze on protected species/designated habitats can be managed appropriately where possible. The role which estuaries and marshes play in terms of flood alleviation could also be highlighted.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan includes specific coastal zone management objectives and that it considers future climate scenarios in terms of predicted higher sea levels and periods of increased frequency of storm conditions and associated flooding. The SEA will also ensure that the Plan provides for the appropriate protection of ecological buffers, marshlands and estuaries.
F	<i>Integration of transport & land-use planning</i> The Plan should support the need for compact growth and better integration of transport and land-use planning, including walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport, park-and-ride facilities, etc.	The SEA will ensure that the Plan provides for robust measures to support the need for compact growth and better integration of transport and land-use planning, including walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport, park-and-ride facilities, etc.
G	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i> Describing the links with the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would help to frame the Plan (and SEA) within the context of the wider sustainable development agenda and ensure that the Plan is consistent with achieving the SDGs. Relevant targets and actions in Ireland's SDG Implementation Plan (DCCAE, 2018) should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan.	The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant targets and actions in Ireland's SDG Implementation Plan (DCCAE, 2018) have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and was be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.
H	<i>Biodiversity</i> Wicklow County Council should promote the need to protect non-designated aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, and to ensure appropriate control and management measures for invasive species. To help protect and/or to enhance biodiversity in the Plan area, there is merit in assessing and incorporating any relevant habitat mapping available.	Protection of non-designated aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, control and management of invasive alien species will also be considered in preparing the SEA.
I	<i>State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2016</i> In preparing the Plan and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our most recent State of the <i>Environment Report Ireland's Environment – An Assessment 2016</i> (EPA, 2016) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan. We are currently preparing the next iteration of Ireland's Environment for 2020, which should be taken into account upon its publication.	The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within Ireland's Environment will be considered in the preparation of the Plan.

No.	Submission Text	SEA Response
J	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>One of the key messages from our last <i>State of the Environment Report</i> (EPA, 2016) is the importance and value of Community Engagement. In preparing the Plan and carrying out the SEA (including developing alternatives), the need to proactively engage local communities should be a core consideration.</p>	<p>The public (including the local community) have been provided with an opportunity to input into the preparation of the Draft Plan and will be provided with an opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Plan and associated environmental documents during public display.</p>
K	<p>Available Guidance & Resources</p> <p>Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEA process guidance and checklists - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA - topic specific SEA guidance (including '<i>Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA</i>', '<i>Integrating Climatic Factors into SEA</i>' and '<i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i>) <p>You can access these resources at: www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/</p>	<p>These resources and guidance have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and was accessed, as relevant, for reference throughout the SEA process.</p>
L	<p>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool</p> <p>The ESM Webtool is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to explore environmental considerations within a particular area and create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners anticipate potential land-use conflicts and help identify suitable development locations, while also protecting the environment. The ESM Webtool is available at www.enviromap.ie.</p>	<p>The ESM Webtool has been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and was considered throughout the SEA process, where relevant.</p>
M	<p>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool</p> <p>Our SEA WebGIS Tool, available through the EDEN portal (https://gis.epa.ie/EIS_SEA/), allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist in SEA screening and scoping exercises.</p>	<p>Available online EPA resources, including mapping resources, have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report report and was considered throughout the SEA and AA processes.</p>
N	<p>EPA WFD Application</p> <p>Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN https://wfd.edenireland.ie/ and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the Catchments.ie website.</p>	
O	<p>EPA AA GeoTool</p> <p>Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to a select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/AppropAssess/index.jsp</p>	
P	<p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>Under the SEA Regulations, you should also consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment • where it appears that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and • any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority 	<p>Notice has also been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.</p>
2	Submission from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	
A	<p>Where SEA scoping indicates potential impacts on sea-fisheries and the marine environment, the following information should be taken into account in the SEA.</p> <p>Relevant Legislation, Plans and Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011 • Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 and amendments) • Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 & Sea-Fisheries Regulations • Fisheries Natura Plans & Declarations made under European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (online at http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/natura2000sitesundermanagement/) • National Seafood Operational Programme (EMFF requirement) & National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (CFP requirement) currently under preparation for 2014 – 2020 • Food Harvest 2020 • Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – the national integrated marine plan for Ireland • Implementation of pollution reduction programmes for designated shellfish waters (Shellfish Waters Directive 2006/113/EC) • Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) • National Climate Change Adaptation Framework – particularly sector adaptation plans (including marine) due to undergo consultation in 2014. 	<p>These plans and programmes will be considered as part of the preparation of the Plan and associated environmental assessments, as relevant.</p>
B	<p>Issues for consideration</p> <p>In the development of any Plans or Programmes due consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on marine environmental quality including potential impacts on designated Shellfish Growing Waters. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: increased sedimentation; re-suspension of contaminants; discharge of contaminants; and introduction of non-native or invasive species. • Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on the microbiological quality of shellfish in Classified Shellfish Production areas • Potential impacts on human health resulting from the placing on the market of microbiologically contaminated shellfish • Potential impacts on commercially important fish and shellfish stocks, licensed aquaculture sites and areas of importance for fish / shellfish and fisheries e.g. spawning grounds, nursery areas • Potential impacts on freshwater aquaculture operations including the requirement for water abstraction and capacity of the receiving waters to assimilate discharges • Future designations of areas of importance to the Aquaculture & Fisheries Sector • Relevant EU Directives and National Legislation in the area of Marine Spatial Planning 	<p>The SEA will consider potential issues relating to the marine environment, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.</p>

No.	Submission Text	SEA Response
C	<p>Potential Impacts on Sea-Fisheries & Aquaculture</p> <p>Major land-use changes can significantly impact the quality of the marine (particularly coastal) environment (e.g. sedimentation, hydrographic change, impacts on benthic eco-system, etc).</p> <p>All aspects of the seafood sector rely on safe high-quality water and assessment of potential impacts on water quality should include the seafood sector. To guarantee food safety the growing waters must attain certain standards. This is of relevance to the fishing and aquaculture sectors. In freshwater aquaculture (on land) a continuity of supply is important to ensure animal welfare and quality. Water supplies in this instance are sourced from rivers, wells and occasionally from mains supplies.</p> <p>The seafood processing sector also requires a safe and reliable water supply to support its operations.</p> <p>Designated shellfish waters are very important to the shellfish sector in Ireland working to maintain standards in product safety and quality and enabling sale for direct consumption from many areas, reducing production costs and contributing to the good international reputation of the products. The role of filter-feeding shellfish as a nutrient sink thus helping to reduce eutrophication potential and improve water quality is also important to consider in assessments.</p>	<p>The SEA will consider potential impacts relating to sea fisheries and aquaculture including those related to water quality and supply.</p>
D	<p>Sources of Marine Data</p> <p>Details of designated shellfish growing areas which are protected by law (2006/113/EC) are available at: http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/ShellfishWaterDirective/</p> <p>Details of Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) are available on the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority website: http://www.sfpa.ie/</p> <p>The Marine Institute publishes a range of corporate reports, scientific and technical reports, peer reviewed articles and conference papers which are relevant to the SEA process. These can be found on the Marine Institute website: http://www.marine.ie/home/Publications/ or Marine Institute Open Access Repository.</p> <p>Relevant reports and on line GIS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shellfish Stocks and Fisheries Review 2011: An Assessment of Selected Stocks • Atlas of Commercial Fisheries Around Ireland • Atlas of Commercial Discarding • Ireland's Marine Atlas • Information on the Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters, required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, is available at http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/Marine/ 	<p>These information sources will be utilised by the SEA process as relevant.</p>
E	<p>Who to Consult With</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAFM – Policies, plans and legislation concerning sea-fisheries & aquaculture • SFPA – Competent Authority for Seafood Safety (classifications, monitoring & sanitary surveys) & Sea-fisheries Control • Marine Institute – Fisheries & Marine Environment • BIM – Seafood Development Agency <p>Consideration should also be given to consulting directly with the seafood sector. This may include regional inshore fisheries forums, Fisheries Local Action Groups, fisheries representative bodies, including producer organisations, local advisory committees, associations, co-operatives; seafood processors; aquaculture representative bodies, etc.</p>	<p>Designated environmental authorities have been consulted with as part of the SEA Scoping process. Submissions on the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments documents will be allowed during public consultation period.</p>

No.	Submission Text	SEA Response
3	Submission from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	
A	<p>Geological Survey Ireland, a division of Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, is the national earth science agency and has datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our website for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.</p>	Noted.
B	<p>These are Geological Survey Ireland's comments on Wicklow's current County Development Plan 2016-2022:</p> <p>Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Geological Heritage Audit for Co. Wicklow was completed in 2014 and full details of the report can be found here. • All of the County Geological Sites listed in the County Audit should be included as part of the new County Development Plan 2021-2027. 	County Geological Sites have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and was considered throughout the SEA process.
C	<p>Climate Change, Flooding, Coastal Zone Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the use of our landslide susceptibility mapping data on our Map Viewer, as well as keeping up-to-date with our on-going geohazard mapping programme. • Our Map Viewer is updated with our latest datasets and we suggest using these data in reports. A new 'Flood Risk Map' will be added to our online data sets, the result of a collaborative project between Geological Survey Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency. • We recommend using Groundwater Flooding and Karst data from our Map Viewer where appropriate. • With climate change being an on-going process, our 'Coastal Vulnerability Index Mapping' data on our Map Viewer may be a useful tool with future planning and scoping requests. 	These sources of information were considered by the SEA. The issues they relate to are included in the SEA Scoping Report under relevant topics in Error! Reference source not found..
D	<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to draw your attention to our 'Active Quarries', 'Mineral Localities' and 'Aggregate Potential' layers on our Map Viewer. These can be used to promote sustainable development and reduce the carbon footprint of buildings by using local stone to build. We will be happy to assist in any way with advice on the sourcing of local building materials. • Minerals are needed for the production of renewable energy resources; using local minerals further promotes sustainable development as the carbon footprint of sourcing materials may be reduced. Data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development can be found in our Minerals section of the website. 	This source of information was considered by the SEA where appropriate.
E	<p>Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recommend that geothermal potential is referenced in the County Development Plan. Ireland has widespread shallow geothermal resources for small and medium-scale heating applications for both domestic and commercial use. Ireland also has recognised potential for deep geothermal resources. Geological Survey Ireland currently supports and funds research into this national energy resource, so we recommend keeping up to date with our data. For more information on Geological Survey Ireland's involvement in the Climate Action Plan and geothermal potential, click here and here respectively. 	Noted. This information and recommendations were throughout the SEA process.

3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan

Various submissions were made on the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Alterations and/or associated environmental assessment documents while these documents were on public display.

Updates made on foot of submissions include:

- To add the following subsection to SEA Environmental Report Section 7 "Evaluation of Alternatives" (new text in **bold**):

"Section 7.4 Selected Alternatives

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the four tiers of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

These alternatives have been adopted by the Members having regard to both:

**1. The environmental effects which were identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Members."**

- To update the following SEO from the SEA Environmental Report Monitoring Programme (new text in **bold**, text to be deleted in ~~strike through~~): Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and its targets
- To attribute relevant maps in SEA Environmental Report to Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).
- In the SEA Environmental Report, to include the GSI's Geochemistry and Geophysical datasets that may be useful in "planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets"
- In the SEA Environmental Report, to include the following as a potential adverse effect: "Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation".
- To refer to the most recent Climate Action Plan in the SEA ER.
- The Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report has been updated to amend the species lists as identified and present the considerations for landscape scale ex-situ resource use. The following sentence was added to Table 3.1 for each of the SPAs that are outside of the

Wicklow County Development Plan area: "Furthermore, at this scale – given the availability of resources within the landscape – it is not anticipated that significant effects to ex-situ foraging areas are likely."

For further information on how submissions were considered, refer to the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft Plan and associated documents and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and associated documentation – both available at <https://consult.wicklow.ie/>.

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan, Members' Amendments to that Plan in advance of public display, Proposed Material Alterations and Further Modifications. The mitigation integrated into the final, adopted Plan includes that identified at Table 2.1 of this report.

3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents (including SEA Environmental Report and AA and SFRA documents) were placed on public display, having integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Responses to submissions made during the period of public display of a Draft Plan were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Wicklow County Council.

A number of material alterations were proposed after public display of the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations were subject to Screening for SEA and AA and a selection of Alterations were subject to SEA and Stage 2 AA.

On adoption of the Plan, the Environmental Report that had been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan was updated to become a final Environmental Report that is consistent with the adopted Plan, taking into account all changes that were made to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Available reasonable alternatives for the County Development Plan are provided under Tiers 1 to 4 detailed below.

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

4.3 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Tier 1 (i) Alternatives for Allocation of population Growth between the Settlements

- A. Concentrate growth (60% of the overall population target) to the key towns Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew and the three self-sustaining growth towns Arklow, Greystones and Blessington.
- B. Allocate the growth evenly between the 21 settlements.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A is consistent with the NPF and RSES as it would support focussing the greatest amount of development into the key settlements and self-sustaining growth towns, which would strengthen these settlements and support infrastructure delivery including public transport.

The concentration of growth into Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By concentrating in the larger settlements in the County, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development in these centres would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including various smaller settlements.

Alternative B involves a dispersed population approach which has the potential to undermine the role of the larger settlements as key towns and self-sustaining growth towns and make it more difficult to deliver key infrastructure projects including public transport.

This approach would result in a greater expansion of the County's smaller towns and villages. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in smaller settlements. Services and public transport are more limited and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Alternative B would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative B would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative B would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

Tier 1 (ii) Alternatives for Population Growth between the Municipal Districts

- A.** Provide for Municipal District Parity – this would require that the population target is distributed evenly between the five Municipal Districts – Arklow, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Greystones and Bray.
- B.** Do not provide for Regional Parity – allocate growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than its location within a particular municipal district.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Alternative A fails to take into account the capacity and function of settlements. It involves a dispersed population approach based on political boundaries.

This approach would provide growth to areas that would not be commensurate with the area or settlement's capacity to accommodate this growth. Growth where capacity is available would be stymied. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in certain MDs. Services and public transport are more limited in certain MDs and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services overall as a result. Alternative A would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative A would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative A would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

Alternative B is consistent with the NPF and RSES as it supports focussing the greatest amount of development into the key settlements and self-sustaining growth towns which will strengthen these settlements and support infrastructure delivery including public transport.

This approach would provide growth to areas that would be commensurate with the area's capacity to accommodate this growth. The concentration of growth into Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By allocating growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than location within a particular MD, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including various smaller settlements.

4.4 Assessment of Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

The regional settlement hierarchy identifies two types of settlement that sit below key towns on the hierarchy. These are 'Self-Sustaining Growth Towns' or 'Self-Sustaining Towns'. Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are settlements with a moderate level of jobs and services include sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining. Self-Sustaining Towns include towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.

- A. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns.
- B. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Towns.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Arklow is the main centre located in the south of the County and one of seven market towns in the core region that has a good level of local employment, services and amenities, which serve not just their resident populations but a wider catchment area. The centre has a large catchment and provides for the service needs of its residents and large geographical area. With completed and planned infrastructure improvements including the new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant and an Area Based Transport Plan, the town is poised for development and has the potential to significantly increase and strengthen its employment base.

Greystones-Delgany is served by high quality transport links to Dublin and the surrounding towns. The town is located on the DART/rail line, has good quality bus links and easy access onto the M/N11. Significant housing growth has already occurred in the 2016-2020 period and is likely to occur in 2020-2022. Future opportunities exist for infill development and consolidation of the built-up area. Access to coastal facilities, an attractive town centre and a broad range of social and recreational facilities enhance its overall appeal. The RSES identifies the redevelopment of the IDA 'strategic site' at Greystones as an objective in order to strengthen the employment base for North Wicklow and the Greystones Media Centre has recently been granted permission at this long time vacant strategic site. The capacity and frequency of the rail service between Greystones and Dublin City is to be improved, benefitting the town in terms of attracting investment.

Blessington acts as the service centre for a wide rural catchment. The town is served by a reasonable quality bus service including Dublin Bus and Bus Eireann services. The future re-alignment of the N81 to the west of the town provides a significant opportunity arises to regenerate the historic town centre, create a stronger urban structure, and strengthen the town's identity and sense of place. The town has the potential to provide for local growth in residential, employment and service functions.

Alternative A takes into account the function of the three settlements in terms of their wider context as services providers to a large hinterland and takes into account their capacity to accommodate additional development including housing, employment and services. Alternative A also facilitates distinguishing these three settlements from smaller settlements with more limited functions. By facilitating population and employment growth commensurate to the attributes of these settlements, Alternative A would provide for a more sustainable Settlement Hierarchy and a greater level of sustainable development at a County level. Alternative A would help to facilitate a more compact form of development at these settlements that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Alternative A would not increase pressure in lower-level settlements, which are generally less well-serviced and less-well connected, and the open countryside – and would, as a result, avoid potential adverse significant effects on various environmental components.

Alternative B is a conservative approach which focuses on the limited employment opportunities in all the settlements but fails to factor in the wider role these settlements play and the broad range of services provided in these settlements. By limiting population and economic growth in the three towns, Alternative B would not provide an alternative to the same extent as Alternative A would to the Key Towns of Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew as places to live and work and would result in increased pressure in the other settlements with less capacity to accommodate growth and the open countryside. It would also hinder the future compact growth of the settlements. As a result, Alternative B would be likely to result in a greater extent of significant effects on various environmental components and would not be as sustainable as Alternative A.

4.5 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure and assess each planning application on its merits.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A provides for a robust and transparent policy approach to manage rural housing.

Restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Single dwellings in rural areas would be facilitated as appropriate and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative B Provides a vague and unclear policy approach to rural housing and risks facilitating a significant increase in urban-generated one-off housing in the open countryside which will undermine the role of small towns and villages and have consequences for the environment.

Not restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated housing development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Villages and Serviced Sites

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Villages are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A recognises the important role that villages play in sustaining rural communities and in providing a proactive approach to the sustainable development of rural areas. Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative B has the potential to undermine the role rural villages play in sustaining rural communities and providing a viable alternative to one off housing. Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Tier 3 (iii): Alternatives for Rural Clusters

- A. Identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.
- B. Do not identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B was originally chosen for the Chief Executive's Draft Plan but Alternative A was chosen by the Members for the Draft Plan for public display and is reflected in the final adopted Plan.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role rural villages play in sustaining rural communities and has the potential to exacerbate one-off housing on unserviced sites in the countryside.

One-off housing on unserviced sites would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that rural villages and towns play in sustaining rural communities would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable at a County level and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions from developments in rural clusters.

Alternative B will provide greater protection for the countryside and support the role of small towns and villages as the appropriate location for new housing in rural areas.

Development within small towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play in sustaining rural communities would help to make development more sustainable at a County level and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (iv): Alternatives for Employment Zonings in Rural Areas

- A. Provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B. Do not provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas (potential employees).

Employment development at these locations beyond the development envelope of existing settlements would undermine the important role that rural villages and towns play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas and would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities). Alternative A would be against the principles of sustainable development and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment, including those on:

- Sustainable mobility, with increases in car usage, and associated adverse effects with respect to energy usage and travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air;
- Biodiversity and flora and fauna;
- Views and the landscape;
- Flood risk management that complies with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (note elevated flood risk at Inchanappa South/Ballyhenry and Kilpedder Interchange); and
- Ground and surface water bodies.

Alternative B would strengthen the role of towns and villages as the appropriate location for employment development on serviced land.

Employment development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (v): Alternatives for Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas

A. Provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.

B. Do not provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main service providers. Tourism in rural areas outside of settlements can be facilitated by objectives that provide greater flexibility, rather than land use zonings. Tourism development in these rural areas would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that villages and towns play as the main service providers would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions from such developments.

Alternative B would support the important role that towns and villages play as the main service providers. Tourism in rural areas outside of settlements can be facilitated by objectives that provide greater flexibility, rather than land use zonings. Tourism development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna

and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main service providers would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (vi): Alternatives for Community Zonings in Rural Areas

- A.** Provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B.** Do not provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Community facilities should be provided on serviced land in settlements where it is proximate to residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. It is difficult and inefficient to service sites in rural areas particularly in terms of safe walking and cycling facilities.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main providers of community facilities, proximate to the residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. Development in rural areas would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that villages and towns play as the main service providers of community facilities would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions to and from these sites, which are inefficient to service in terms of safe walking and cycling facilities.

Alternative B would support the important role that towns and villages play as the main providers of community facilities, proximate to the residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. Development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main service providers of community facilities would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

4.6 Assessment of Tier 4: Land Use Zoning

Reasonable alternatives for land use zoning were identified as being available for the following settlements: Baltinglass; Newtownmountkennedy; Rathdrum; Ashford; Aughrim; Carnew; Dunlavin; and Tinahely. The consideration of reasonable alternatives for relevant land use zonings that was undertaken as part of the iterative Plan-preparation/SEA process took into account issues including:

- Environmental sensitivities – these are summarised under Section 3 of this Non-Technical Summary and include ecological designations, cultural heritage, riverine ecology, the status of water bodies, landscape/views and flood risk.
- Consolidation of land use zoning, which would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health).
- Reducing greenfield development, which would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components.
- Whether water services infrastructure is already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for;
- Access to transport infrastructure.
- Proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
- The need to facilitate services at settlement centres.
- Population and housing targets.
- The need to provide for compact growth.
- Lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects.

Further detail is provided in the main SEA Environmental Report.

4.7 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the tiers of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which are identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Members.

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan.

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in the main SEA Environmental Report and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring programmes.

Table 5.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

5.3 Sources

The Plan will form part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

5.4 Reporting and Responsibility

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan, in consultation with others. This report will seek to address the indicators set out on Table 5.1. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports (reports will be made available to the public) and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)⁶ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)⁷ Consultations with the NPWS⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

⁶ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁷ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁸ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH AA/Screening for AA for each application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where marine water bodies are failing to meet good ecological status, this will be interrogated with the Marine Institute and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to RSES activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with the Marine Institute and DHLGH in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.

⁹ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

SEA Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	<p>will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC (at monitoring evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

SEA Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with DHLGH 	
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

for: Wicklow County Council

County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
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OCTOBER 2022

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List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CAFE	Cleaner Air for Europe
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CORINE	Co-ORDinated INformation on the Environment
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
DCCA	Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment
DCHG	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
EU	European Union
FPO	Flora Protection Order
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
MASP	Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NTA	National Transport Authority
OPW	Office of Public Works
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
PAS	Priority Action Substance
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RAL	Remedial Action List
RBD	River Basin District
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
THMs	Trihalomethanes
TPOs	Tree Preservation Orders
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).

Flora is all of the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.

Environmental Problems

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain Plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse.

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

Environmental Vectors

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported, coming into contact with human beings.

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

In the context of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, mitigation measures are clearly distinguished from compensatory measures. Compensatory measures are intended to offset the negative effects of the plan or project so that the overall ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network is maintained.

Natural Heritage

The Heritage Act (1995) defines natural heritage as including flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks.

Protected Structure

Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations (as amended) to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.

Recorded Monument

A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Scoping

Scoping is the process of determining what issues are to be addressed, and setting out a methodology in which to address them in a structured manner appropriate to the plan or programme. Scoping is carried out in consultation with appropriate environmental authorities.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives were evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Wicklow County Council. The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before such decisions are made. *Environmental Impact Assessment*, or EIA, is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment for individual projects, while *Strategic Environmental Assessment* or SEA is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, which help determine the nature and location of individual projects taking place. SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, in order to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stages of decision-making in tandem with economic, social and other considerations.

The SEA has been undertaken in order to comply with European SEA Directive¹, which introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes that are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

SEA identifies the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan. The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report, an earlier version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display and has been updated following consultation, and identifies how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how alternatives for the Plan were considered.

The planning authority has taken into account the findings of this report and other related SEA output during the Plan preparation process.

Following adoption of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

SEA is the planning authority's and the public's guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the County.

SEA enables the planning authority to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the County – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible areas in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas.

SEA provides greater certainty to the public and to developers. Plans are more likely to be adopted without delays or challenges and planning applications are more likely to be granted permission. Environmental mitigation is more likely to cost less.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

An overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Wicklow are shown on Figure 1.1. Further detail on the weighting applied to different sensitivities is provided under Section 4.14.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland and foothill areas of the County, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and High Amenity Area landscape designations, European Site ecological designations, archaeological heritage sensitives and areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability;
- Parts of the coastline and adjacent coastal areas, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape designations, European Site and proposed Natural Heritage Area ecological designations, areas of extreme groundwater vulnerability and coastal flood risk;
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Certain areas that are adjacent to streams and rivers, on account of flood risk.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focuses on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprints of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain and improve services to existing and future communities.

Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.´

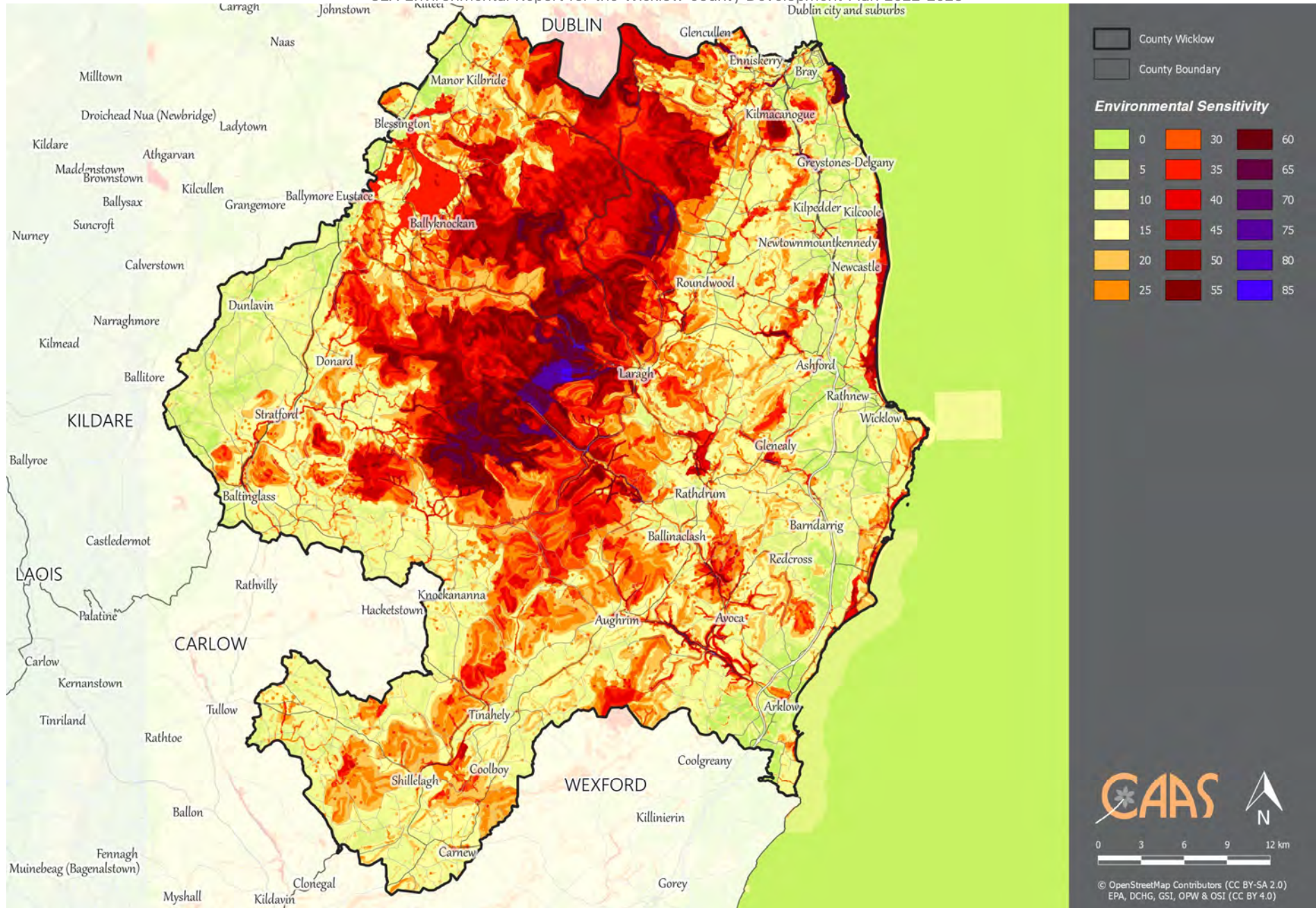


Figure 1.1 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Wicklow

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Wicklow County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Wicklow over the six-year period 2022-2028.

2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan consists of three Volumes as follow:

- Volume 1: The Written Statement which comprises of 20 Chapters, providing objectives for each Chapter as follows:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction and Context
 - Chapter 2: Development Plan Strategy
 - Chapter 3: Core Strategy
 - Chapter 4: Settlement Strategy
 - Chapter 5: Placemaking for Town and Village Centres
 - Chapter 6: Housing
 - Chapter 7: Community Development
 - Chapter 8: Built Heritage
 - Chapter 9: Economic Development
 - Chapter 10: Retail
 - Chapter 11: Tourism and Recreation
 - Chapter 12: Sustainable Transportation
 - Chapter 13: Water Services
 - Chapter 14: Flood Risk Management
 - Chapter 15: Waste and Environmental Emissions
 - Chapter 16: Energy and Information Infrastructure
 - Chapter 17: Natural Heritage and Biodiversity
 - Chapter 18: Green Infrastructure
 - Chapter 19: Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management
 - Chapter 20: Implementation and Monitoring
- Volume 2: Town and Settlement Plans.
- Volume 3: Appendices, including the AA Natura Impact Report, the SEA Environmental Report and the SFRA Report.

2.3 Plan Vision and Strategic Principles

The Vision of the Plan is:

'to guide and facilitate the sustainable growth of the County in a manner which supports a deep respect for its unique natural heritage, capitalises on the potential of our towns and villages to deliver compact growth, facilitates healthy placemaking, supports the creation of self-sustaining settlements and rural areas that are attractive places to live in, work in and visit, provides for new job opportunities, embraces climate action and enables the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy, improves sustainable mobility and conserves our heritage.'

The Development Plan Strategy is guided by three Strategic Principles: Healthy Placemaking; Climate Action; and Economic Opportunity. These cross-cutting principles align with the key principles identified in the RSES. These principles frame the strategic county outcomes.

2.4 Strategic County Outcomes

The ten Strategic County Outcomes are informed by the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the key issues arising in submissions from members of the public. The three cross-cutting principles inform the core strategy and the county policy objectives which will guide and inform all new development in the County over the next six years.

SCO1 Sustainable Settlement Patterns & Compact Growth

The delivery of compact growth in all towns and villages by capitalising on the potential for infill and brownfield development, moving away from a reliance on greenfield development and creating places that encourage active lifestyles is essential for the successful delivery of the development plan strategy.

SCO2 Resilient Town and Village Centres – Regeneration & Renewal

Activate the potential for renewal of our town and village centres, creating resilient, adaptable and vibrant places with a strong focus on people. It is essential that we protect and maintain the viability of town and village centres, target the

reversal of decline and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes. It is important that regeneration and renewal projects respect and embrace Wicklow's beautiful old buildings and historic streetscapes which give our settlements their identity and strong sense of place. The quality of new architecture will have a long standing impact on the quality of our settlements and therefore should be of the highest quality to withstand the test of time.

SCO3 Strong Rural Communities and Sustainable Rural Development

Strengthen rural communities and support the sustainable development of rural areas. Encourage innovation and rural diversification in order to sustain vibrant rural communities. Leverage the potential of rural settlements to accommodate sustainable growth and a range of services including social and economic enterprise.

SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities

Places should facilitate a high quality of life for all regardless of age or ability. Access to quality housing, employment, childcare, education, health services, community facilities and a clean unpolluted, environment including clean air and water, are defining elements of healthy, attractive and successful places. Investment in a well-designed public realm which includes public spaces, parks, playgrounds, streets and recreational infrastructure to cater for all ages is essential.

SCO5 Sustainable Mobility

The County Development Plan plays an important role in influencing a reduction in GHG emissions by guiding the sustainable growth of the County. The integration of land use and transportation planning, in order to support sustainable mobility and encourage a shift away from the private car to active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport, will deliver improvements in terms of quality of life and climate change.

SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

SCO7 Climate Resilience and the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Support the transition to low carbon clean energy by facilitating renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations and supporting the development of off-shore renewable energy enabling infrastructure especially at ports and harbours. Facilitate the sustainable management of waste including the circular economy. Restrict development in areas that are at risk of flooding and protect the natural landscape and biodiversity.

SCO8 A Strong Economy

Strengthen and broaden the economic base, harness opportunities for economic growth to build economic resilience, strengthen enterprise ecosystems and create quality jobs that align with population growth, ensure a good standard

of living and reduce the need for long-distance commuting. Support placemaking improvements that will generate economic confidence and in turn make settlements more attractive to employers and a skilled workforce.

SCO9 Tourism

Capitalise on Wicklow's location within Ireland's Ancient East and facilitate a year round tourism industry that harnesses Wicklow's natural amenities and vast recreational opportunities. Ensure that tourism development respects and protects the very assets it depends upon.

SCO10 Education & Skills

Recognising the important link between education and skills and employment opportunities, it is necessary to continue to improve the opportunities for education and skills within the County and to further develop Wicklow County Campus Centre of Excellence as a third level education facility for enterprise, education, training, research and development.

2.5 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and the adoption of the Plan, Wicklow County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Housing;
- Landscape;
- Climate Action;
- Built Environment;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Energy and Waste;
- Flood Resilience and Water;
- Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure Provisions;
- Development and Design Standards; and
- Single Rural Houses Design Guidelines.

The undertaking of this SEA process and the associated AA and SFRA processes contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 9 of this report.

2.6 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is acknowledged that many of the major issues affecting the County's development are contingent on national policy and government funding.

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I² (see also, Section 4 "Environmental Baseline", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives" and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies,

plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSEs for the Eastern and Midland Region. The County Development Plan will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions, such as Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

² Appendix I is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

Figure 3.1 provides an overview of the integrated Plan preparation, SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the Plan. The process is currently at a stage where the findings of this report will be placed on public display as part of the required statutory public consultations. AA and SFRA documents will also accompany the Plan on public display.

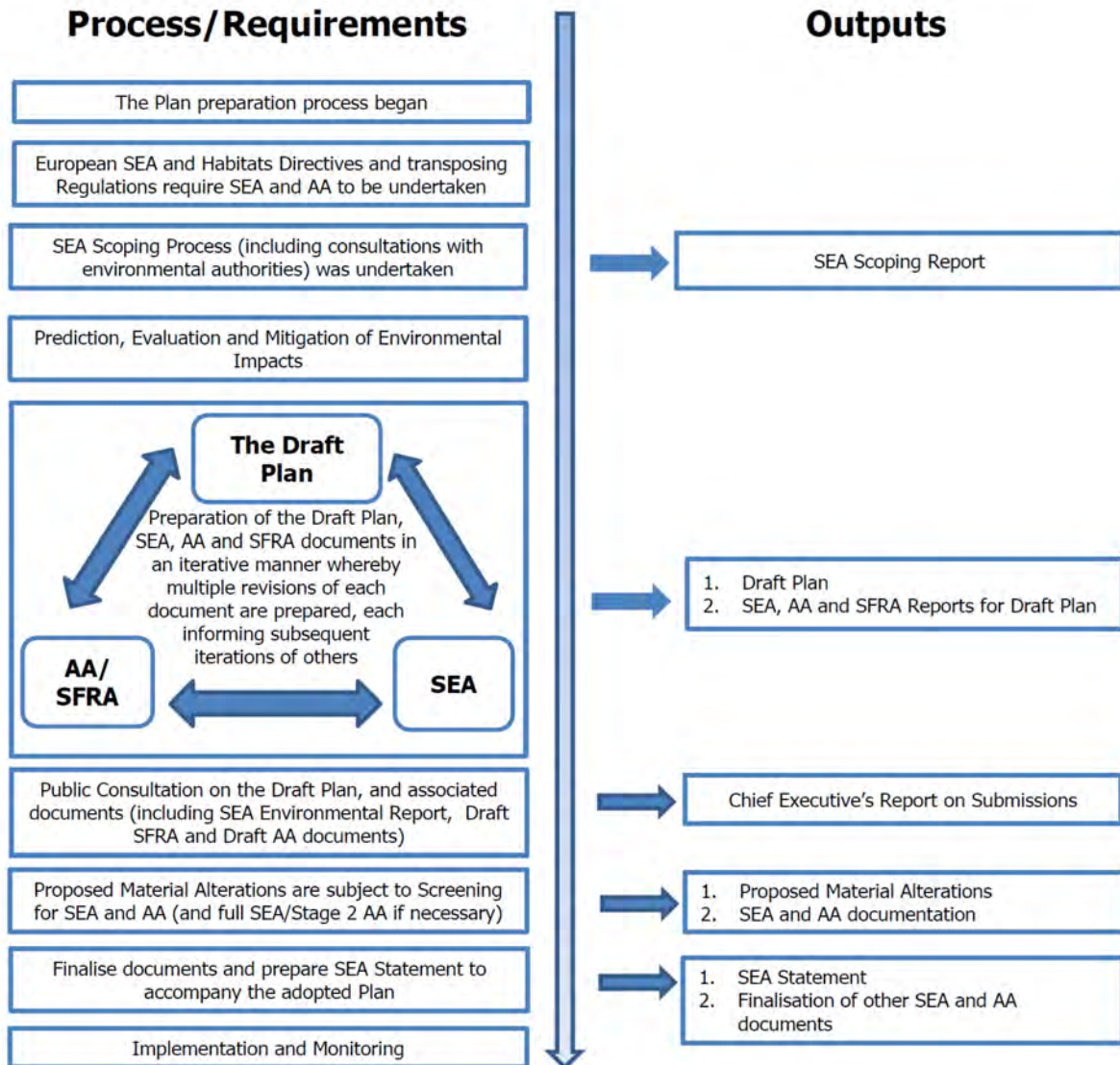


Figure 3.1 Overview of the SEA/AA/SFRA Plan-preparation Processes

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.³

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Many elements of Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment as detailed in the EPA's (2013) Practitioner's Manual have been aligned with in the undertaking of the SEA for the Plan. These include:

Scoping

- Biodiversity-relevant issues were identified for consideration at scoping stage and these are now detailed in Section 4.
- Reference to a zone of influence is provided at Section 4.

Baseline

- Biodiversity data sources relevant for this local level assessment have been identified and datasets collated/gathered.
- The biodiversity baseline addresses designated sites and other habitats and species of ecological value.
- AA information has been incorporated into the SEA baseline.

Alternatives

- Impacts upon biodiversity are considered under each of the alternatives and potential conflicts can be mitigated.

Impact assessment

- Effects on biodiversity are identified and assessed and the AA considers the interrelationship between biodiversity and potential effects on European Sites.

Mitigation and monitoring

- Taking into account all measures contained within the Plan, all the proposed mitigation measures deriving from the various processes were generally consistent and compatible.
- Indicators and associated targets have been included in SEA for monitoring European Sites.

Reporting

- This SEA ER addresses all biodiversity-related considerations relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER contains all biodiversity-relevant information, data, figures and maps relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER has been informed by the AA findings.

Communication and consultation

- Submissions received have been taken on board.
- The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. Recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan. The SFRA process, the findings of which include an SFRA report that accompanies the amendments, has informed this report.

3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues

³ 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 plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive⁴.

All relevant environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations, as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council⁵.

Submissions made by the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine influenced the scope of the assessment undertaken, the findings of which are included in this report.

3.5 Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. In accordance with this requirement, alternatives for the Plan are identified and assessed in Sections 6 and 7.

3.6 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

The Plan, considered as a whole, contributes towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development and complies with various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation.

Various Plan provisions that would contribute towards the sustainable development of the County would, at the same time, have the potential to conflict with the environment, were mitigation measures not taken into account. This is normal and mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to deal with these potential effects.

However, various parts of the Plan are internally inconsistent with the overall approach provided for by the Plan:

- A number of amendments to the Chief Executive's Draft Plan (in advance of public display of the Draft Plan) agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process. These amendments and the environmental and planning assessment documented and provided to the Members at the time is provided at Table 3.1.
- A number of proposed amendments to the Draft Plan that was placed on public display agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process. These amendments and the environmental and planning assessment documented and provided to the Members at the time is provided at Table 3.2.

⁴ These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.


⁵ The names of some of the relevant authorities have changed since notification was provided: Department of Agriculture, Food and the

Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Environmental Protection Agency; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kildare County Council; South Dublin County Council; and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.



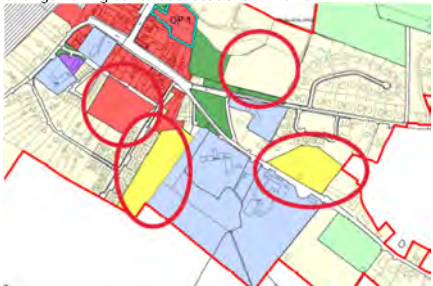

Table 3.1 Amendments to Chief Executive's Draft Plan adopted as part of the final Plan but advised against (including:)

Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was integrated into the Final Plan
Addition of settlements to Level 7 of the Settlement Hierarchy	4 "Settlement Strategy"	Addition of Barndarrig, Ballinaclesh, Coolboy, Manor Kilbride and Kilpedder/Willowgrove to Level 7 of the Settlement Hierarchy, from Level 8	<p>In preparing the Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan, including a revised settlement strategy, an assessment of the capacity of each settlement to accommodate additional housing growth was carried out. It is considered that Barndarrig, Ballinaclesh, Coolboy, Manor Kilbride and Kilpedder/Willowgrove having regard to the limited range of social, community and retail services, as well as deficiencies in service infrastructure (such as footpaths, cycle lanes, public transport, and in the case of Barndarrig, serious deficiencies in water supply), have a lower capacity for additional growth and should therefore be located in Level 8 of the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>These amendments would dilute the sustainable strategy set out in the Chief Executive's Draft Plan and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and Drinking water and human health. <p>By refining the number of settlements in Level 7, it was intended that these settlements would become a priority focus for new village development and the sourcing of funding for enhanced infrastructure. It is considered that adding to the number of settlements in Level 7 would reduce the potential to achieve these goals.</p>	This was adopted. Note that there was a proposed amendment passed for extending the boundary to Ballinaclesh and amending the boundary of Kilpedder/Willowgrove.
Addition of settlements to Level 8 of the Settlement Hierarchy	4 "Settlement Strategy"	Addition of Kirikee, Connary, Greenane, Johnstown Askanagap, Coolattin, Coolkenno, Grangecon, Kilquiggan, Knockanarrigan and Annamoe to Level 8 of the Settlement Hierarchy, from Level 9	<p>In preparing the Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan, including a revised settlement strategy, an assessment of the capacity of each settlement to accommodate additional housing growth was carried out. It is considered that Kirikee, Connary, Greenane, Johnstown Askanagap, Coolattin, Coolkenno, Grangecon, Kilquiggan, Knockanarrigan and Annamoe, having regard to the limited range of community and retail services, as well as deficiencies in service infrastructure (such as footpaths, cycle lanes, public transport, and water services in some settlements), have a lower capacity for additional growth and should therefore be located in Level 9 of the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>These amendments would dilute the sustainable strategy set out in the Chief Executive's Draft Plan and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; Increased loadings on water bodies; and <p>Potential effects on human health and ecology as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors.</p>	This was adopted. Note that there was a proposed amendment passed for extending the boundary to Johnstown.
Addition of settlements to Level 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy	4 "Settlement Strategy"	Addition of Ballyduff, Boleynass, Kilmurray, Tomriland, Barranisky, Glenmalure, Kilcarra, Kingston, Macreddin, Ballyfolan, Ballynulltagh, Baltyboys, Carrigacurra, Croneyhorn, Goldenhill, Gorteen, Oldcourt, Rathmoon and Redwells to Level 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy	<p>In preparing the Chief Executive's Draft County Development Plan, including a revised settlement strategy, the Level 9 rural clusters were examined to ensure that they had a sense of place and provided the local community with some level of social/community infrastructure and had some potential to accommodate additional housing growth. It is considered that Ballyduff, Boleynass, Kilmurray, Tomriland, Barranisky, Glenmalure, Kilcarra, Kingston, Macreddin, Ballyfolan, Ballynulltagh, Baltyboys, Carrigacurra, Croneyhorn, Goldenhill, Gorteen, Oldcourt, Rathmoon and Redwells, having regard to the lack of social and community infrastructure, lack of wastewater and water infrastructure, lack of footpaths, cycle lanes and public transport to serve these nodes, should therefore not be considered as Rural nodes.</p> <p>These amendments would dilute the sustainable strategy set out in the Chief Executive's Draft Plan and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; Increased loadings on water bodies; Potential effects on human health and ecology as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors; and Occurrence of adverse visual impacts on important landscape designations, as many of these locations are located within important landscape designations: Ballyduff, Boleynass, Kilmurray, Tomriland, Barranisky, Glenmalure, Kilcarra, Kingston, Macreddin, Ballyfolan, Ballynulltagh, Baltyboys, Carrigacurra are either located within areas subject to either "Area of High Amenity" or "Mountain and Lakeshore Area of Natural Beauty (AONB)" designations. <p>By refining the number of rural nodes in Level 9, it was intended that these settlements would become defined by having a sense of place, which the above rural clusters are identified as not having.</p>	This was adopted.
Occupancy Controls under Levels 7, 8 and 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy	6 "Housing"	Various motions and amendments altering the occupancy controls for Levels 7, 8 and 9, and in some cases (particularly for Level 9) widening the range of persons eligible for permission / occupancy	<p>These changes would dilute the management of housing in the County's settlements and have the potential to result in more housing in settlements in Levels 7-9 than would be within the capacity of the social, community and infrastructural services at these settlements, with potential associated significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility; Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; Increased loadings on water bodies; Potential effects on human health and ecology as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors; and Occurrence of adverse visual impacts on important landscape designations as many of these locations are located within important landscape designations. <p>The Amendment to CPO 6.39 loosens occupancy controls in Level 9 Rural Clusters. The main purpose of Rural Clusters is to direct rural housing into the cluster and away from the countryside. To expand and include residents of Level 4-7 settlements would allow for residents from outside of the rural</p>	This was adopted.

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Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was integrated into the Final Plan
			<p>area to build in the area and would be therefore contrary to the purpose of the rural cluster. It is considered that the changes would put significant pressure on clusters and would make it difficult for people who have a genuine need to reside in these settlements to get sites. The changes would put pressure on services and the environment at Rural Clusters.</p>	
Housing in the Open Countryside	6 "Housing"	<p>Amended CPO 6.41 Facilitate residential development in the open countryside for those with a housing need based on the core consideration of demonstrable functional social or economic need to live in the open countryside in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 6.3. *see Plan document for more detail on social and economic criteria*</p> <p>In the event of conflict of any other settlement strategy objective / Landscape Zones and categories, a person who qualifies under policy CPO 6.41 their needs shall be supreme, except where the proposed development would be a likely traffic hazard or public health hazard. With regard to the preservation of views and prospects, due consideration shall be given to those listed within the area of the National Park; and with respect to all other areas, to generally regard the amenity matters, but not to the exclusion of social and economic matters. The protection and conservation of views and prospects should not give rise to the prohibition of development, but development should be designed and located to minimise impact.</p>	<p>The amended CPO 6.41 identifies need under the social and economic criteria as "supreme" i.e. ahead of other considerations including environmental.</p> <p>These changes would dilute the management of rural housing and has the potential to result in more housing in the Open Countryside with associated significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and ecological connectivity; • Increased loadings on water bodies; • Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts on important landscape designations; • Cultural heritage; and • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. <p>The changes could present potential conflicts with legislative requirements including the European Habitats and Water Framework Directives that would be challenging to mitigate.</p>	<p>This was adopted. Note that there was a proposed amendment passed for amending the 'Social need' criteria passed.</p>
Luas	12 "Sustainable Transportation"	<p>Addition of following to CPO 12.21</p> <p>"To promote the development of transport interchanges and 'nodes' where a number of transport types can interchange with ease. In particular:.... to promote the Luas extension from City West/ Tallaght to Blessington;"</p>	<p>Luas proposals are included in the National Transport Authority's "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016 – 2035". There is no proposal to extend the Luas to Blessington. The Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is required by legislation to be consistent with the Strategy and, in accordance with Section 10 (1A) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, the County Development Plan is required to be consistent with the RSES. This amendment is not consistent with the RSES or the NTA strategy in terms of future public transport provision.</p> <p>There is no established planning justification for this Amendment and as a result it would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on environmental components including ecology and ecological connectivity, surface and ground water bodies, soil, human health and cultural heritage. It is uncertain how such a project would impact upon the economic and operational efficiency of infrastructure provision. Expansion of the Luas network could provide an alternative to car journeys with associated positive interactions with emissions.</p> <p>CPO 12.10 requires that where projects for new infrastructure identified in Chapter 12 are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility.</p>	<p>This was adopted.</p>
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	<p>Extend plan boundary and zone land RE Existing Residential in Baltinglass</p> 	<p>The amendment will exacerbate ribbon development along this stretch of road. Furthermore, adequate lands have already been identified to cater for the housing target identified in the core strategy. The increase in the amount of zoned land in Baltinglass would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town.</p> <p>The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	<p>This was adopted.</p>

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Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was integrated into the Final Plan
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land NR New Residential (in yellow) in Newtownmountkennedy 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	The plan was extended and the parcel of land was zoned RE (Existing Residential).
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land Residential in Aughrim 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; o Occurrence of adverse visual impacts; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Change zoning at various locations in Dunlavin 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The amended zoning, including from Strategic Land Bank to New and Existing Residential, would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land Tertiary Zone in Roundwood 	The amendment would potentially allow for the extension of the developed area of Roundwood into its Hinterland area, contrary to the overriding goal for towns to consolidate and re-invigorate town centres. The sprawl of new development into the hinterland would be contrary to this objective and would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; o Occurrence of adverse visual impacts; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.

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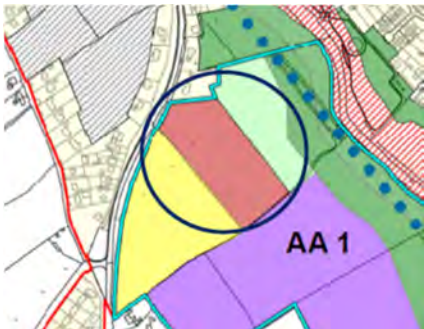
Subject	Main Chapter No./Nos.	Motions Agreed as Amendments Text added in red like this	Environmental and Planning Assessment Provided	How Amendment was integrated into the Final Plan
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land Secondary Zone in Shillelagh 	The amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted.
Land Use Zoning	Volume 2	Extend plan boundary and zone land for Mixed Use in Baltinglass 	The purpose of the amendment is to accommodate a low cost retail unit. Such a use should be directed towards the town centre where there is adequate zoning and were it to be developed at this location would have the potential to adversely impact the vitality and viability of the town centre. amendment would potentially allow housing growth to exceed the Core Strategy growth target for the town and would be likely to conflict with NPO 9 of the National Planning Framework. The additional zoning would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ecology and ecological connectivity; o Increased loadings on water bodies; o Conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility; o Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives; o Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure; and o Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors. 	This was adopted subject to amendment that was not supported by the Executive.

Table 3.2 Amendments to Draft Plan adopted as part of the final Plan but advised against (including:)

Proposed Amendment ⁶	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption	Mitigation Identified
No. V1-11	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilpedder - Willowgrove) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V1-13	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Johnstown) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V1-31	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilmullen, Newcastle) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V2-99	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Ballinalea), including for New Residential zoning, is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based</p>

⁶ For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

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Proposed Amendment ⁶	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption	Mitigation Identified
	<p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on non-designated habitats and species • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>Proposed Amendment V2-99 relates to land use zoning and have been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines, however mitigation has been identified, including that within the Plan, that applies. Once these measures are complied with, effects on environmental components including human health and material assets would be mitigated.</p> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V2-100	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Inchanappa) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and associated landscapes, including context • Effects on entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and associated landscapes, including context • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>Proposed Amendment V2-100 relates to land use zoning and have been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines, however mitigation has been identified, including that within the Plan, that applies. Once these measures are complied with, effects on environmental components including human health and material assets would be mitigated.</p> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
No. V2-103	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site • Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability • Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland and the Croneyhorn Upper watercourse • Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces • Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives • Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality • Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors • Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>	<p>These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>

3.7 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely significant effects of the Plan and the alternatives.

The Environmental Report provides Wicklow County Council, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Plan.

Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Plan are identified in Section 9 – these have been integrated into the Plan.

An earlier version of this report was report was updated in order to take account of relevant recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of changes that were made to the original, Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended (see Table 3.1).

No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term “unassigned status” applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

3.8 SEA Statement

On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that includes information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account,

- summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

Table 3.3 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding Section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7, 8 and Appendix II
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix III Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

Section 4 Environmental Baseline

4.1 Introduction

Reflecting the specifications in the SEA Directive, the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment for the following environmental components are described in this section: biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making⁷.

Given the potential for impacts beyond the County boundary, the spatial scope of the SEA takes into account the zone of influence (15km or greater where relevant) of the Plan.

4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

The EPA's *"Ireland's Environment – An Assessment 2020"* report provides an integrated assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment, the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues. This report has informed various parts of the environmental baseline provided below. The key environmental challenges or messages identified by the report are:

Environmental Policy Position

A national policy position for Ireland's Environment.

Full implementation

Full implementation of existing environmental legislation and a review of the governance around the coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.

Health and Wellbeing

Protecting the Environment is an Investment in Our Health and Wellbeing.

Climate

Systemic change is required for Ireland to become the climate-neutral and climate resilient society and economy that it aspires to be.

Air Quality

Adoption of measures to meet the World Health Organization air quality guideline values should be the target to aim for in the Clean Air Strategy.

Nature

Safeguard nature and wild places as a national priority and to leave a legacy for future generations.

Water Quality

Improve the water environment and tackle water pollution locally at a water catchment level.

Marine

Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.

Clean Energy

Ireland needs to move rapidly away from the extensive use of fossil fuels to the use of clean energy systems.

Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

An agriculture and food sector that demonstrates validated performance around producing food with a low environmental footprint.

Water Services

Drinking water and wastewater infrastructure must meet the needs of our society.

Circular Economy

Move to a less wasteful and circular economy where the priority is waste prevention, reuse, repair and recycling.

Land Use

Promote integrated land-mapping approaches to support decision-making on sustainable land use.

The report highlights that high-quality green and blue spaces are not just for nature but are for peoples' health and wellbeing, particularly in the context of an increasingly urban society and increasing settlement densities.

⁷ Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required

taking into account, inter alia, the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

Implementation of the Plan will contribute towards efforts to achieve a number of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016. These Goals include:

- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan

In the absence of a new Plan it is uncertain how permission for new development would be applied for and considered.

The 2016-2022 Plan has contributed towards environmental protection within County Wicklow. If the 2016-2022 Plan was to expire and not be replaced by the 2022-2028 Plan, this would result in a deterioration of the County's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled.

As a result, there would be a decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and

frequency of positive effects occurring, including:

- Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.
- Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.
- Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.
- Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.
- Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.
- Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more

- sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.
 - Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
 - Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
 - Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
 - Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
 - Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
 - Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.
 - Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
 - Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.
 - Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
 - In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:
 - Sustainable compact growth;
 - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
 - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
 - Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and
 - Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
 - Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.
 - Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
 - Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.
- As a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on all environmental components occurring, including:
- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
 - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
 - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
 - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
 - Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
 - Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
 - Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
 - Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
 - Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
 - Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
 - Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
 - Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
 - Increases in waste levels.
 - Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
 - Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
 - Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
 - Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions

in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.

- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services⁸

County Wicklow's **natural capital** comprises its renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of ecosystem services that provide benefits to people. These benefits can include clean air and water, a stable climate, protection from floods, food, resources for fuel, building materials, clothes and medicines, recreation. Managing natural capital so that it can continue to deliver the ecosystem services that give us these benefits is important in order to ensure sustainable development. Unmanaged natural capital risks the continued degradation and depletion of these assets, and in turn, of their capacity to provide the economy and society with the ecosystem benefits that they depend on. These services also regulate climate, regulate water flows (e.g. through wetlands and forests), sequester and store carbon in peatlands and improve soil quality for crops.

Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. There are four main types; provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines. Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural

hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values⁹.

In preparing the Plan and developing policy objectives, the Council have followed these ecosystem services approach principles:

- a) Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function (including at Plan Chapters 17, 18 and 19);
- b) Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation (including at Plan Chapter 14, 17, 18 and 19), resources for food, fibre or fuel (including at Plan Chapter 9), or for recreation, culture and quality of life (including at Plan Chapters 8, 11 and 18);
- c) Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Plan which was further refined before adoption, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Plan during public display.

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Plan:

- Air quality;
- Noise pollution;
- Light pollution;
- Water quality and river basin management including interactions with soil;
- Soil and vegetation carbon, which helps to regulate greenhouse gas emissions;
- Soil/geological storage of water, contributing towards flood control;
- Land supporting food production; and
- Natural resources supporting energy production and recreation.

4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.6.1 Introduction

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna that is relevant to project planning and

⁸ This section includes content taken from the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, 2019)

⁹ <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects includes that on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

4.6.2 Overview of High Value Biodiversity and Designations

The most ecologically sensitive and heavily designated and protected areas within County Wicklow include upland areas (including peat bogs and forests) and coastal areas (including intertidal flats, islands, sand and dunes). Coastal waters and various rivers and lakes provide habitats for sensitive species. Dispersed areas of marginal agricultural lands that may include ecological sensitivities occur throughout the County's lowlands and foothills.

A network of green spaces, including gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, railway lines and patches of woodland and scrub, provide habitats and ecological connectivity within the County and beyond.

Ecological designations in County Wicklow include:

- Special Protection Areas¹⁰;
- Special Areas of Conservation¹¹;
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas¹²;
- Nature Reserves¹³;
- National Park¹⁴;
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas¹⁵;

- Salmonid Rivers identified by Regulations (S.I. 293 only)¹⁶;
- Wildfowl Sanctuaries¹⁷;
- Flora Protection Order sites¹⁸;
- Tree Preservation Orders and Trees, group of trees and woodlands¹⁹;
- Tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site²⁰; and
- Special Amenity Area Order area²¹.

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County area with respect to impacts upon ecology via surface waters upon ecological resources – including designated ecology – can be estimated to be areas within 15 km of the County boundary and all downstream areas of catchments which drain the County.

4.6.3 European Sites

European sites in the County occur in the greatest concentrations along the coastline and in upland areas. European sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation²² (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas²³ (SPAs).

The SEA uses the same general zone of influence cited in the AA, a 15 km buffer around the County. There are 31 European sites (24 SACs and 7 SPAs) designated within this zone (mapped on Figure 4.1) out of which 18 European sites (14 SACs and 4 SPAs) are designated within the County and these include:

- Ballyman Glen SAC²⁴ (000713);
- Bray Head SAC²⁵ (000714);
- Glen of the Downs SAC²⁶ (000719);
- Knocksink Wood SAC²⁷ (000725);

¹⁰ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

¹¹ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

¹² For more detail refer to Section 4.6.4.

¹³ For more details refer to Section 4.6.8.

¹⁴ For more details refer to Section 4.6.8.

¹⁵ For more detail refer to Sections 4.6.6 and 4.9.7.

¹⁶ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.7.

¹⁷ Areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are two Wildfowl Sanctuaries within or partially within the Plan area: Broad Lough (WFS-58) and Poulaphouca (WFS-59).

¹⁸ The Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). There are 19 locations within the Plan area with a number of species protected by the Order, including: north-west of Sally Gap (*Brachydontium trichodes*); Lough Bray (*Pallavicinia lyellii*); Enniskerry (*Fissidens rufulus*); Glendasan (*Cephaloziella nicholsonii*); and Tigrooney West (*Cephaloziella nicholsonii*).

¹⁹ Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) have been made for certain trees, groups of trees and woodlands (shown on Figure 4.23) and are identified in the County Development Plan. For more detail refer to Section **Error! Reference source not found.**

²⁰ For more details refer to Section 4.12.1.

²¹ A Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO) is designed to protect areas that are of particularly high amenity value, which are sensitive to intense development pressure and which cannot be adequately

protected by existing planning controls. For more details refer to 4.13.

²² SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

²³ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

²⁴ Sensitive features include: petrifying springs and alkaline fens.

²⁵ Sensitive features include: vegetated sea cliffs; and dry heath.

²⁶ Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

²⁷ Sensitive features include: petrifying springs; old oak woodlands; and alluvial forests.

- Wicklow Mountains SAC²⁸ (002122);
- Buckroney-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC²⁹ (000729);
- Carriggower Bog SAC³⁰ (000716);
- Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC³¹ (000717);
- Holdenstown Bog SAC³² (001757);
- Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC³³ (001742);
- Magherabeg Dunes SAC³⁴ (001766);
- Slaney River Valley SAC³⁵ (000781);
- The Murrough Wetlands SAC³⁶ (002249);
- Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC³⁷ (000733);
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA³⁸ (004063);
- Wicklow Head SPA³⁹ (004127);
- The Murrough SPA⁴⁰ (004186); and
- Wicklow Mountains SPA⁴¹ (004040).

Other European sites designated within 15 km buffer, but beyond County's boundary include:

- Wicklow Reef SAC⁴² (002274);
- Glenasmole Valley SAC⁴³ (001209);
- Red Bog, Kildare SAC⁴⁴ (000397);
- South Dublin Bay SAC⁴⁵ (000210);
- Pollardstown Fen SAC⁴⁶ (000396);
- Blackstairs Mountains SAC⁴⁷ (000770);
- Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC⁴⁸ (001398);
- River Barrow And River Nore SAC⁴⁹ (002162);
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC⁵⁰ (003000);
- North Dublin Bay SAC⁵¹ (000206);
- North Bull Island SPA⁵² (004006)

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA⁵³ (004040); and
- Dalkey Islands SPA⁵⁴ (004172).

Other European sites connected to the County via hydrological links but beyond the 15 km buffer include:

- The Raven SPA⁵⁵ (004019);
- Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA⁵⁶ (004076); and
- Lower River Suir SAC⁵⁷ (002137).

For more detail on European sites please refer to the AA Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan and this SEA Environmental Report.

4.6.4 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological

²⁸ Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals; dystrophic lakes; wet heath; dry heath; alpine and subalpine heaths; calaminarian grassland; species-rich nardus grassland; blanket bogs; siliceous scree; calcareous rocky slopes; siliceous rocky slopes; old oak woodlands; and otter.

²⁹ Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Mediterranean salt meadows; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; decalcified dune heath; dunes with creeping willow; humid dune slacks; and alkaline fens.

³⁰ Sensitive features include: transition mires.

³¹ Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

³² Sensitive features include: transition mires.

³³ Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; and decalcified dune heath.

³⁴ Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; and petrifying springs.

³⁵ Sensitive features include: estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; freshwater pearl mussel; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; twaite shad; Atlantic salmon; otter; and common seal.

³⁶ Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; cladium fens; and alkaline fens.

³⁷ Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

³⁸ Sensitive features include: greylag goose; and lesser black-backed gull.

³⁹ Sensitive features include: Black-legged kittiwake; Common guillemot; Peregrine falcon; and Razorbill.

⁴⁰ Sensitive features include: red-throated diver; greylag goose; light-bellied brent goose; wigeon; teal; black-headed gull; herring gull; little tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

⁴¹ Sensitive features include: merlin; and peregrine.

⁴² Sensitive feature comprises reefs.

⁴³ Sensitive features include: semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; and petrifying springs with tufa formation.

⁴⁴ Sensitive features include: transition mires; and quaking bogs.

⁴⁵ Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; annual vegetation of drift lines; salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; and embryonic shifting dunes.

⁴⁶ Sensitive features include: fens; petrifying springs; alkaline fens; Geyer's whorl snail; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; and Desmoulin's whorl snail.

⁴⁷ Sensitive features include: wet heath; and dry heath.

⁴⁸ Sensitive features include petrifying springs; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; and Desmoulin's whorl snail.

⁴⁹ Sensitive features include: estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; reefs; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; dry heath; hydrophilous tall herb communities; petrifying springs; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; Desmoulin's whorl snail; freshwater pearl mussel; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; twaite shad; Atlantic salmon; otter; Killarney fern; and Nore freshwater pearl mussel.

⁵⁰ Sensitive features include: reefs and harbour porpoise.

⁵¹ Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; annual vegetation of drift lines; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; humid dune slacks; and petalwort.

⁵² Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; shelduck; teal; pintail; shoveler; oystercatcher; golden plover; grey plover; knot; sanderling; dunlin; black-tailed godwit; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; turnstone; black-headed gull; and wetland and waterbirds.

⁵³ Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; oystercatcher; ringed plover; grey plover; knot; sanderling; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; redshank; black-headed gull; roseate tern; common tern; Arctic tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁴ Sensitive features include: roseate tern; common tern; and Arctic tern.

⁵⁵ Sensitive features include: red-throated diver; cormorant; common scoter; grey plover; sanderling; Greenland white-fronted goose; and wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁶ Sensitive features include: little grebe; grey heron; whooper swan; wigeon; teal; mallard; scaup; grey plover; knot; dunlin; little tern; wetland and waterbirds.

⁵⁷ Sensitive features include: Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; hydrophilous tall herb communities; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; yew woodlands; freshwater pearl mussel; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; twaite shad; Atlantic salmon and otter.

heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

There are 35 pNHAs designated within, partially within or adjacent to the County. These sites (mapped on Figure 4.3) include:

- Ballyman Glen (000713);
- Bray Head (000714);
- Carriggower Bog (000716);
- Devil's Glen (000718);
- Glen of the Downs (000719);
- Kilmacanoge Marsh (000724);
- Knocksink Wood (000725);
- Buckrone-Brittas Dunes and Fen (000729);
- The Murrrough (000730);
- Poulaphouca Reservoir (000731);
- Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) (000733);
- Wicklow Head (000734);
- Arklow Rock-Askintinny (001745);
- Arklow Sand Dunes (001746);
- Avoca River Valley (001748);
- Ballinacor Wood (001749);
- Ballinagee Wood (001750);
- Ballycore Rath (001751);
- Dargle River Valley (001754);
- Glencree Valley (001755);
- Glenealy Woods (001756);
- Holdenstown Bog (001757);
- Newtown Marshes (001759);
- Lowtown Fen (001764);
- Magherabeg Dunes (001766);
- Powerscourt Waterfall (001767);
- Powerscourt Woodland (001768);
- Great Sugar Loaf (001769);
- Vartry Reservoir (001771);
- Dunlavin Marshes (001772);
- Tomnafinnoge Wood (001852);
- Wicklow Town Sites (001929);
- Arklow Town Marsh (001931);
- Hollywood Glen (002053); and
- Avondale (002093).

4.6.5 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE⁵⁸ land cover mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.4. The most dominant land cover types are pastures throughout the County and peat bogs in the centre of the County.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats (see Figure 4.6 Figure 4.4), include:

- Non-irrigated land
- Pastures;
- Complex cultivated patterns;
- Land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation.
- Broad-leaved forest;
- Coniferous forest;
- Mixed forests;
- Natural grassland;
- Moors and heaths;
- Transitional woodland and scrub;
- Beaches dunes sand;
- Sparsely vegetated areas;
- Inland marshes;
- Peat bogs;
- Salt marshes;
- Water bodies; and
- Coastal lagoons.

4.6.6 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). Water bodies designated on these lists (mapped on Figure 4.5) include:

- Surface waters listed on the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid) Regulations 1988 (S.I. 293) and intersecting surface and groundwaters.

RPAs relating to Nutrient Sensitive Waters, Bathing Waters and water bodies used for Drinking Water are addressed under Section 4.9 "Water".

There are also a number of water dependent habitats in the County which have been listed on RPAs – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3).

4.6.7 Salmonid Waters

The Salmonid Regulations (S.I. 293/1988) designate the waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected. 34 (no.) rivers, tributaries and lakes are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, the sampling programmes

forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

⁵⁸ The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including

and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Sections of the Rivers Slaney, Dargle and Vartry are listed under the Regulations.

4.6.8 Other Designations

Other designations within County Wicklow (mapped on Figure 4.6) include Margaritifera Sensitive Areas, National Park and Nature Reserves.

Freshwater pearl mussel is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment. There are two species of freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. In County Wicklow, the Margaritifera Sensitive Areas are found within the following river catchments (mapped on Figure 4.6):

- Avoca - Upper Avonmore (catchments of other extant populations);
- Vartry (previous record *Margaritifera*, current status unknown);
- Avoca - Lower Avonmore (previous record *Margaritifera*, current status unknown);
- Liffey – Kings (catchments of other extant populations);
- Slaney Upper (catchments of other extant populations);
- Avoca – Aughrim (catchments of other extant populations);
- Slaney – Derreen (catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009);
- Barrow (previous record *Margaritifera*, current status unknown);
- Slaney – Derry (catchments of other extant populations);
- Slaney – Bann (catchments of other extant populations) and
- Slaney Lower (catchments of other extant populations).

Twenty-seven Management Plans for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel have been published, the objective of which is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation. The Derreen Sub-Basin Management Plan relates to part of County Wicklow, the Derreen being a tributary of the River Slaney.⁵⁹

'National Parks' have the following characteristics:

- Where one or several ecosystems are not materially altered by human exploitation and occupation; where plant and animal species, geomorphological sites and habitats are of special scientific, educational and recreational interest or which contain a natural landscape of great beauty;
- Where steps have been taken by the Government to prevent or eliminate as soon as possible exploitation or occupation in the whole area and to enforce effectively the respect of ecological, geomorphological or aesthetic features which have led to its establishment;
- Where visitors are allowed to enter, under special conditions, for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes.

There are six National Parks in Ireland including the Wicklow Mountains National Park located within the central parts of the County. The Wicklow Mountains National Park covers part of a mountain range (over 17,000 hectares) that extends over most of the County. The park contains a range of habitats including: blanket bogs, woodlands, rivers and lakes. Liffey Head bog beside Kippure in the Park is an example of a blanket bog which supports a variety protected species. The Park contains both deciduous and coniferous woodland including those located in the Derrybawn and Glendalough area which comprise of native species such as holly, rowan, ash and hazel. Many glacial formed lakes occur in the area and the River Liffey and Dodder rise in the National Park.⁶⁰

Nature Reserves are areas of importance to wildlife, protected under Ministerial order. There are currently 78 Statutory Nature Reserves in Ireland. Most are owned by the State but some are owned by organisations or private landowners. There are six State owned Nature Reserves located within the County: Knocksink Wood Nature Reserve, in the north; Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve, in the north-east; Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve, in the east; Vale of Clara Nature Reserve, in the east; Glenealo Valley Nature Reserve, in the Wicklow Mountains; and Glendalough Nature Reserve, in the Wicklow Mountains.

⁵⁹ Wicklow CDP 2022-2028

⁶⁰ Source: www.npws.ie

4.6.9 Other Sites of Ecological Importance

Within and surrounding the County, ecological networks are made up of components including rivers, streams and their tributaries and banks, various woodlands, parks, gardens and hedgerows within and surrounding the County and lands used for agriculture. These components provide habitats for flora and fauna and facilitate linkages to the surrounding countryside.

Woodlands, trees and hedgerows are a valuable resource to wildlife. There is an extensive network of hedgerows throughout County Wicklow, providing links between wildlife habitats, thereby allowing the movement and dispersal of species through agricultural areas.

Public parks and open spaces within the County are important for biodiversity in urban settings.⁶¹ These spaces provide habitat for birds, insects and small mammals. Parks also support numerous plants, hedgerows and woodlands, acting as wildlife corridors, connecting habitats in the area.

BirdWatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve at Blackditch Wood (Newcastle) includes a variety of habitats (such as a rare fen, wet grasslands and birch woodland) and provides an important refuge for many plants and birds within a larger coastal wetland complex (Murrrough Wetlands). There are also three BirdWatch Ireland Important Bird Areas (IBAs)⁶² in County Wicklow: North Wicklow coastal marshes; Wicklow Mountains and Poulaphouca Reservoir.

Wetland areas in County Wicklow include a range of high biodiversity value habitats, such as bogs, heaths, transition mires, springs, fens, wet woodlands, lakes and ponds. Peatlands are unique systems comprising of peat soil providing as significant carbon stores and supporting a range of unique species. Most of the peatlands found in County Wicklow are mountain blanket bogs. The best developed areas of this type of habitat occur around Kippure and Sally Gap, however there are also a number of other extensive sites such as Table

Mountain and Ballynultagh. Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

The wetland survey of County Wicklow⁶³ investigated 56 freshwater wetland areas as well as sites with a significant area of wetland habitats with the potential to support breeding populations of marsh fritillary butterfly. All surveyed sites were ranked according to their conservation value/importance. Many important wetland sites were identified during the survey (of high local importance or greater), including three transition mires, three new breeding sites for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and a new area of Schoenus rich alkaline fen with tufa springs. These habitats and species are listed under the EU Habitats Directive as habitats or species of conservation importance. The results of the survey indicated that many important wetlands sites remain un-identified throughout the County and further surveys will be required to complete the inventory of wetland sites in County Wicklow.

Other sites of ecological importance include those used by pollinators. The Heritage Council's All-Ireland Pollinator Plan aims to manage roadside verges and green spaces in a way that allows us to maintain safe and accessible roadsides but also support pollinators, and to alter mowing regimes and reduce pesticide use. These areas can be used to create and enhance the ecological networks and wildlife corridors across the County by increasing connectivity and biodiversity.

4.6.10 Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report comprise:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);

⁶¹ Urban habitat mapping was carried out in Arklow, Wicklow Town and Bray as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan (2004-2009).

⁶² The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Programme is a BirdLife International initiative aimed at identifying and protecting a network of critical sites for the conservation of the world's birds.

⁶³ *Wicklow County Council and The Heritage Council (2012) The County Wicklow Wetland Survey II..*

- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems;
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas;
- Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry);
- Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions;
- Alien and problematic species;
- Mixed source pollution;
- Human-induced changes in water regimes;
- Natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate change);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes;
- Climate change; and
- Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures from outside the Member State.

Ireland's Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

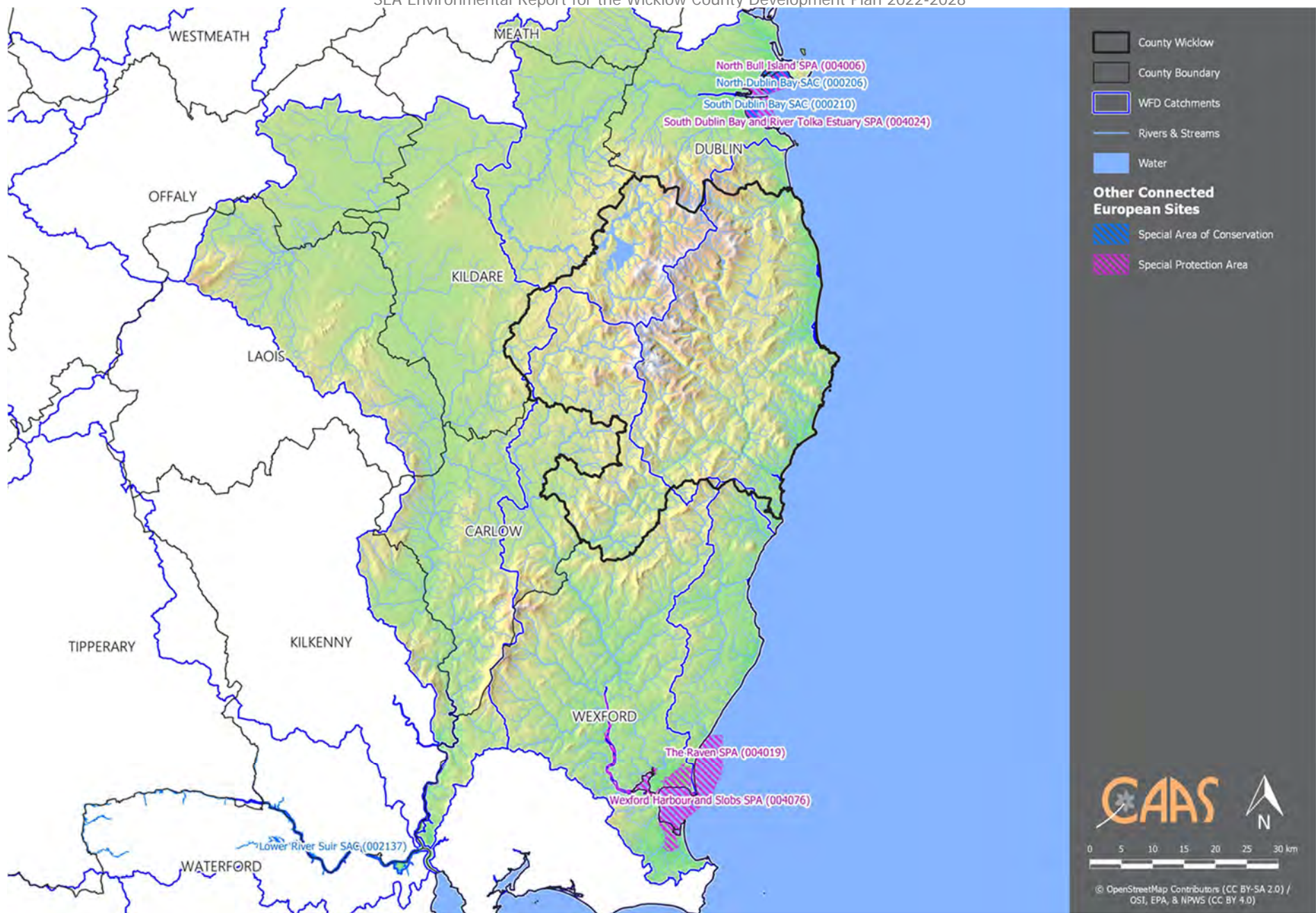


Figure 4.2 Other connected European sites beyond 15 km of the County

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

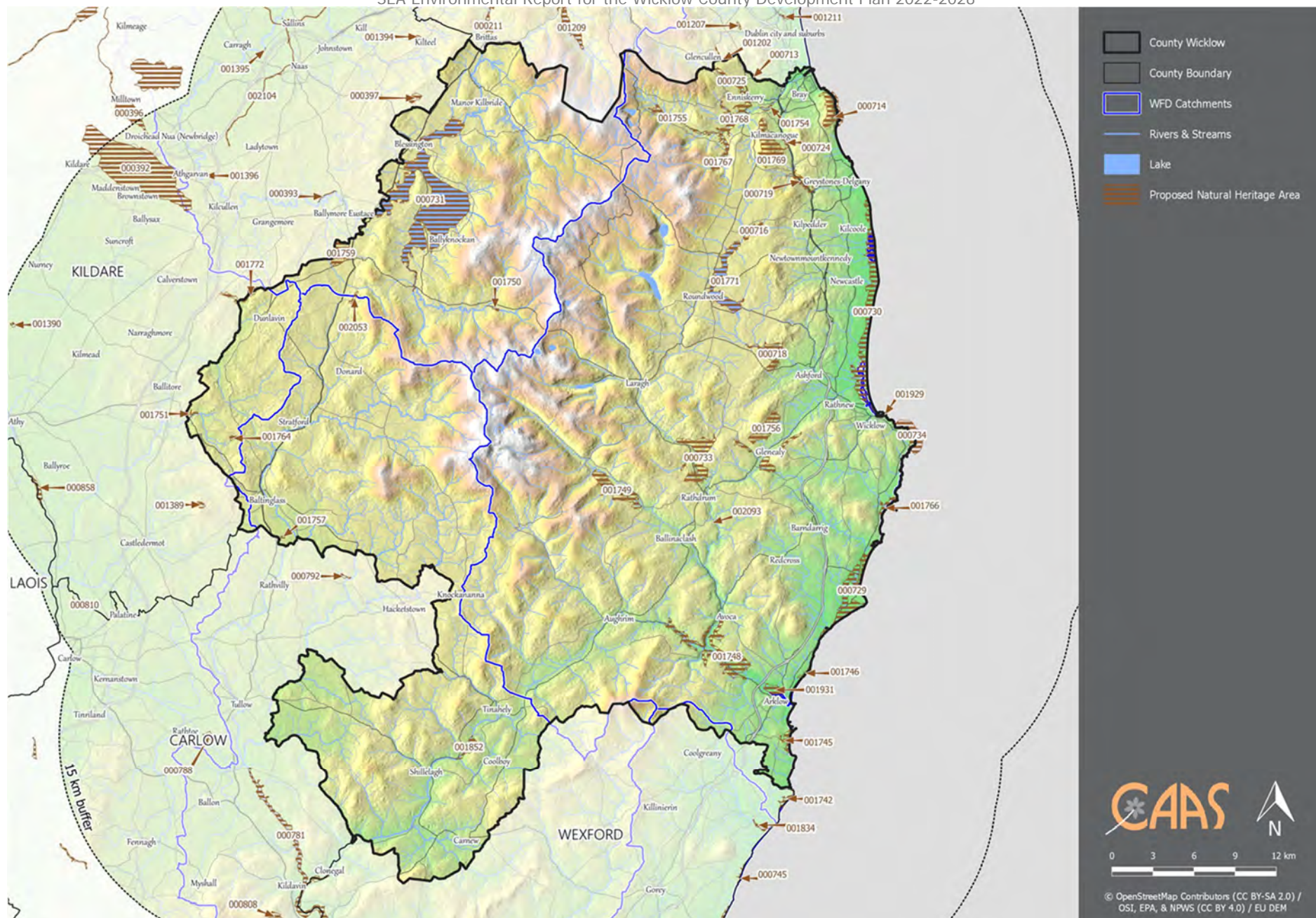


Figure 4.3 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas within and within 15 km of the County

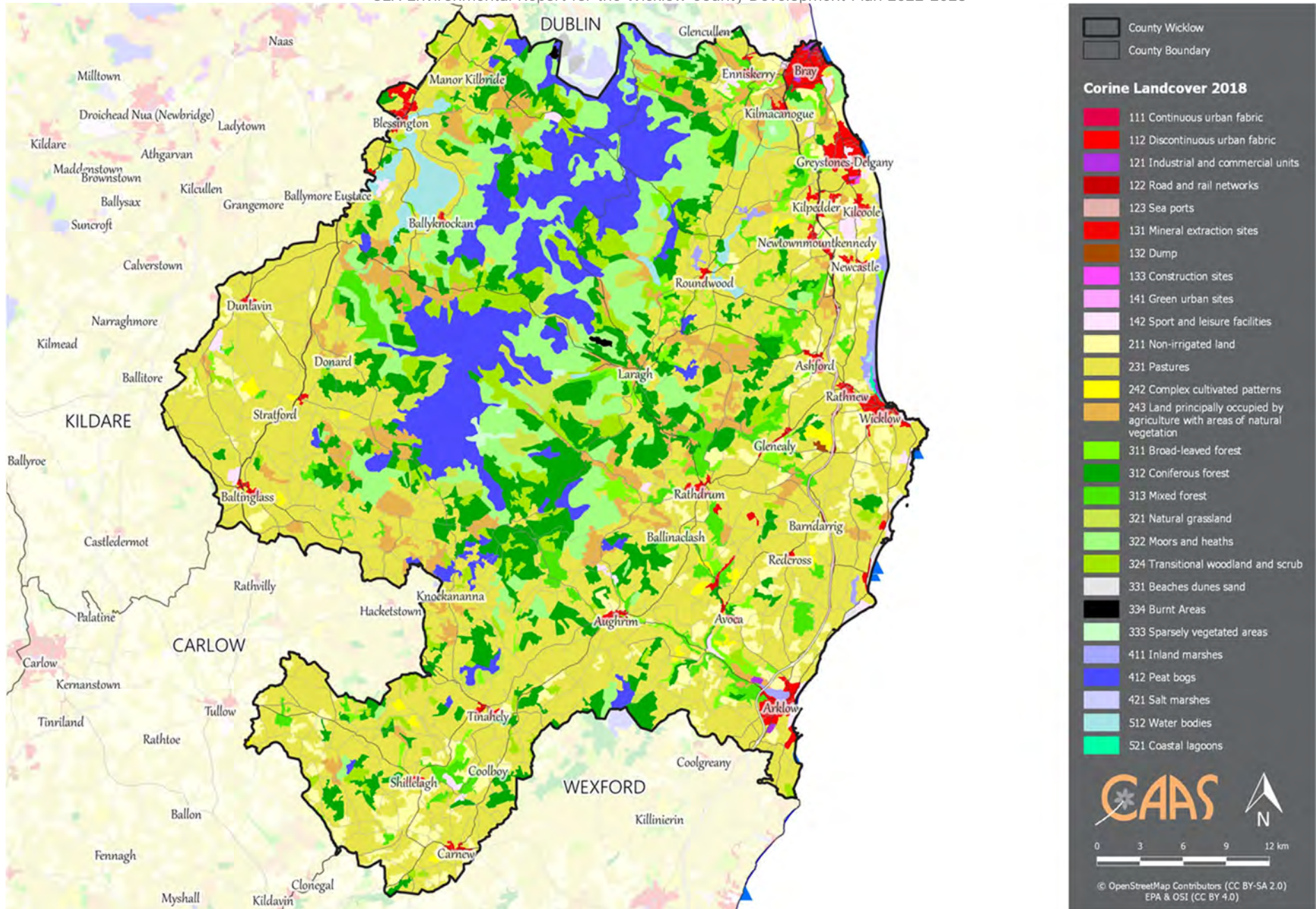


Figure 4.4 CORINE Land Cover 2018

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

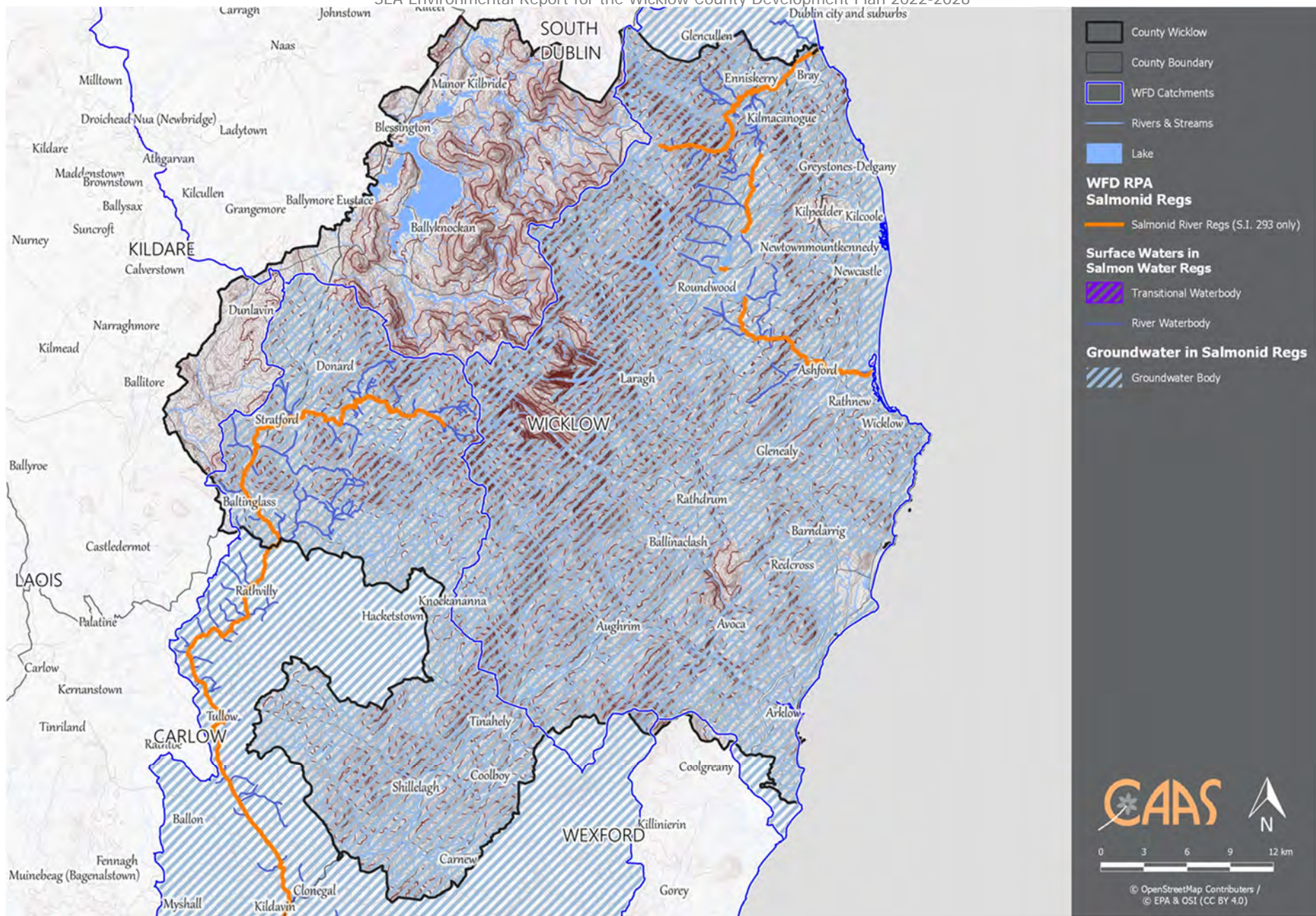


Figure 4.5 WFD Register of Protected Areas

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

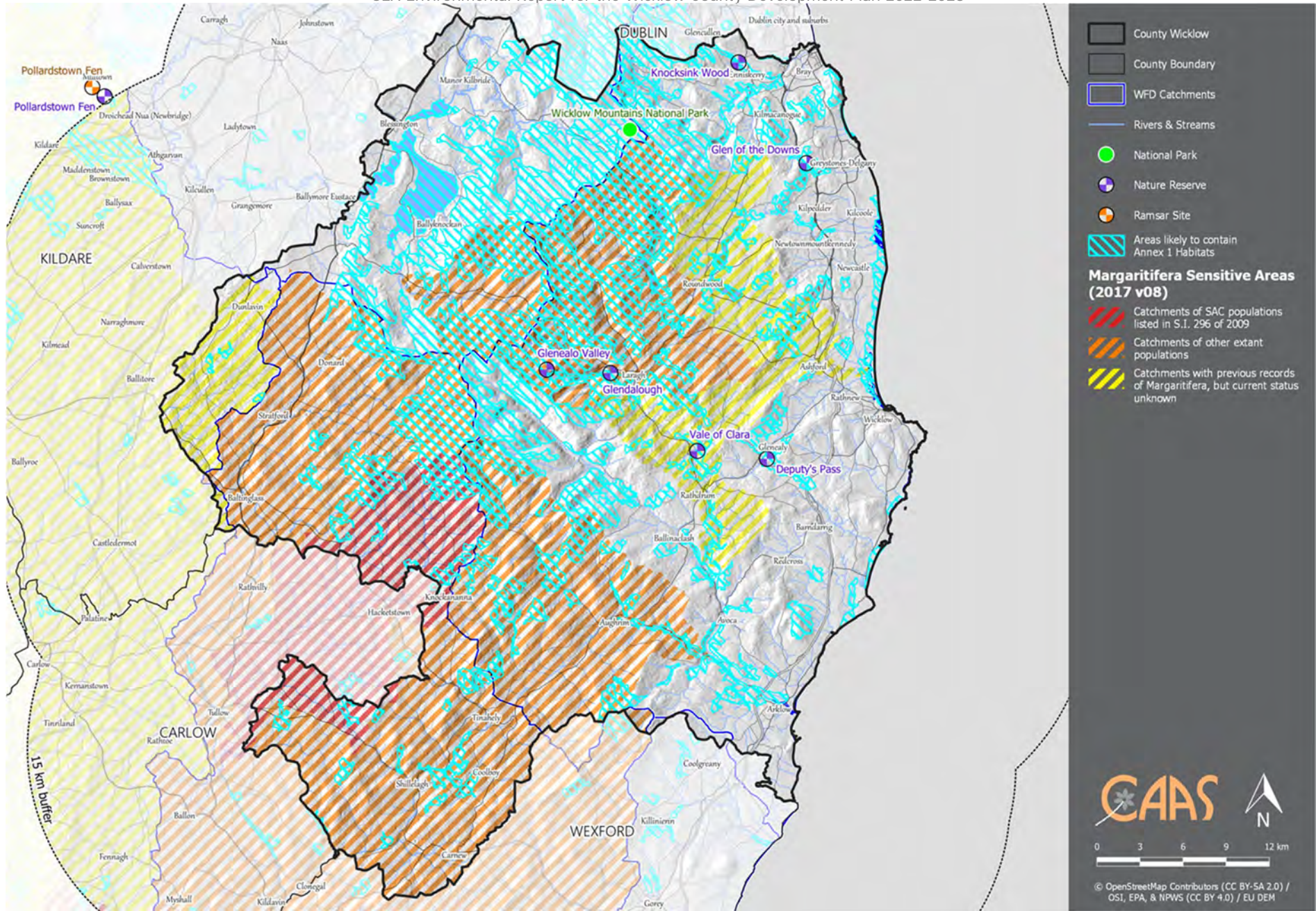


Figure 4.6 Other Ecological Designations within and within 15 km of the County

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

4.7 Population and Human Health

4.7.1 Population

In the 2016 Census the total population of Wicklow was identified as being of 142,425 persons, an increase in total population in the County by c. 4% (c. 5,785 persons) since the previous census. The population growth targets for the County for 2026 and 2031 are 155,000 - 157,500 and 160,500 – 164,000 respectively.⁶⁴

Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew are identified as 'Key Towns' by the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031. Bray is the largest town in County Wicklow with a 2016 Census total population of 32,600 persons. Bray serves as a significant visitor and tourism destination. Wicklow is the County town, providing important administrative and local government functions. The town is strategically located on the M/N11 and south-eastern rail corridor, at the centre point of the County's coastline.

The Plan designates a hierarchy of the County's settlements as follows:

- Metropolitan Area Key Town (Bray);
- Core Region Key Town (Wicklow-Rathnew);
- Core Region Self-Sustaining Growth Towns (Arklow, Greystones-Delgany and Blessington);
- Core Region Self-sustaining Towns (Baltinglass, Enniskerry, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy and Rathdrum);
- Towns and Villages: Small Towns Type 1 (Ashford, Auhtrim, Carnew, Dunlavin and Tinahely);
- Towns and Villages: Small Towns Type 2 (Avoca, Donard, Kilmacanogue, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh);
- Larger Villages/Type 1 Villages;
- Smaller Villages/Type 2 Villages;
- Rural clusters; and
- Open Countryside.

The north-east part of the County, including Bray and Greystones, is part of RSES 'Dublin Metropolitan Area'.

The new population provided for by the Plan will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Increase in demand for wastewater treatment at the municipal level;
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction from the rivers;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

4.7.2 Human Health

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

4.7.3 Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County (see information on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment at Section 4.9.9).

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country⁶⁵.

Information on the status of groundwaters and surface waters is provided under Section 4.9

⁶⁴ Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2027

⁶⁵ Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

while compliance issues in relation to water services are detailed under Section 4.11.10.

4.8 Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It 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 and environmental importance. Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. Although a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive was withdrawn in 2014, the importance of sustainable soil management was recognised in the Seventh Environment Action Programme.

Blanket peat and peaty soils (mainly in the central and north-western upland parts of the County) and brown earths⁶⁶ (occupying most of the southern, eastern and western parts of the County) are the two most dominant soil types in the County (shown on Figure 4.7). Other soil types identified include:

- Lithosol soils⁶⁷ (along the central upland and north-western areas of the County)
- Alluvial soils⁶⁸ (in the flood plains of rivers and streams and coastal areas);
- Groundwater gleys⁶⁹ (in the south-west of the County and coastal areas in the north-east);
- Surface Water Gleys (stretching along the coastline in the south-east of the County);
- Podzols⁷⁰ (in the central, uplands areas of the County);
- Brown podzols⁷¹ (throughout the County); and

- Luvisols⁷² (mainly along the west and north-west of the County).

Peatlands are unique systems comprising of peat soil providing as significant carbon stores and supporting a range of unique species. Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues.

The peatland areas along the central uplands of the County are subject to various ecological designations (see Section 4.6).

Outcropping rock is identified in a number of upland and coastal locations.

The GSI (Geological Survey of Ireland) have a suite of data sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

- Aggregate Potential mapping;
- Bedrock mapping;
- Geochemistry mapping;
- Geophysical mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

4.8.1 Geological Sites

Geological Survey of Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Wicklow was completed in 2014 and identifies 62 County Geological Sites⁷³. Concentrations of these designations can be found in the upland areas and along the coast, (mapped on Figure 4.8). County Geological Sites within the Plan area are shown on Table 4.1.

⁶⁶ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

⁶⁷ Shallow soils, consisting of partially weathered rock fragments.

⁶⁸ These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

⁶⁹ Surface water gleys and groundwater gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

⁷⁰ Podzol soils are infertile acidic soils with an ash-like subsurface layer associated with acid leaching typically formed under coniferous forest.

⁷¹ Brown podzol soils are characterised by dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves.

⁷² Luvisol soils are generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

⁷³ Geological Survey of Ireland (2014) *The Geological Heritage of Wicklow. An Audit of County Geological Sites in Wicklow*

Table 4.1 County Geological Sites

Site Code	Site Name
WW060	Wicklow-Greystones Coast
WW042	Lough Nahanagan
WW041	Lough Dan, North End (Granite contact)
WW047	Mottee Stone
WW046	Manger-Saundersgrove
WW044	Luggala
WW002	Aughrim Quarry
WW001	Athdown Moraine
WW024	Glencullen River
WW023	Glen of The Downs
WW021	Glasnamullen
WW020	Enniskerry Delta
WW014	Britonstown
WW013	Bray Head
WW056	Tober Demesne
WW055	The Scalp
WW054	Snugborough
WW053	Slieveroe lane and rail cutting
WW052	Rocky Valley
WW051	River Dargle Valley
WW012	Blessington Delta
WW011	Ballyrahan Quarry
WW009	Ballydonnell
WW036	Greystones Beach
WW035	Greystones (Appinite)
WW034	Great Sugar Loaf
WW008	Avoca - West Avoca
WW007	Avoca - Tigrone West
WW032	Glenmalure
WW031	Glenmacnass Valley
WW030	Glendasan - St. Kevins
WW029	Glendasan - Ruplagh
WW028	Glendasan - Luganure
WW027	Glendasan - Hero
WW026	Glendasan - Foxrock
WW025	Glendalough
WW017	Lough Dan, Lough Tay and Cloghoge River
WW016	Cloghleagh Mine
WW038	Kilmacurra Quarry
WW033	Goldmines River
WW062	Woodenbridge Wellfield
WW061	Wicklow Service Area
WW043	Lough Ouler
WW040	Lough Bray
WW039	Kippure
WW037	Hollywood Glen
WW006	Avoca - Tigrone East
WW010	Ballyknockan Quarries
WW058	Upper Lockstown Delta and Kings River
WW019	Dunran Channel
WW018	Devil's Glen
WW022	Glen Ding
WW045	Lugnaquilla
WW003	Avoca - Connary
WW048	Mullaghcleevaun
WW015	Camaderry Appinite
WW005	Avoca - Sroughmore
WW004	Avoca - Cronebane
WW059	Upper River Liffey
WW057	Toor Channel
WW050	Powerscourt Waterfall
WW049	Powerscourt Deerpark Cave

4.8.2 Potentially contaminated lands and landfill sites

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact

upon human health, water quality and habitats and species.

As is the case with other areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within County Wicklow, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of environmental protection legislation. Such contamination has the potential to affect water quality, biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health. Policy Objective CPO 17.27 requires that geological and soil mapping, where available, is considered in certain planning decisions in order to identify, inter alia, degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna).

4.8.3 Source Protection Areas

Source Protection Area delineation provides an assessment of the land area that contributes groundwater to a borehole or spring. Source reports have been undertaken by the GSI on behalf of Local Authorities since the mid-1990s.

Public Supply Source Protection Areas comprise are managed by Irish Water to supply Public Water Supply Schemes across Ireland. Source Protection Areas provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source.

Groundwater bodies are important water supply sources for private wells, group schemes and local authority supplies and for use in a range of commercial activities. This is particularly the case in rural areas that are not served by public or group water schemes, with private bored wells being the only source of supply.

There are a number of Source Protection Areas in County Wicklow, including:

- Public Supply Source Protection Areas
 - Roundwood PWS
 - Blessington PWS
 - Redcross PWS
 - Baltinglass PW
 - USK/Gormanstown PWS
- Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas
 - Askinagp GWS
 - Blakestown_Brittonstown
 - Cornagower GWS
 - Blainroe GWS
 - Baltyboys
 - Ballingate GWS
 - Ballyfolan

Public Supply Source Protection Areas (including Inner and Outer Protection Areas⁷⁴) and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas⁷⁵ are shown on Figure 4.8.

4.8.4 Landslides

The term "landslide" describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of materials such as rock, debris, earth, mud and peat under the force of gravity. Issues such as existing ground conditions, slope stability and storage of excavated material have the potential to influence susceptibility to landslides/bog bursts. The potential impacts of landslides include loss of human life/injury, flooding, pollution of watercourses and impacts upon aquatic biodiversity.

The County has numerous locations with a history of landslide events⁷⁶ (shown on Figure 4.9). Many of these events are associated with the upland peatland areas in the Wicklow Mountains and coastal areas.

The GSI have identified that most of the County has relatively low levels of landslide susceptibility, with moderate and high susceptibility found in upland and some coastal areas (as shown on Figure 4.9).

4.8.5 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing soil were not identified as being conflicted with.

⁷⁴ The Zone of Contribution is the land area that contributes water to the well or spring. The Inner Protection Area (SI) is designed to protect against the effects of human activities that might have an immediate effect on the source and, in particular, against microbial pollution. The Outer Protection Area (SO) is encompassing the remainder of the zone of contribution to the groundwater abstraction point (e.g. borehole or spring).

⁷⁵ The Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas comprises Zones of Contribution to groundwater abstraction points that supply Group Water Schemes across Ireland that are affiliated to the

National Federation of Group Water Schemes and that supply more than 15 people.

⁷⁶ Over 2,500 landslide events are recorded in the National Landslides Database available from GSI (www.gsi.ie). This dataset also includes Landslide Susceptibility Mapping to assist in the identification of areas that are likely to experience landsliding. Recorded events in the County include: Bollarney (2009); Magheramore Beach (2016); Greystones (2002); Hazelwood Crescent landfill (2016); and Glen of the downs rockfall (2016). Date records are not available for all landslide events mapped on Figure 4.9.

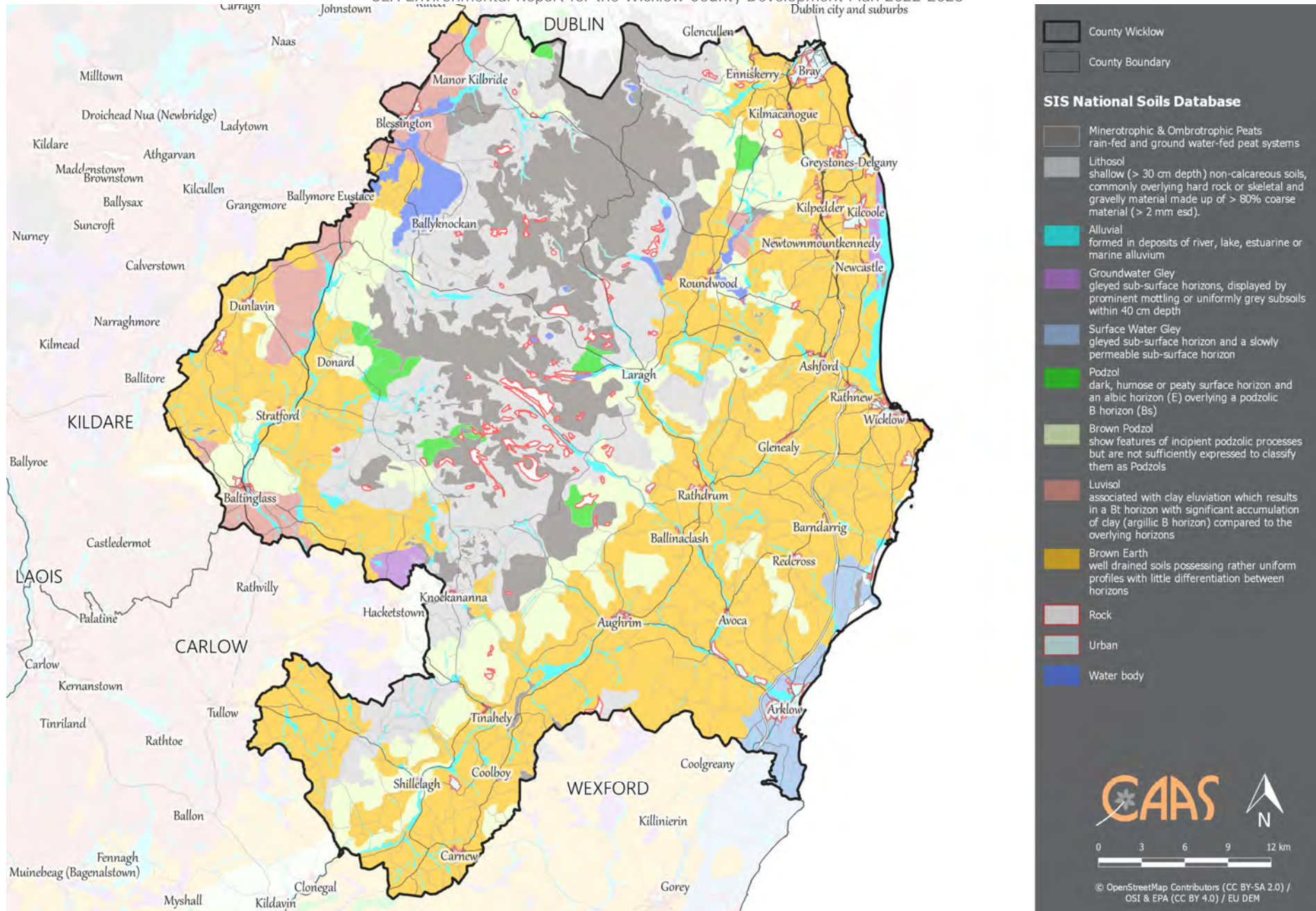


Figure 4.7 Soil Type
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

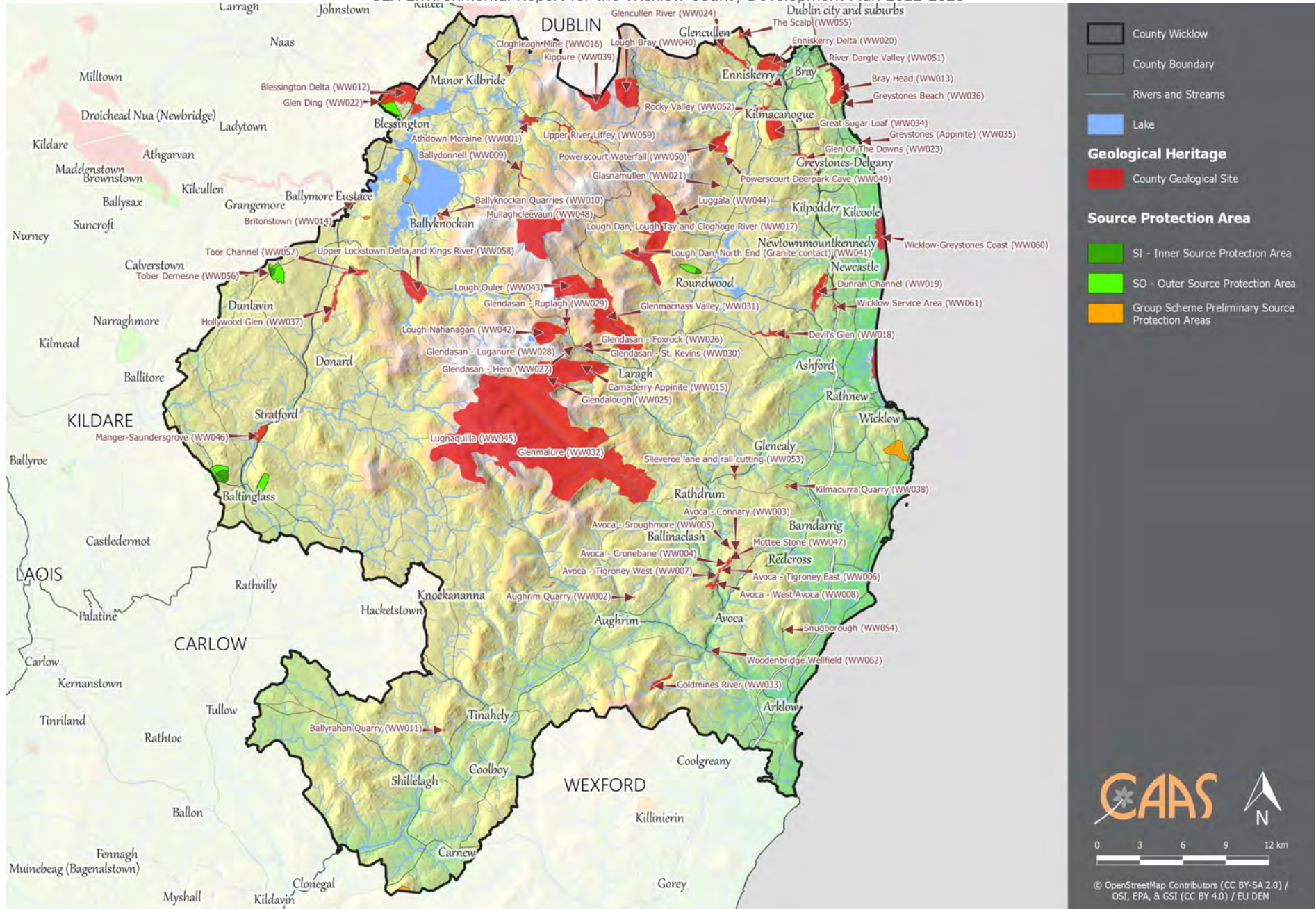


Figure 4.8 County Geological Sites and Source Protection Areas

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

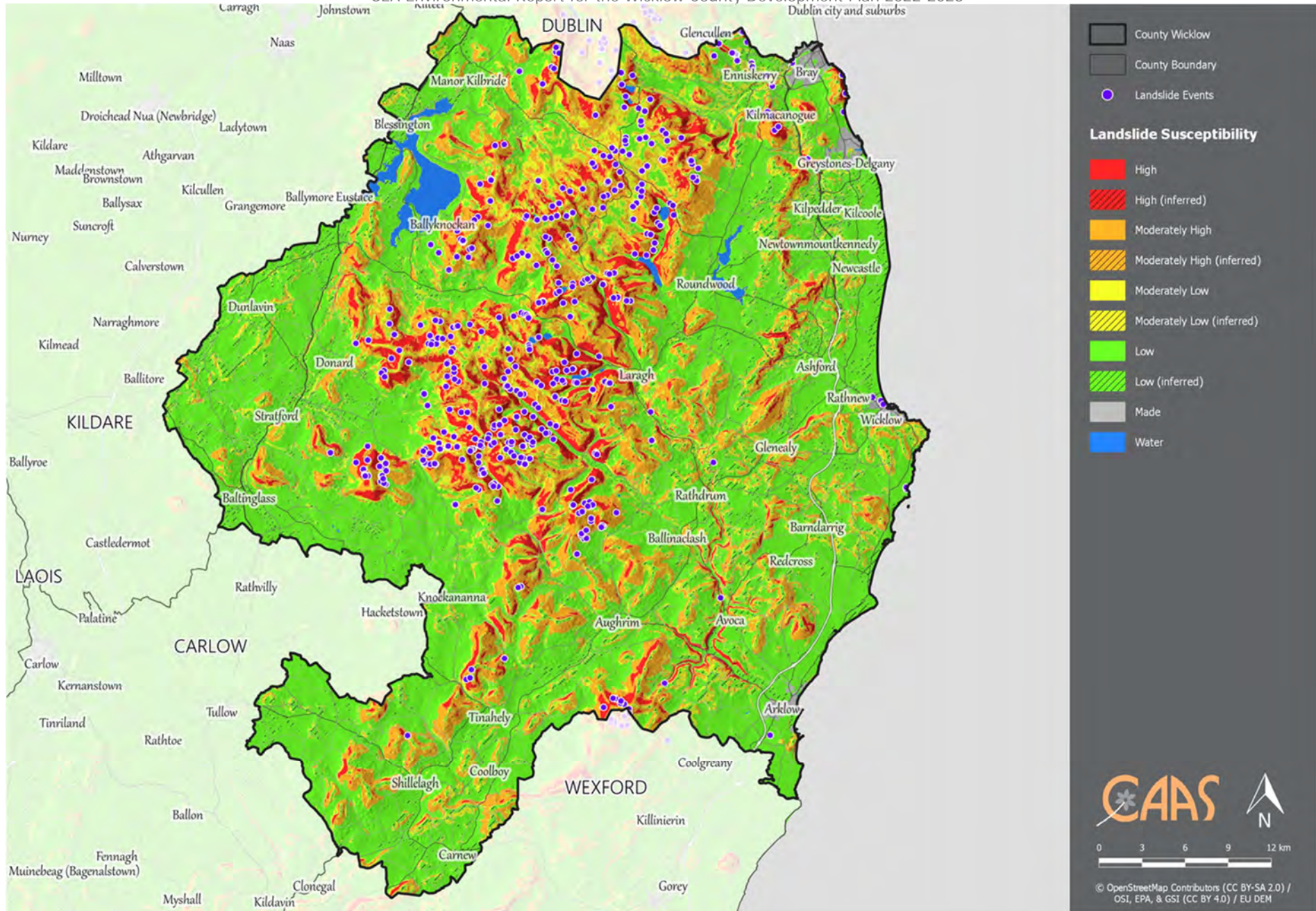


Figure 4.9 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

4.9 Water

4.9.1 The Water Framework Directive

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving good status. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status.

Article 4 of the WFD sets out various exemptions for deterioration in status caused as a result of certain physical modifications to water bodies. This is provided: all practicable mitigation measures are taken; there are reasons of overriding public interest or the benefits to human health, safety or sustainable development outweigh the benefits in achieving the WFD objective; there are no better alternatives; and the reasons for the physical modification are explained in the River Basin Management Plan.

The EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD.

For the purpose of assessment, reporting and management, water is divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters that are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

4.9.2 Zone of Influence

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County boundary, with respect to impacts upon waters can be estimated to be all bodies of groundwater and all surface waters downstream areas of catchments which drain the County.

4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

A catchment is an area of land contributing to a waterbody, with all the water ultimately

running off to a single outlet. The WFD requires water quality management to be based on natural river catchments i.e. by reference to the natural, environmental unit rather than by reference to administrative or legal boundaries, which often fragment river catchments.

Most of the County is situated within the catchment of Avoca-Vartry (an area drained by the Rivers Avoca and Vartry and by all streams entering tidal water between Sorrento Point and Kilmichael Point). The County is also partially drained by the catchments: Liffey and Dublin Bay; Slaney and Wexford Harbour; Barrow; and Owenavorrhagh. The main rivers within the County include the rivers: Slaney; Derry; Kings; Dargle; Vartry; Aughtim and Avoca.

4.9.4 Surface Water Status

The WFD defines 'overall surface water status' as the general expression of the status of a body of surface water, determined by the poorer of its ecological status and its chemical status. Thus, in order to achieve 'good surface water status' both the ecological status and the chemical status of a surface water body need to be at least 'good'.

Ecological status is an expression of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems associated with surface waters. Such waters are classified as of 'good ecological status' when they meet Directive requirements.

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more Priority Action Substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at European level. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018), for rivers and coastal waters within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 4.10 and on Table 4.2.

The WFD status of most of the rivers and lakes within the County is classified as *moderate*,

good and *high*, however sections⁷⁷ of rivers (including: Newtownmountkennedy; Rathnew; Avonbeg; Brown's Beck Brook; and Ballyduff Stream) are identified as *poor* and the Avoca River is identified as *bad* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) of transitional waterbodies within and surrounding the County is identified as *moderate* (including Broad Lough and Avoca Estuary).

Significant pressures, those pressures which need to be addressed in order to improve water quality, have been identified⁷⁸ for waterbodies that are 'At Risk' of not meeting their water quality objectives under the WFD. Significant pressures for surface water bodies within or adjacent to County Wicklow are identified on Table 4.2. There are various types of pressures identified, such as:

- **Agricultural pressures** - can include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters.
- **Urban run-off pressures** - can include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.
- **Urban wastewater pressures** - can include direct discharge of nutrients from urban wastewater treatment plants and discharge from combined storm overflows or storm water overflows. Discharges of elevated concentrations of phosphorus, ammonium and nitrogen impact on the ecology of surface waters.
- **Hydromorphological and anthropogenic pressures** are identified together in many instances. Hydromorphological pressures can include: modifications to the physical habitat conditions or the natural functioning of a waterbody which can impact on ecology, caused by dredging and straightening of rivers (channelisation), land drainage or hard infrastructure such as dams, weirs, culverts or other obstructions. Anthropogenic pressures can include: water abstractions; invasive species; agriculture; use of fertilizers, manures and pesticides; animal husbandry activities; inefficient irrigation practices; deforestation of woods; aquaculture; pollution due to industrial effluents and domestic sewage; and recreational activities.
- **Industrial pressures** - can include discharges and emissions from industrial and commercial facilities.
- **Extractive industry related pressures** – can include different activities that lead to the extraction of raw materials from the earth, such as oil, metals, mineral and aggregates. Impacts from extractive sites include sediment/siltation pollution and alteration to the physical environment.
- **Forestry pressures** - can include poorly managed and inappropriately sited forest operations, negatively impact on water quality and aquatic habitats and species. The most common water quality problems arising from forestry relate to the release of sediment and nutrients and the impacts from acidification. Forestry may also give rise to changes in stream flow regimes caused by associated land drainage.
- **Domestic wastewater pressures** – can include septic-tank systems associated with one-off housing and small unlicensed private urban waste-water treatment plants. If not correctly installed and well maintained, these systems can result in leakage of untreated effluent to waters.
- **Other pressures** can include impacts from activities such as **historically polluted sites** and **aquaculture**. These activities each impact a relatively small number of water bodies so they have been grouped together.

⁷⁷ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)

⁷⁸ EPA (2019): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018

Table 4.2 WFD River , Lake, Transitional and Coastal Waterbodies Status⁷⁹

Waterbody Name ⁸⁰	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) ⁸¹
Avoca_020	River	Bad - due to bad ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being an historically polluted site .
Avoca_010	River	Bad - due to bad ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being an historically polluted site .
Rathnew Stream_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Newtownmountkennedy_020	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban wastewater sources .
Greese_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Brown's Beck Brook_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Ballyduff Stream (Wicklow)_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and urban wastewater sources .
Avonbeg_030	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Askinch Upper Stream_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources .
Slaney_060	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban run-off sources .
Slaney_050	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources .
Rosnastraw Stream_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and forestry sources .
Potter's_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural, extractive industry, forestry and hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources .
Newcastle (Wicklow)_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban wastewater sources .
Liffey_060	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources .
Liffey_050	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic and urban wastewater sources .
Liffey_040	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic and urban wastewater sources .
Liffey_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources .
Lask_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic .
King's (Liffey)_020	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources .
King's (Liffey)_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources .
Kilmacanoge_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban run-off and urban wastewater sources .
Kilcoole Stream_010	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban wastewater sources .
Greese_020	River	Moderate . No pressures identified.
Graney (Lerr)_010	River	Moderate . No pressures identified.
Glenealo_020	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources and is identified as an historically polluted site .
Douglas (Kiltegan)_020	River	Moderate . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and domestic wastewater sources .

⁷⁹ Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

⁸⁰ The EPA identification code/number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the waterbody is located along the main river channel. For example, the waterbody at the source is coded '_010', the next waterbody downstream is coded '_020' and the final waterbody before the river becomes transitional is '_180'.

⁸¹ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a small number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them (such as Vartry Upper Lake) and the term "*unassigned status*" applies in respect of these waterbodies. These are not included on Table 4.2.

Waterbody Name ⁸⁰	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) ⁸¹	
Douglas (Kiltegan)_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.	
Derry_040	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from industrial sources.	
Derry_030	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.	
Derry_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and urban wastewater sources.	
Derry_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.	
Dargle_030	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban wastewater sources.	
Cloghoge Brook_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from extractive industry sources.	
Brittas_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.	
Blacklion (Carlow)_020	Stream	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.
Blacklion (Carlow)_010	Stream	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.
Bann_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.	
Ballyronan Stream_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from domestic wastewater and industrial sources.	
Ballylow Brook_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources.	
Ballydonnell Brook_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources.	
Avonmore_070	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.	
Aughrim (Wicklow)_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from aquacultural sources.	
Aughrim (Wicklow)_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from urban run-off sources.	
Tay	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.	
Dan	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.	
Avoca Estuary	Transitional	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being an historically polluted site.	
Broad Lough	Transitional	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and urban wastewater sources.	
Vartry_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Vartry_030	River	Good. No pressures identified	
Vartry_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Vartry_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Three Mile Water_020	River	Good. No pressures identified	
Three Mile Water_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agriculture sources.	
Temperainy Stream_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.	
Slaney_070	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Slaney_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Shillelagh_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Redcross_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Potter's_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Ow_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Ow_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Ow_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Newtownmountkennedy_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Mine_020	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and urban wastewater sources.	
Little Slaney_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Liffey_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Liffey_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Lemonstown Stream_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.	
Lemonstown Stream_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.	
Grangecon Stream_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.	
Glenmacnass_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.	

Waterbody Name ⁸⁰	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) ⁸¹
Glenmacnass_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glenealo_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glendasan_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glencullen_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glencree_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Douglas (Liffey)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dodder_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dodder_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derry_050	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources .
Derry Water_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derry Water_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derry Water_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_100	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_080	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_060	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_050	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dargle_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dargle_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dargle_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources .
Coolboy_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Coolalug Stream_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources .
Cock Brook_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources .
Carrigower_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Carrigower_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Brittas_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bothoge_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bothoge_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballymacahara_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballycreen Brook_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballinagee_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_060	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_050	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_020	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources .
Avonmore_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonbeg_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonbeg_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonbeg_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Varty Lower	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Pollaphuca	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Bray Lower	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Slaney_040	River	High. No pressures identified.
Slaney_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Slaney_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Redcross_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Knickeen_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Gold Mine_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Glencullen_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Derreen_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Coolboy_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Ballycreen Brook_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_040	River	High. No pressures identified.
Askanagap Stream_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Upper Glendalough	Lake	High. No pressures identified.
Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay (HA10)	Coastal	High. No pressures identified.

4.9.5 Ground Water

Groundwater is stored in the void spaces in underground layers of rock, or aquifers. These aquifers are permeable, allowing both the infiltration of water from the soils above them and the yielding of water to surface and coastal waters. Groundwater is the part of the subsurface water that is in the saturated zone - the zone below the water table, the uppermost level of saturation in an aquifer at which the pressure is atmospheric, in which all pores and fissures are full of water.

For groundwater bodies, the approach to classification is different from that for surface water. For each body of groundwater, both the chemical status and the quantitative must be determined. Both have to be classed as either *good* or *poor*. The WFD sets out a series of criteria that must be met for a body to be classed as good chemical and quantitative status.

The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the County is mostly identified as being of *good* status, with areas of *poor* status in the south-east⁸² and in the central parts of the County⁸³ (as shown on Figure 4.11).

4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution.

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the County are mapped on Figure 4.12 and generally classified as being of:

- *High and moderate*, throughout the County, including in upland and foothill areas;
- *Low vulnerability*, mainly in the coastal location along the east of the County; and
- *Extreme vulnerability* and *extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* including in the central upland areas.

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.13. Productivity is generally classified as being:

- *Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally unproductive except for local zones;*
- *Locally important aquifer bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones;*
- *Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally unproductive ; and*
- *Locally important gravel aquifer.*

4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

The WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) are compiled for a number of water bodies or part of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife.

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the County include:

- Surface Water and Groundwater⁸⁴ in Nutrient Sensitive Areas⁸⁵ - groundwater bodies partially underlying western fringes of the County intersect Nutrient Sensitive Areas associated with the River Barrow which flows through counties including County Carlow, as shown on Figure 4.14;
- Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies⁸⁶ (shown on Figure 4.15). Groundwater beneath the entire County is also included; and
- Bathing Water Areas⁸⁷ including surface waters and groundwater in bathing areas (shown on Figure 4.16).

⁸² Underlying an historic mine at Avoca.

⁸³ Underlying historic mines at Glendalough and Glenmalur.

⁸⁴ Groundwater bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive.

⁸⁵ Areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

⁸⁶ Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278/2007).

⁸⁷ Bathing Waters are designated under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 S.I. No. 79 of 2008, as amended.

RPA's relating to Salmonid Regulations and Shellfish Areas are addressed under Section 4.6 "Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna".

There are also a number of water dependent habitats in the County which have been listed on RPA's – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3).

4.9.8 Bathing Waters

There are six bathing locations (shown on Figure 4.16) identified as Bathing Waters under the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, as amended: Bray South Promenade; Greystones South; Silver Strand; Brittas Bay North; Brittas Bay South; and Clogga.

For bathing waters, Mandatory and Guide Values are set out for bathing waters in the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Regulations. Mandatory Values are values that must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with Guide Values exceeds guidance with Mandatory Values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Bathing waters are now classified into four quality categories; '*excellent*', '*good*', '*sufficient*', or '*poor*' with a minimum target of '*sufficient*' required to be achieved for all bathing waters.

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2019⁸⁸ shows that locations of designated bathing waters along the County's coastline are either classified as *excellent*⁸⁹ (at Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga) or *good*⁹⁰ (at Silver Strand).

Figure 4.16 also shows Bathing Water Areas. Identification and description of Bathing Water Areas where designated Bathing Water Locations exist for the EU Water Framework Directive. These areas exist along Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South.

The Blue Flag award is given to beaches and marinas that have excellent water quality and maintain other standards including effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment and safety standards. The bathing locations in County Wicklow, at Bray South Promenade, Greystones, Brittas Bay North and Brittas Bay South were awarded with the Blue Flag in 2020.

4.9.9 Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk of flooding from sources including groundwater, pluvial⁹¹, fluvial⁹² and coastal⁹³. There is historic evidence of flooding in various locations across the County, including: along the Rivers Slaney, Greese and Avonbeg; at estuarine locations on the Rivers Vartry, Avoca and Dargle; and at various locations along the coastline. Predictive OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.17⁹⁴, indicating areas likely to be at most risk of flooding.

Locations within and adjacent to the County that were identified by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in 2012 as requiring detailed assessment of flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment) include: Arklow; Ashford and Rathnew; Aughrim; Avoca; Baltinglass; Blessington; Greystones and Environs; Kilcoole; Newclastle; and Wicklow. Detailed predictive flood risk mapping is now available for these areas.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), as required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW, 2009), has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the SEA and the preparation of the Plan. This assessment considers available and emerging information on historical and predictive flood risk indicators.

4.9.10 Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data,

⁸⁸ EPA Report (2020) on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2019*

⁸⁹ The highest, cleanest class

⁹⁰ The second highest, second cleanest class

⁹¹ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

⁹² Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

⁹³ Resulting from higher sea levels than normal causing the sea to overflow onto land. Such flooding is influenced by high tide level, storm surges and wave action.

⁹⁴ This mapping shows the likelihood of flooding from a number of sources, defined as the percentage probability of a flood occurring in any given year. For example, a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) indicates the severity of a flood that is expected to be exceeded on average once in 100 years, i.e. it has a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of occurring in any one year.

certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

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.⁹⁵

The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is historic and predictive evidence of elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial and coastal sources at various locations across the County.

⁹⁵ Wicklow CDP 2022-2027

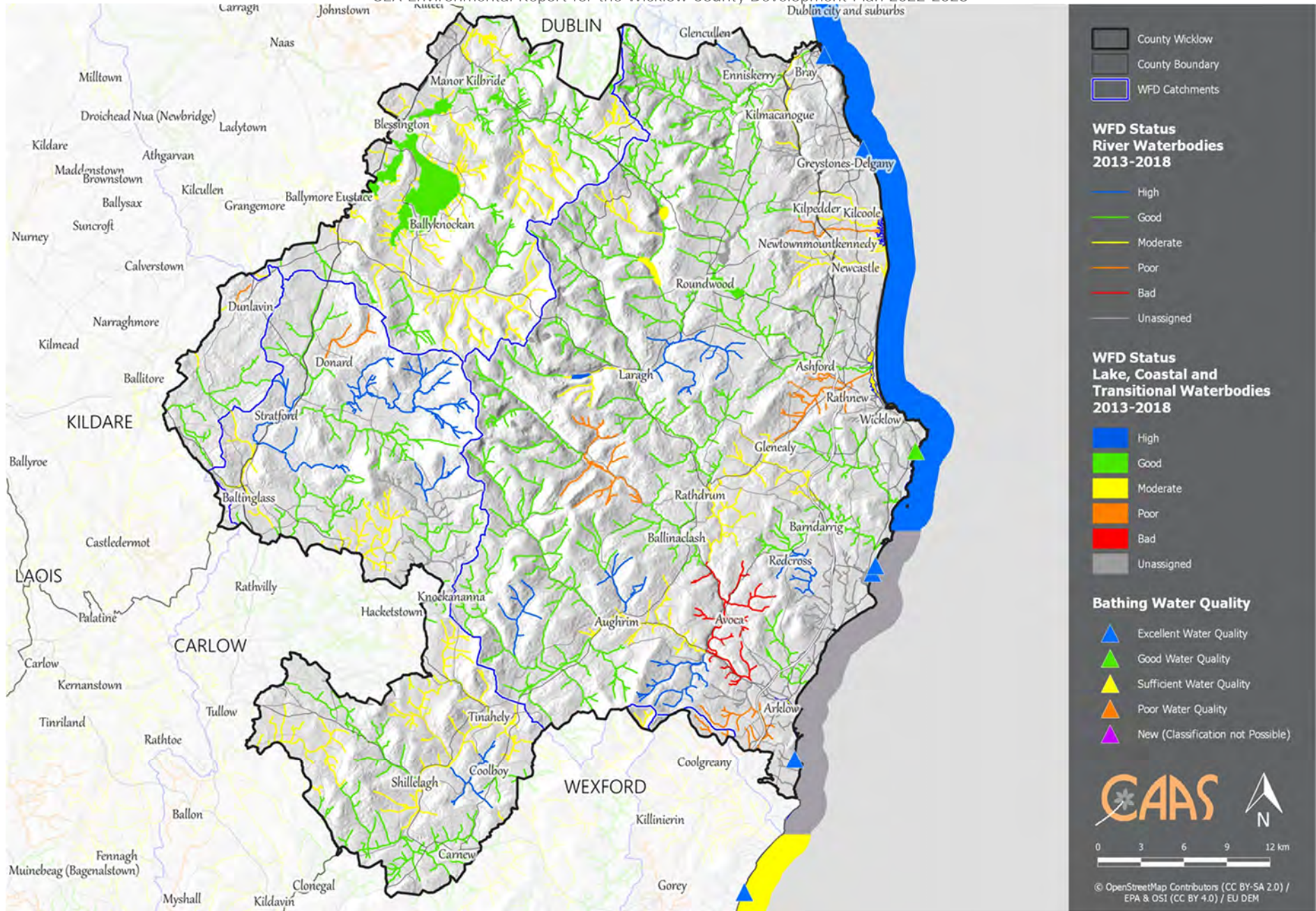


Figure 4.10 WFD Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

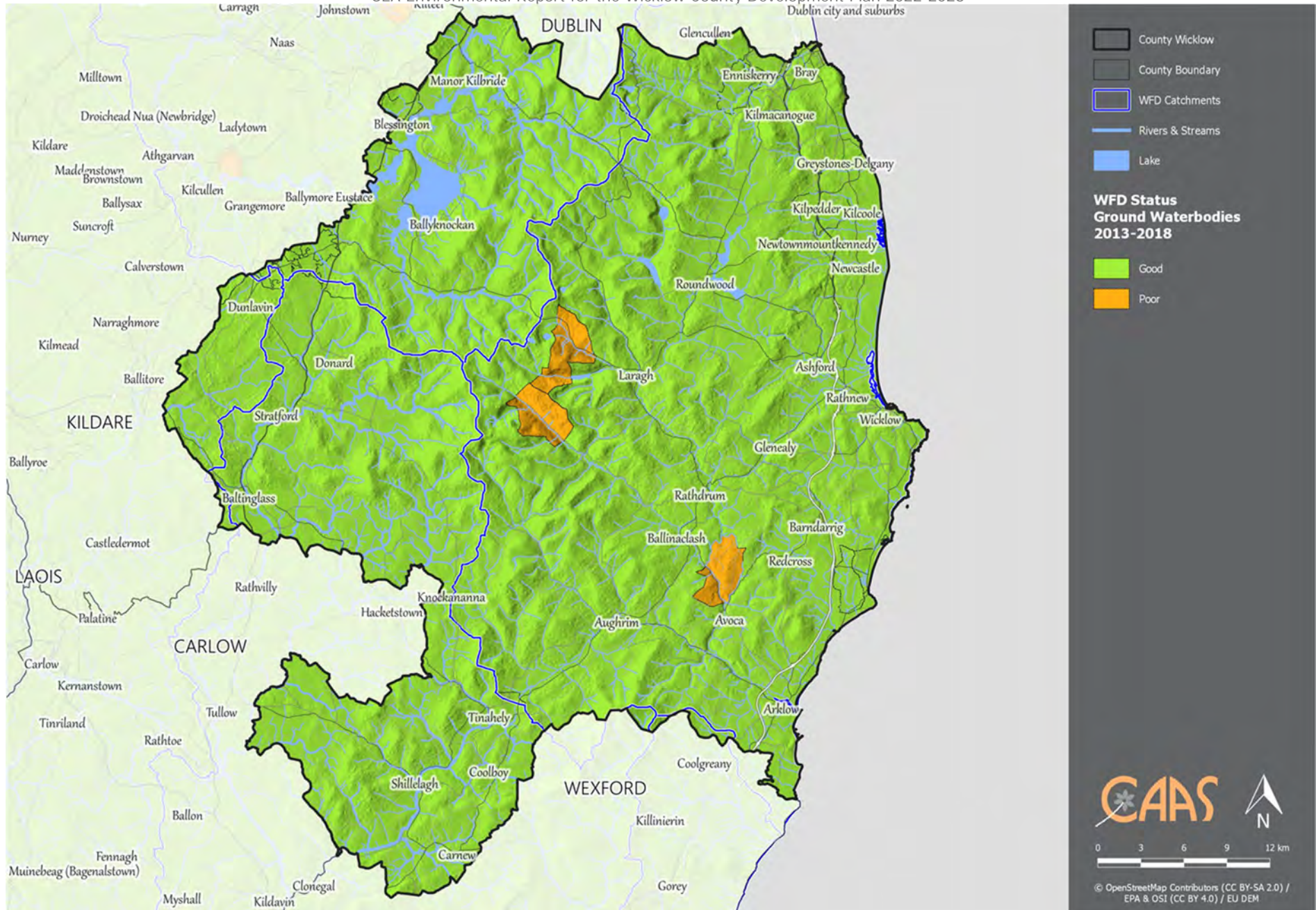


Figure 4.11 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

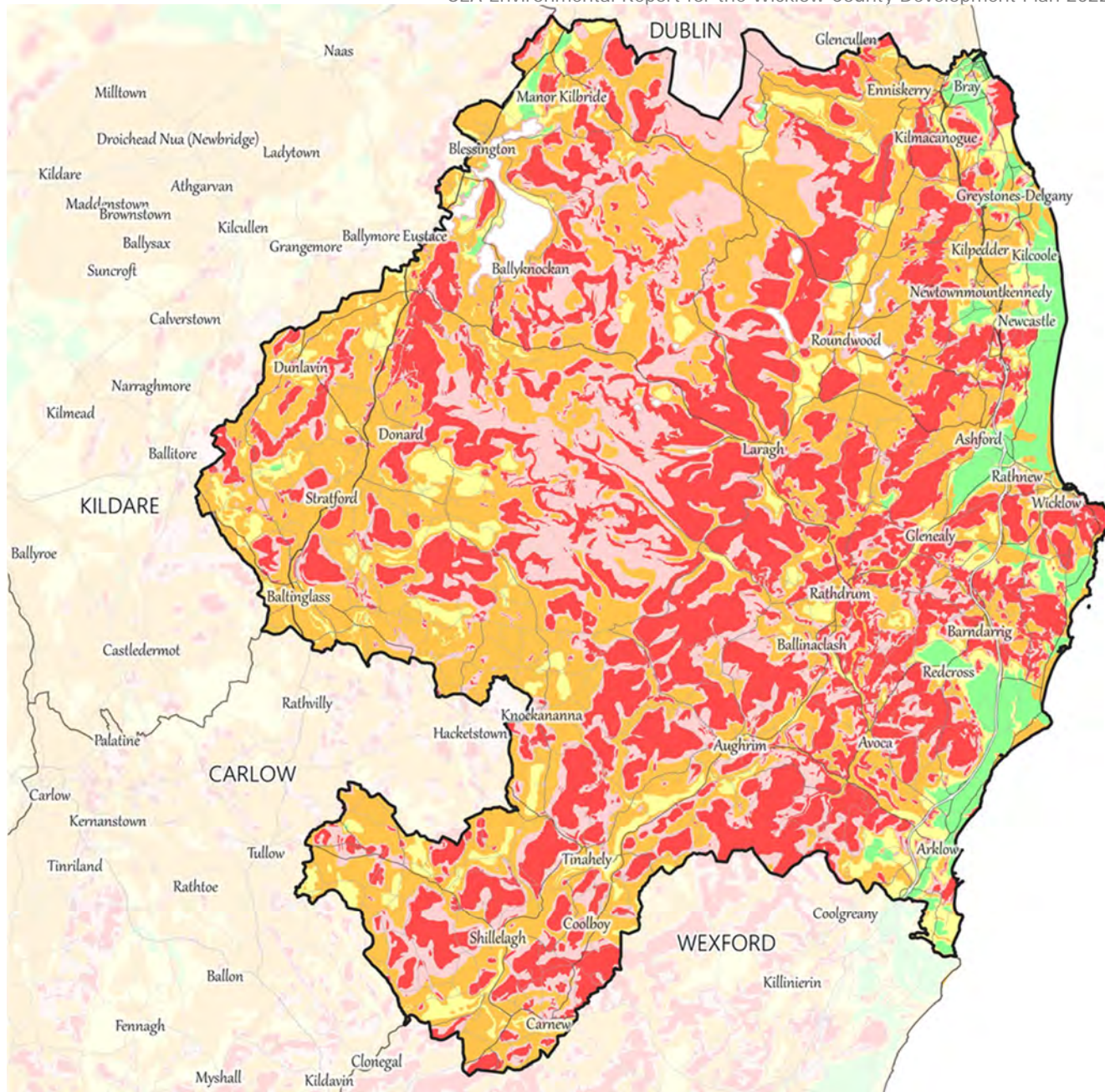


Figure 4.12 Groundwater Vulnerability

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

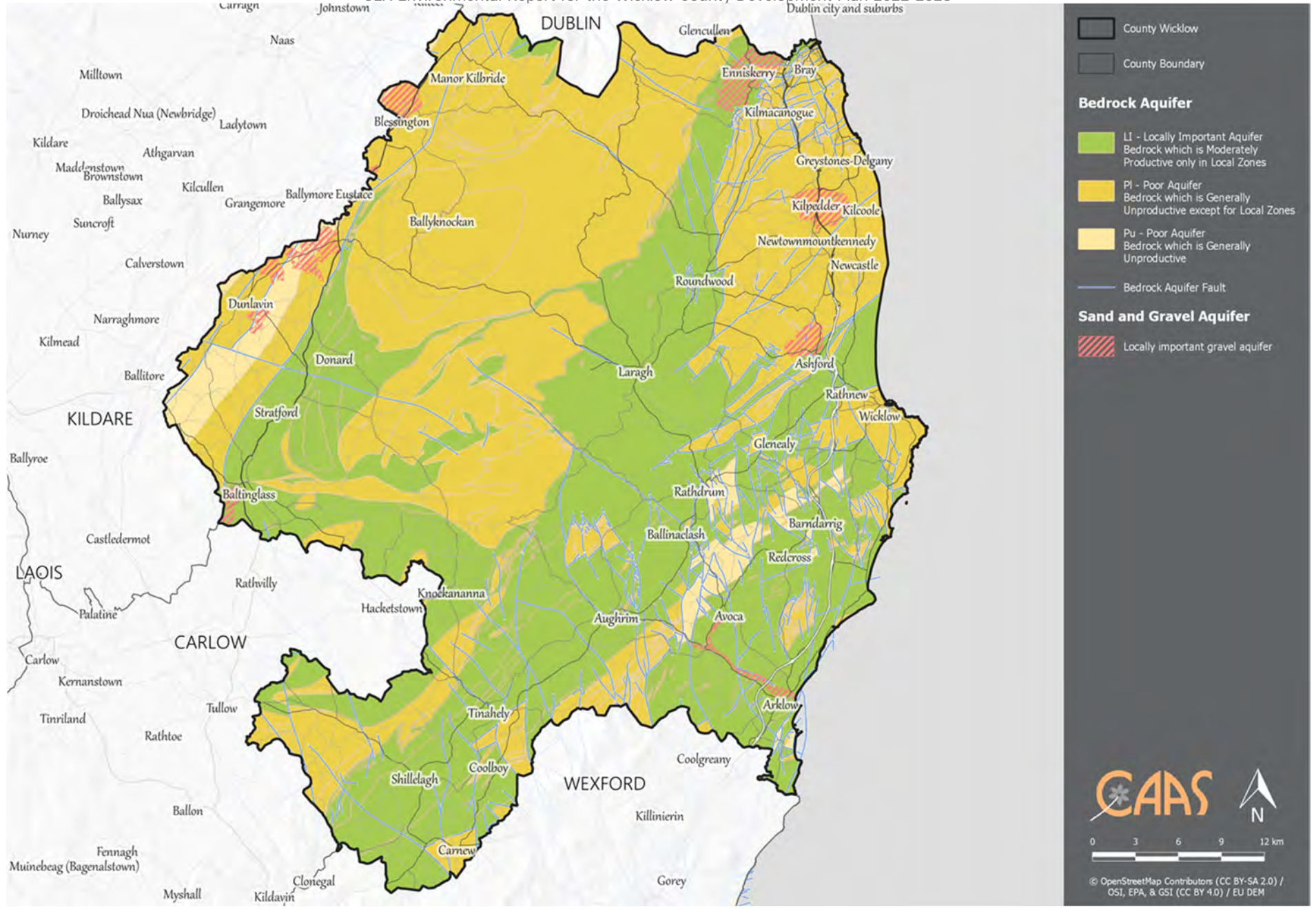


Figure 4.13 Groundwater Productivity
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

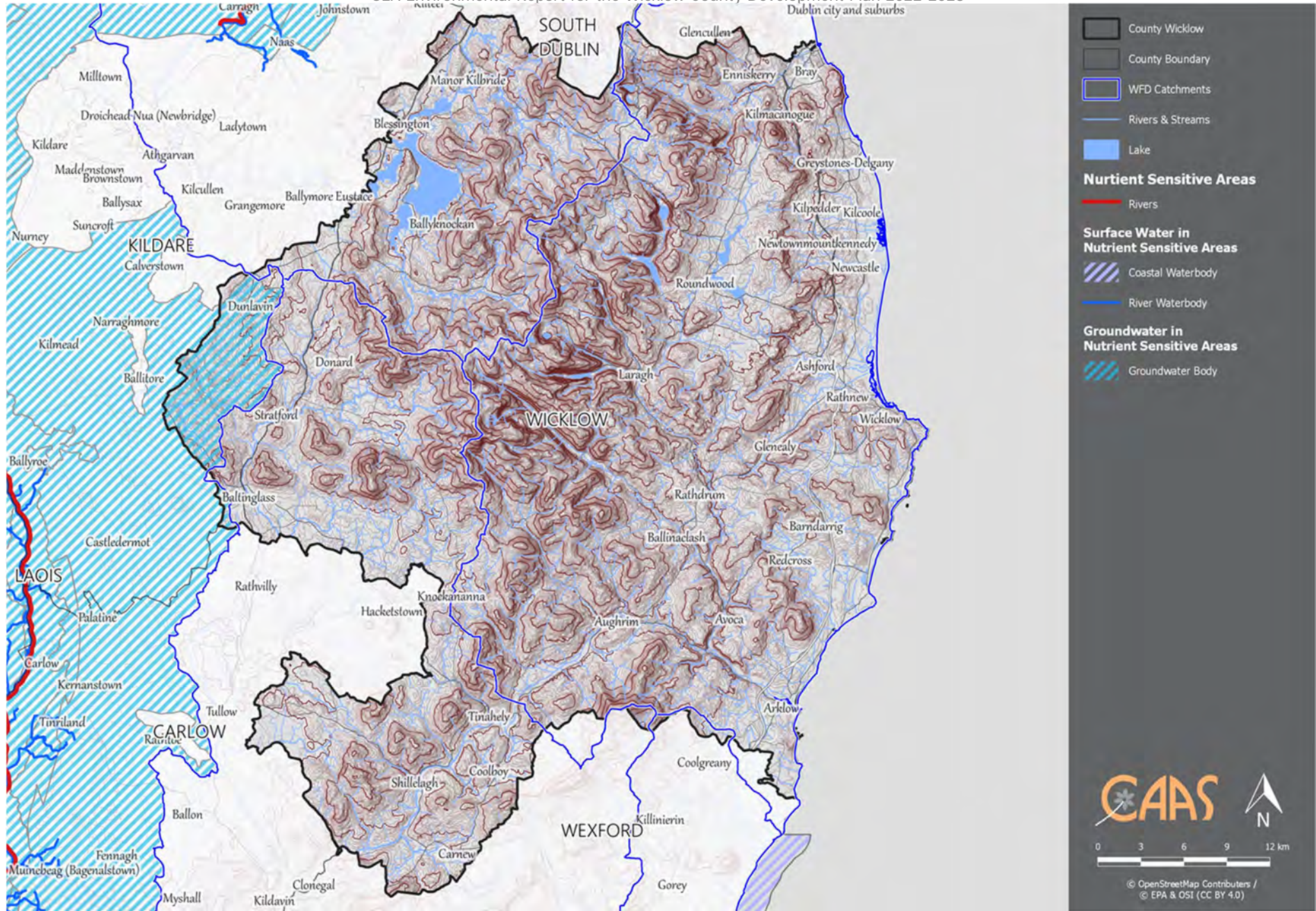


Figure 4.14 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas

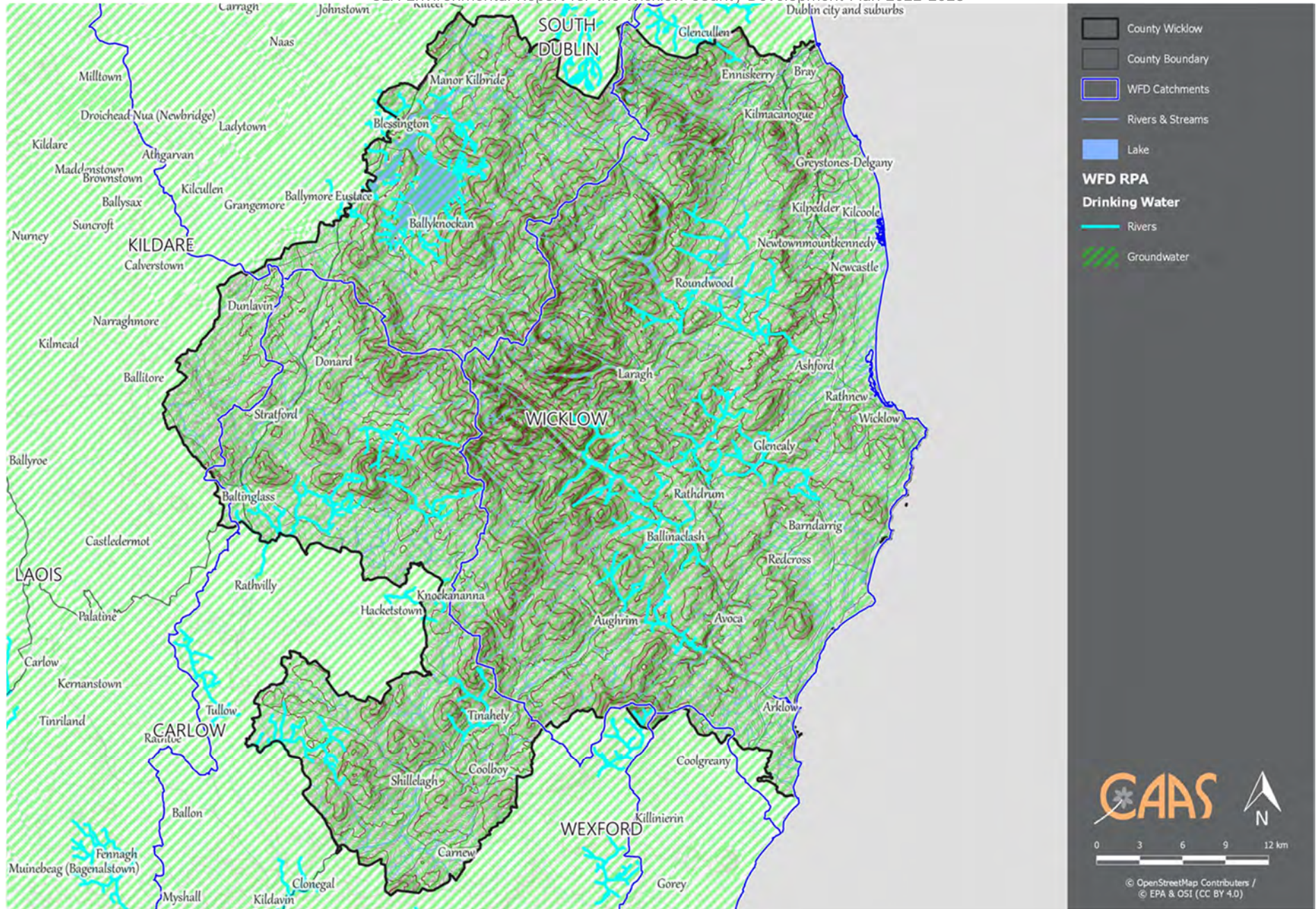


Figure 4.15 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

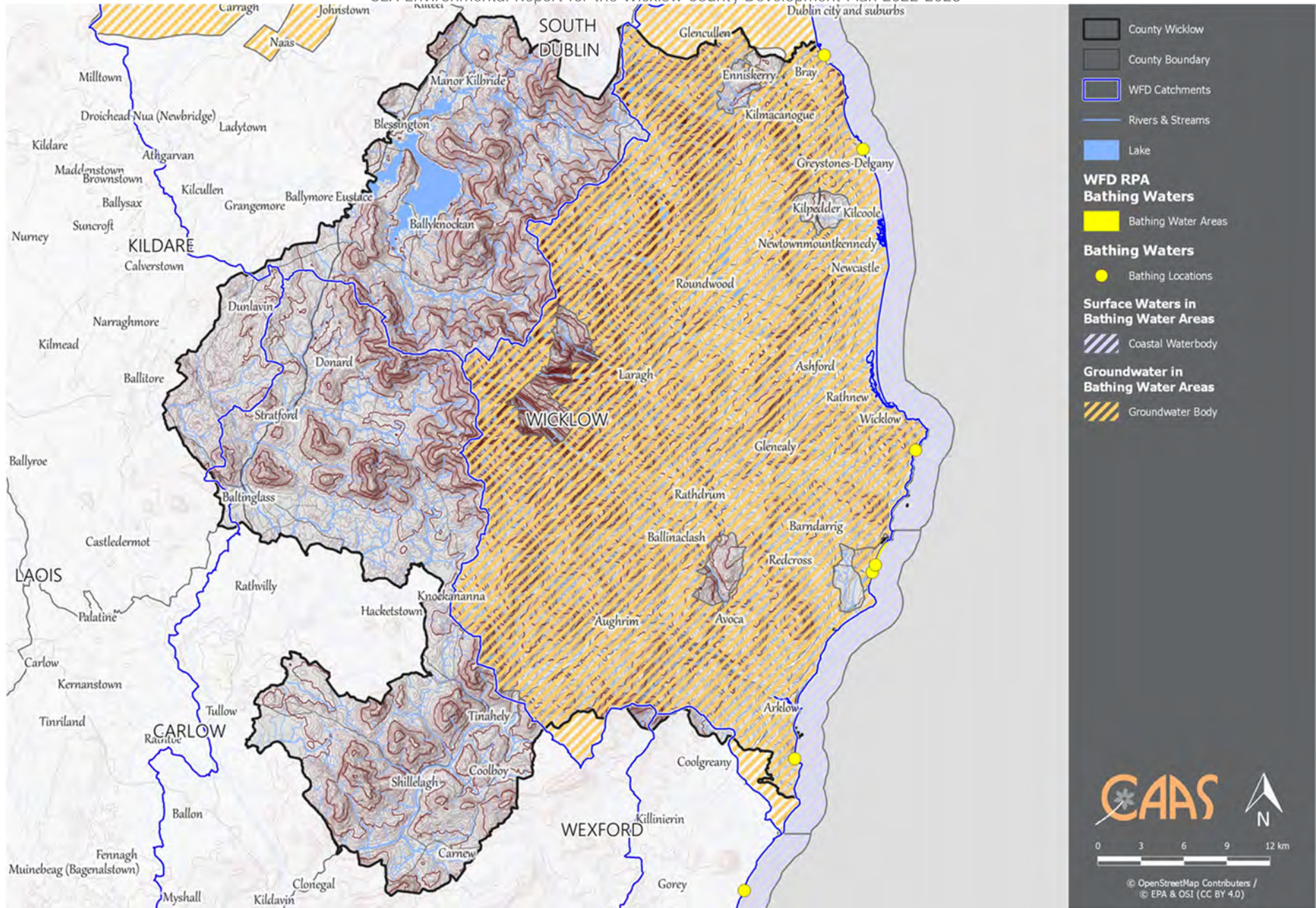


Figure 4.16 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Bathing Waters
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

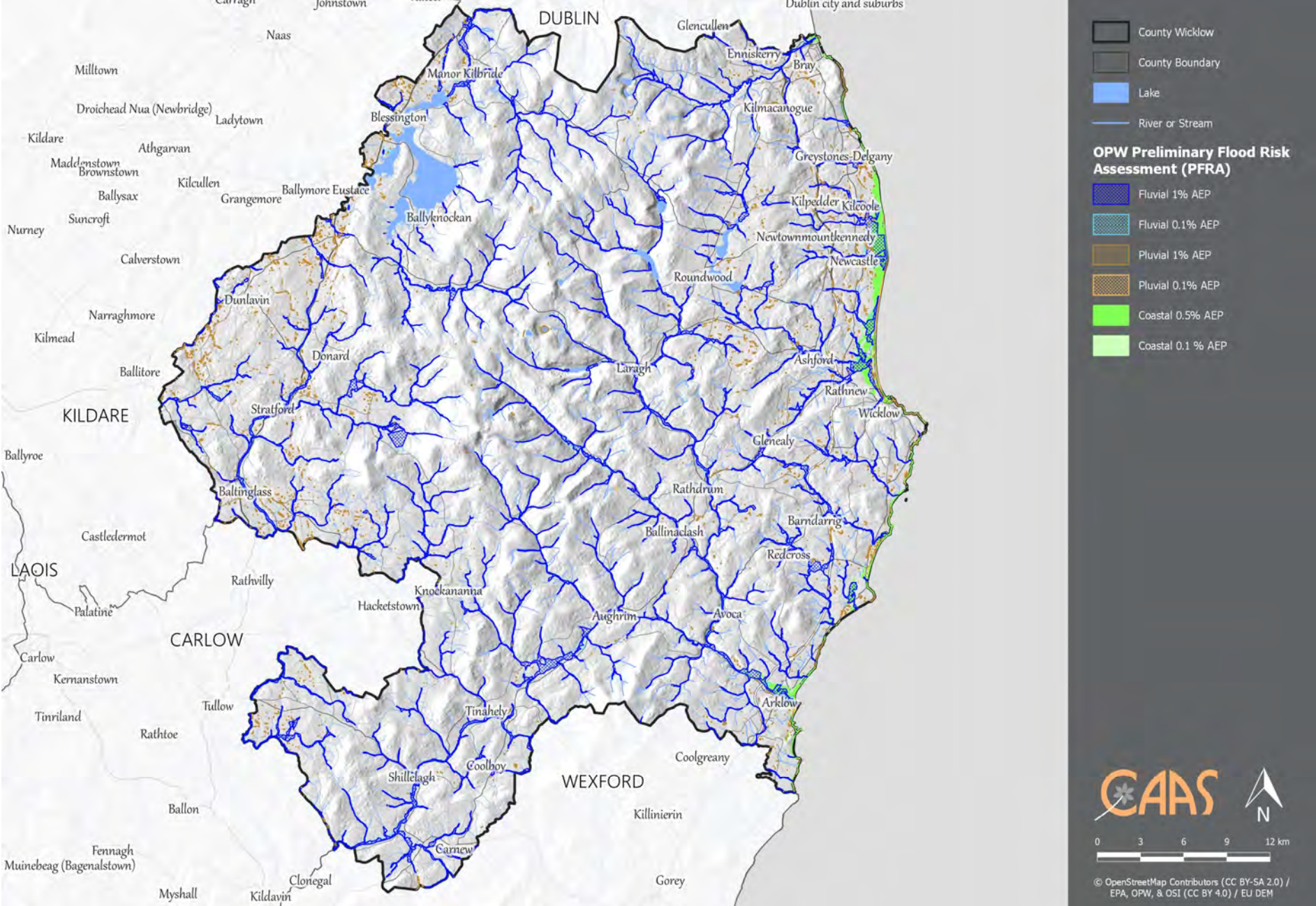


Figure 4.17 OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Mapping
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

4.10.1 Introduction

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems).

Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2017 (EPA, 2018) details provisional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2017. For 2017, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 60.75 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq). This is 0.9% lower (0.53 Mt CO₂eq) than emissions in 2016.

Ireland's Final Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2017 (EPA, 2019) identifies that:

- For 2017, the total national GHG emissions are estimated to be 60.74 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq), 0.9% lower than 2016.
- In the last 3 years, national total emissions have increased by 6.4%. In the same period, emissions in the ETS⁹⁶ sector have increased by 5.9%.
- Agriculture emissions increased by 2.9% in 2017 (driven by higher dairy cow numbers and increases in milk production).
- GHG emissions from the Transport sector decreased by 2.4% in 2017. This is the first year of decreased emissions after four successive years of increases in transport emissions.
- Agriculture and Transport accounted for 73.5% of total ESD emissions in 2017.
- Emissions in the Energy Industries sector show a decrease of 6.9% which is attributable to a 5.9% decrease in fossil fuel consumption and an increase of 21.1% and 1.6% in electricity generated from wind and hydro, respectively, in 2017. Renewables now account for 30.1% of electricity generated in 2017, an increase of 3.3% from 2016 figures. Ireland continued to be a net exporter of electricity in 2017. However, exported electricity saw a 4.7% reduction in 2017 to previous 2016 figures.
- Emissions from the Manufacturing Combustion⁹⁷ sector increased by 3.1% in 2017.

- The Industrial Processes sector emissions increased by 4.1%, mainly from increased cement production. Cement process emissions increased by 2.6% in 2017.
- GHG emissions from the Residential sector decreased by 5.0%. This can be attributed to a milder winter.
- Emissions from the Waste sector decreased by 2.5% in 2017.

The EPA 2019 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2018-2040* provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions out to 2040 which includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its emission reduction targets out to 2020 and 2030 set under the EU Effort Sharing Decision and Effort Sharing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/842). Ireland's 2020 target is to achieve a 20% reduction of non-Emission Trading Scheme (non-ETS) sector emissions (i.e. agriculture, transport, the built environment, waste and non-energy intensive industry) on 2005 levels with annual limits set for each year over the period 2013-2020. Ireland's 2030 target under the Effort Sharing Regulation is a 30% reduction of emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2030. There will be binding annual limits over the 2021-2030 period to meet that target. Key insights identified as part of the report's package of documents are that:

- There is a long-term projected decrease in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of inclusion of new climate mitigation policies and measures that formed part of the 2018-2027 National Development Plan (updated in 2021). This is evident in the With Additional Measures scenario which assumes full implementation of the programmes, policies and measures included in the 2018 National Development Plan.
- Fossil fuels such as coal, peat and gas continue to be key contributors to emissions from the power generation sector. However, a significant reduction in emissions over the longer term is projected as a result of the expansion of renewables (e.g. wind), assumed to reach 41-54% by 2030, with a move away from coal and peat.
- A growth in emissions from the transport sector continues to be projected which is largely attributed to fuel consumption from diesel cars and diesel freight. A decrease in emissions over the longer term, most notably in the With Additional Measures scenario, is largely attributed to assumed accelerated deployment of 500,000 electric vehicles and the impact of greater biofuel uptake. Agriculture emissions are projected to continue to grow steadily over the period which is mainly

⁹⁶ The EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) was launched in 2005 as the world's first international company-level 'cap-and-trade' system for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases cost-effectively. The cap makes sure that CO₂ becomes a product and,

thus, CO₂ is valued at a price, which is determined by the supply and demand at the (trading) market.

⁹⁷ Manufacturing Combustion; includes combustion of fuels in Industry and Construction, both in ETS and non-ETS

- a result of an increase in animal numbers particularly for the dairy herd.
- The implementation of additional energy efficiency measures included in the 2018 National Development Plan will see a significant reduction in emissions in the residential, commercial/public services and manufacturing sectors over the projected period.

4.10.2 Climate Action

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050. The Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.

Climate mitigation describes action to reduce the likelihood of climate change occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g. emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce emissions, including from transport. Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to further contribute towards energy security.

The 2019 emission projections do not consider the impact of new policies and measures that are included in the Government Climate Plan. It is anticipated that future emission projections will include the additional impact of the Government Climate Plan.

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2019 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant

and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. However, it must be noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included in the analysis to date.

Climate adaptation is a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

The National Adaptation Framework (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2018), sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

The Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 seeks to:

- Make Wicklow a stronger county by reducing impacts of future climate change related events.
- Fully consider and mainstream climate adaptation in the day-to-day delivery of services by Wicklow County Council.
- Actively engage with and inform citizens and communities in Wicklow about the impacts of climate change.

4.10.3 Ambient Air Quality

In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives set down air quality standards in Ireland and the other Member States for a wide variety of pollutants. These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry and, in sufficient amounts, could affect the well-being of the areas inhabitants. The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles to this European approach are set out in the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) (which replaces the earlier Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 and the first, second and third *Daughter Directives*; the fourth

Daughter Directive will be included in CAFE at a later stage).

In order to comply with the directives mentioned above, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 271 of 2002).

The EPA's (2020) *Air Quality in Ireland 2019* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

Problem pollutants identified by the EPA include particulate matter from burning of solid fuel and nitrogen dioxide from transport emissions in urban areas. Indications that Ireland will exceed EU limit values for nitrogen dioxide in the near future.

With regards to solutions, the report identifies that:

- To tackle the problem of particulate matter, clean ways of heating homes and improve energy efficiency of homes can be progressed; and
- To reduce the impact of nitrogen dioxide, transport options in the Government's Climate Action Plan can be implemented and transport choices can be considered by individuals.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current⁹⁸ air quality within the County is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

4.10.4 Noise

Wicklow County Council has prepared a Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006. The purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to avoid, prevent and reduce, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the long-term exposure to environmental noise.

4.10.5 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing air and climatic factors in County Wicklow were not identified as being conflicted with.

4.11 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those detailed below, covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 4.12) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 4.9 and 4.10).

4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the Plan, if unmitigated, include; settlements; resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; transport and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.); forestry; and natural resources that are covered under other topics such as water and soil.

4.11.2 Green Infrastructure

Parks and open space promote health and well-being, provide recreational facilities and range of habitats for various species. Green infrastructure is also a crucial component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change with trees, woodlands and wetlands providing carbon capture and slowing water flows while improving air quality.

4.11.3 Land

The Plan seeks to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential adverse environmental effects. Brownfield lands are generally located within urban/suburban areas.

⁹⁸ 25/02/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

4.11.4 Forestry

Wicklow is the most wooded county in Ireland, with almost 20% of the county covered by woodland and forestry.⁹⁹ A sizeable proportion of the forestry estate in Wicklow consists of the remains of old demesne planting. The largest areas of forestry are found in the central parts of the County, as indicated on Figure 4.4, much of which is owned by Coillte¹⁰⁰. Coillte forests within the County include Forest Park (Avondale house and Forest park, Rathdrum) and 15 recreation sites in County Wicklow. Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism, and also important as links in the county's green infrastructure network.

4.11.5 Peatlands

Peatlands provide a valuable natural and archaeological resource. Peatlands are also important controllers of water levels in river catchments, providing a source of water in dry conditions and soaking up excess water during wetter periods; they actively capture and hold carbon and are an important natural resource in combatting climate change. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste management, industrial, and tourism and recreation. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues; various peatland areas are subject to ecological designations (see Section 4.6).

4.11.6 Coastline

Management of the County's coastline (of over 60 km) and coastal erosion are topics with relevance to various environmental components. The coastline of County Wicklow is amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in the County, in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries.

Many of the County's settlements have developed along or near the coast. Wicklow port is identified as a port of Regional Significance and Arklow port is identified as a regional port in the Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy. There are existing/ planned marinas at Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow.

In 2013, the OPW completed the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study which provides a strategic assessment of the extent of coastal erosion and coastal flooding along the south-east coastline. In 2019-2020 Iarnród Éireann and Wicklow County Council prepared a preliminary study on coastal erosion on the east coast. The main Dublin to Rosslare railway line runs along the coast from Bray to Wicklow Town. The aim of this study is to understand the mechanisms, and thus plan for or prevent further erosion of the coastline and its potential impact on the railway line.¹⁰¹

County Wicklow has been divided into nine coastal 'cells', according to characteristics and pressures of different areas, for which different provisions have been included in the Plan. These cells are:

- Cell 1 Bray Town;
- Cell 2 Bray Head;
- Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown);
- Cell 4 Greystones Town;
- Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin);
- Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrrough);
- Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs;
- Cell 8 Wicklow Head/Kilpoole; and
- Cell 9 Brittas Bay.

Coastal Vulnerability Index mapping for the County is available from the GSI to evaluate impacts of sea-level rise. Vulnerability ranges from *low* (including certain stretches of the coast between Bray and Greystones and south of Wicklow Town) to *moderate* (including from Greystones to Newcastle) to *high* (including from Newcastle to Wicklow Town).

4.11.7 Renewable Energy Potential

Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy, renewable energy sources are defined as renewable non-fossil energy sources such as, but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal¹⁰²,

⁹⁹ Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015

¹⁰⁰ Coillte Teoranta, the State Forestry Board, was established to manage the public forest built up since the commencement of State planting and is the largest provider of forest recreation in Ireland.

¹⁰¹ Wicklow CDP 2022-2027

¹⁰² The GSI's Geothermal mapping was cited in a submission by GSI made on the initial public consultation on the Council's Issues Paper, available to prospective developers of domestic and commercial

wave, tidal, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, bio-gases and bio-char (i.e. the thermal treatment of natural organic materials in an oxygen-limited environment). There is potential for renewable energy development in the County and the Plan seeks to facilitate such development in a sustainable manner.

4.11.8 Minerals and Aggregates

Minerals such as iron and copper and aggregates such as sand and gravel can occur throughout the country. Minerals and aggregates are essential to manufacturing and construction.

Minerals localities within Wicklow are shown on Figure 4.18. The GSI have a suite of data sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

- Aggregate Potential Mapping;
- Bedrock mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

4.11.9 Transport

Transport infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes.

The County is well served by public transport and road links. Two major road corridors – the M11/N11 and N81 traverse the County connecting it to the M50 motorway and Dublin. The County is also served by the DART, which runs along the coastline with stations in Bray and Greystones. Irish Rail operate services on the south-east corridor line from Dublin to Rosslare. In addition, Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and private operators, including long distance couch services and local link bus services, operate on number of routes several times daily.

The Wicklow Rural Transport Initiative, launched in 2003 and currently operating under the NTA's Local Link Rural Transport programme, provides sustainable transport

links for those living in rural communities within the County.

4.11.10 Water Services

4.11.10.1 Wastewater

From January 2014, Irish Water became responsible for all public water services, involving the supply of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Irish Water is also responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. The Council is an agent of Irish Water for operations and remains the designated Water Authority for the assessment and approval of on-site wastewater treatment systems and is responsible for surface water drainage in the County.

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the County in line with the Settlement and Core Strategy while also protecting the environment and public health. Irish Water is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages. In unserved areas and outside the main towns and villages, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems.

The EPA's 2020 report *'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2019'* identified that:

- Waste water treatment at 19 towns and cities (including **Arklow**) did not meet European standards for the treatment of urban wastewater in 2018;
- Raw sewage is released into the environment from 35 urban areas (including **Arklow** and **Avoca**);
- Waste water from 48 areas (including **Kilcoole** and **Kilpedder**) is the main significant pressure on waters at risk of pollution;
- Waste water contributed to poor quality bathing waters at three beaches in 2019;
- Discharges from 13 areas must improve to protect freshwater pearl mussels;
- Irish Water must complete assessments of the impacts of waste water discharges on 26 shellfish waters to inform the need for any improvements; and
- Seven waste water collection systems have been found non-compliant with European Union requirements.

geothermal energy generation, identifies that much of the County is "unsuitable" for such generation, with certain areas, including at

Enniskerry, Newtownmountkennedy, Ashford and Arklow, identified as "suitable".

- There are four urban areas in the County that are listed as Priority Areas (**Arklow**, **Avoca**, **Kilcoole** and **Kilpedder**) where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues with respect to wastewater treatment.

The County is served by 39 Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs), the majority in the ownership and maintenance of Irish Water. In unserved areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems.

Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned within the County to improve the existing network, to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan (shown on Table 4.3). This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth (“headroom”) in terms of population equivalent¹⁰³ (PE) in areas serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is identified as being available in all of these settlements except for Arklow, Aughrim, Avoca and Knockanna. The highest levels of headroom (PE) are available at Shanganagh WWTP to the north of Bray (58,382 PE), Wicklow Town WWTP (15,430 PE) and Greystones WWTP (15,091 PE).

Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water’s Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new or improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements: Arklow; Blessington; Aughrim; Tinahely; Avoca; and Laragh – Glendalough.

Irish Water is responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. Irish Water has prepared a National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan 2016-2021 that outlines Irish Water’s strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge over a 25-year

period. A separate plan will be prepared in relation to sludge produced at drinking water plants.

4.11.10.2 Water Supply

Irish Water is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout the County.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above. The most recent available RAL (Q4 of 2020 published in January 2021) identifies eight County Wicklow drinking water supplies:

- **The Aughrim/Annacurra Water Supply** is listed on the most recent EPA RAL due to elevated levels of Trihalomethanes (THMs) above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 381 m³/day, serving a population of 1,594 people. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to abandon source and connect to Arklow Water Treatment Plant to be completed by December 2023.
- **The Enniskerry Public Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 856 m³/day, serving a population of 2,667. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.
- **The Wicklow Regional Public Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 4,495 m³/day, serving a population of 15,598. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.
- **The Bray Water Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 7,945 m³/day, serving a population of 28,934. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.

¹⁰³ WWTPs are described in terms of their designed treatment capacity, which is generally expressed as population equivalent (PE). This is a measurement of total organic biodegradable load, including industrial, institutional, commercial and domestic organic

load, on a wastewater treatment plant, converted to the equivalent number of PEs. One person is considered to generate 60g of five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) per day. 1 PE is defined as being equivalent to 60g of BOD per day.

- **The Greystones/Windgates/Tempelcarraig Water Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 4,204 m³/day, serving a population of 16,380. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by June 2021.
- **The Kilmacanogue Water Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 332 m³/day, serving a population of 1,237. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.
- **The Newtown Newcastle Kilcoole Water Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 3,273 m³/day, serving a population of 12,724. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.

Currently, Irish Water is developing the National Water Resource Plan outlining how to move to a sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply over a 25-year period while safeguarding the environment. It will outline how Irish Water intends to maintain a balance between supply from water sources around the country and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term. This will facilitate future planning and ensure provision of sufficient, safe, clean drinking water to facilitate the social and economic growth of the County.

It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

4.11.10.3 Surface Water Drainage

Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS) can minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff as well as mitigating adverse impacts of climate change. SUDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. The Council seeks to ensure the sustainable management of surface water discharges in urban areas through the use of SUDS.

4.11.11 Waste Management

The Eastern and Midland Waste Region comprises 12 local authority areas of Dublin City, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Offaly, Meath, Wicklow, Westmeath and South Dublin. The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 provides the framework for solid waste management in the region and sets out a range of policies and actions to meet specified mandatory and performance-based targets. It is underpinned by National and European waste legislation and the work carried out will ensure the continued management of waste in a safe and sustainable manner. The plan includes eight Strategic Objectives and three overarching targets:

- 1% reduction per annum in the quality of household waste generated per capita;
- Reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed municipal waste to landfill (from 2016 onwards) in favour of higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices; and
- Recycling rate of 50% of managed municipal waste by 2020.

The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan states that the future role of local authorities in waste management will be focused on education, prevention, and resource efficiency activities as well as regulating householders, businesses and waste operators and enforcing waste legislation. Waste infrastructure provided by local authorities will mainly include bring banks and civic amenities.

4.11.12 Existing Problems

There are a number of challenges with respect to the provision of water services infrastructure that are described under Section 4.11 above.

The Water Services Section of Wicklow County Council will co-operate with Irish Water in providing and maintaining adequate public water supply and wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure throughout the County for the period of the plan and beyond. In conjunction with Irish Water, the Water Services Section of Wicklow County Council will endeavour to ensure the continued investment in and delivery of improvements to water infrastructure over the Plan period through the implementation of the Capital Investment Plan.

The provisions of the new County Development Plan will contribute towards protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets.

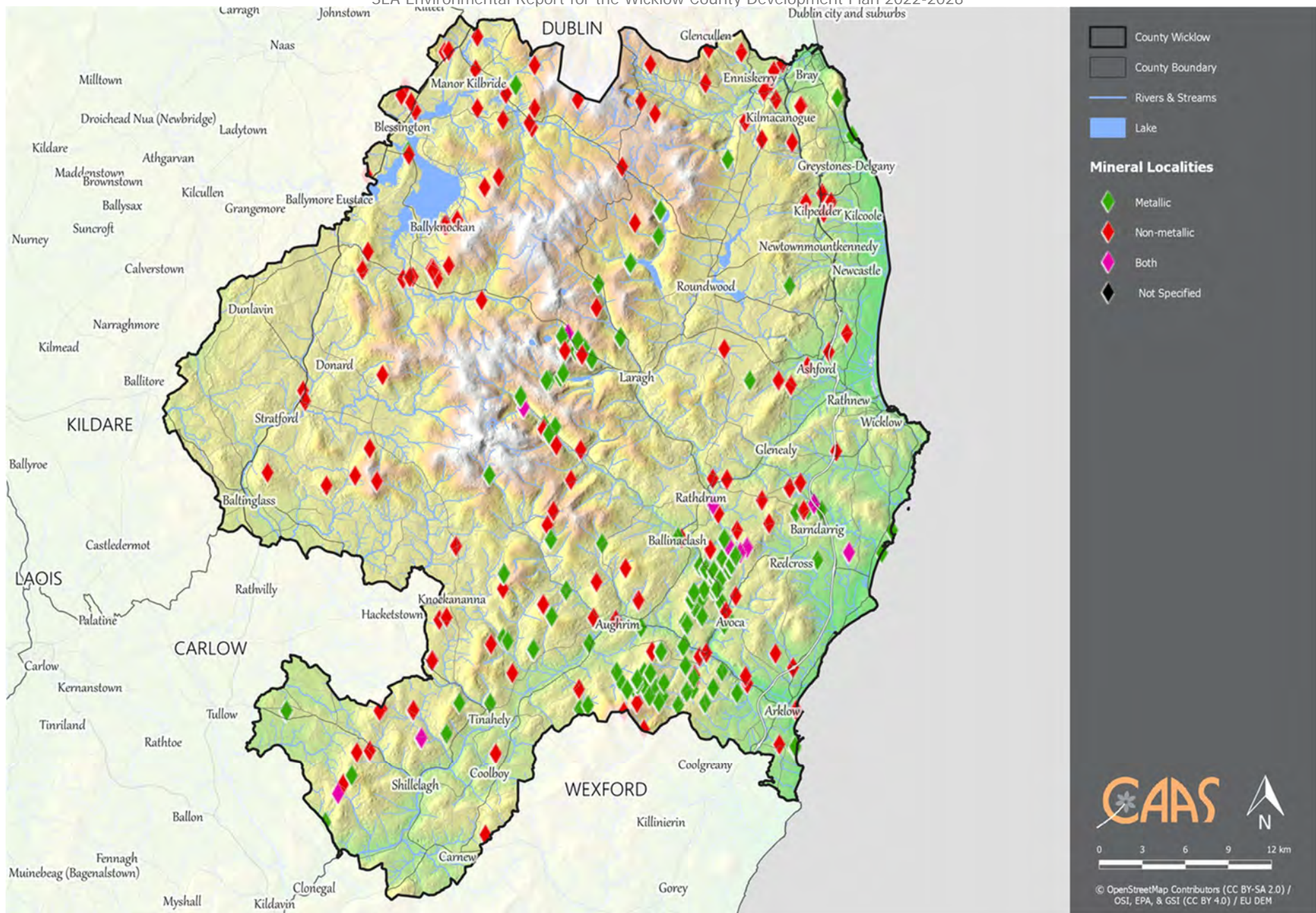


Figure 4.18 Minerals Localities
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

Table 4.3 Wastewater Constraints in Wicklow (Irish Water, April 2020)

Region	County	Settlement	Census pop. (2016)	Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Reg #	Serves other areas?	WWTP Capacity (PE)		Load (PE) 2019	Headroom (PE)		Current project completion year
							Today	Upon works completion		WWDL ELV Capability	UWW Standards Capability (not WWDL ELVs)	
EM	Wicklow	Bray	32,600	Shanganagh WWTP	D0038	Yes	186,000	=	127,618	58,382		
EM	Wicklow	Greystones	18,140	Greystones WWTP	D0010	Yes	40,000	=	24,909	15,091		
EM	Wicklow	Wicklow	13,954	Wicklow WWTP	D0012	Yes	34,000	=	18,570	15,430		
EM	Wicklow	Arklow	13,163	-	D0006	No	-	=	24,000	18,408		2024
EM	Wicklow	Blessington	5,520	Blessington WWTP	D0063	No	6,000	=	9,000	6,544	2,456	2022
EM	Wicklow	Kilcoole	4,239	Kilcoole WWTP	D0087	No	4,000	=	1,955	2,045		
EM	Wicklow	Baltinglass	2,137	Baltinglass WWTP	D0089	No	3,600	=	2,842	758		
EM	Wicklow	Enniskerry	1,889	Enniskerry and Environs WWTP	D0088	No	6,000	=	2,534	3,466		
EM	Wicklow	Rathdrum	1,663	Rathdrum WWTP	D0086	No	3,500	=	2,073	1,427		
EM	Wicklow	Aughrim	1,442	Aughrim WWTP	D0222	No	1,500	=	1,805			
EM	Wicklow	Kilpedder	1,255	Kilpedder WWTP	D0416	No	600	=	516	84		
EM	Wicklow	Carnew	1,052	Carnew WWTP	D0064	No	2,300	=	1,579	0	721	
EM	Wicklow	Roundwood	948	Roundwood WWTP	D0223	No	1,600	=	1,137	463		
EM	Wicklow	Tinahely	937	Tinahely WWTP	D0221	No	1,200	=	1,129	71		
EM	Wicklow	Newcastle	924	Newcastle (Wicklow) WWTP	D0410	No	1,000	=	888	112		
EM	Wicklow	Dunlavin	838	Dunlavin (Milltown) WWTP	D0476	No	2,400	=	1,361	1,039		
EM	Wicklow	Avoca	771	-	D0411	No	-	=	1,200	834		2024
EM	Wicklow	Laragh	342	Laragh WWTP	D0415	No	1,000	=	714	0	286	
EM	Wicklow	Ballinaclash	311	Ballinaclash WWTP	D0412	No	600	=	357	243		
EM	Wicklow	Redcross	278	Redcross WWTP	D0414	No	800	=	749	51		
CoA Headroom (PE)												
EM	Wicklow	Ballintekin	Unavailable	Ballintekin WWTP	A0024	No	10	=	29	19		
EM	Wicklow	Ballyconnell	Unavailable	Ballyconnell WWTP	A0007	No	30	=	29	1		
EM	Wicklow	Ballycoog	Unavailable	Ballycoog WWTP	A0051	No	75	=	41	34		
EM	Wicklow	Bardarrig	260	Bardarrig WWTP	A0001	No	400	=	290	110		
EM	Wicklow	Conary	Unavailable	Conary WWTP	A0008	No	50	=	22	28		
EM	Wicklow	Coolboy	267	Coolboy WWTP	A0050	No	600	=	294	306		
EM	Wicklow	Donard	Unavailable	Donard WWTP	A0197	No	600	=	236	364		
EM	Wicklow	Glenealy - Ballymanus	Unavailable	Glenealy - Ballymanus WWTP	A0444	No	400	=	256	144		
EM	Wicklow	Grangecon	Unavailable	Grangecon WWTP	A0003	No	100	=	69	31		
EM	Wicklow	Hollywood	Unavailable	Hollywood WWTP	A0002	No	250	=	140	110		
EM	Wicklow	Kiltegan	Unavailable	Kiltegan WWTP	A0004	No	250	=	147	103		
EM	Wicklow	Kirikee Lower	Unavailable	Kirikee Lower WWTP	A0039	No	50	=	18	32		
EM	Wicklow	Kirikee Upper	Unavailable	Kirikee Upper WWTP	A0045	No	50	=	32	18		
EM	Wicklow	Knockananna	143	Knockananna WWTP	A0047	No	180	=	168			
EM	Wicklow	Knockieran	Unavailable	Knockieran WWTP	A0014	No	50	=	18	32		
EM	Wicklow	Rathdangan	Unavailable	Rathdangan WWTP	A0005	No	50	=	17	33		
EM	Wicklow	Shillelagh	337	Shillelagh WWTP	A0542	No	500	=	415	85		
EM	Wicklow	Stratford	241	Stratford WWTP	A0533	No	600	=	231	369		
EM	Wicklow	Thomastown	Unavailable	Thomastown WWTP	A0030	No	150	=	110	40		

Notes: 104,105,106,107,108,109,110

¹⁰⁴ Wastewater Discharge Licences (WWDL) and Certificates of Authorisation (CoA)

¹⁰⁵ WWTP Capacity (PE) Today = Overall design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in population equivalents (PE) today (the date at the top of this table).

¹⁰⁶ WWTP Capacity (PE) Upon works completion = Overall design capacity of the WWTP in population equivalents (PE) upon completion of a relevant project delivering additional capacity. Note that 'WWDL' or 'UWW' following the capacity value indicates that the upgraded WWTP will have capability to achieve the full Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL) emission limit values (ELVs) in the former case, or at least the Urban Wastewater (UWW) Treatment Directive parametric values in the latter case.

¹⁰⁷ Load (PE) 2019 = Wastewater load arising from the settlement(s) being served entering the WWTP in 2019.

¹⁰⁸ Headroom (PE) = Headroom available at the WWTP in 2019 in terms of population equivalents based on available capacity now or by completion of a project by 2022 (where relevant). Green = spare capacity available. Amber = potential spare capacity. WWTP currently not compliant with Wastewater Discharge Licence emission limit values but is capable of achieving at least UWW standards. Potential availability of capacity in this case would be dependent on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach as set out in Regulation 43 of the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. Red = no spare capacity available

¹⁰⁹ Current project completion year = This is the current forecasted completion year as of date of this table and is subject to change. 'Post 2024' indicates that the project is proposed to be completed within the next investment period (2025-2029), subject to the planning and approval of the next capital investment plan. Note, there is no guarantee that this capacity will be delivered if the current Investment Plan is amended due to emerging needs or changes due to exchequer funding.

¹¹⁰ General notes (i) The headroom figure stated is based on available information on the date of issue of this table and is subject to change. (ii) The indication of spare treatment capacity has been determined based on a standardised national review of the available information. (iii) A Pre-Connection Enquiry should be submitted to Irish Water to determine the feasibility of connecting any particular site to the Irish Water network, feasibility should not be inferred from this register

4.12 Cultural Heritage

4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types and periods, (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

There are many sites of significant archaeological interest in County Wicklow, including: the Baltinglass hillfort complex in the west of the County; Rathgall hillfort in the south of the County; and Glendalough Early Medieval Monastic Site in the Wicklow Mountains.

Glendalough is listed as part of the Early Medieval Monastic Sites UNESCO Tentative World Heritage Site (shown on Figure 4.19). A Tentative List is an inventory of properties which a country intends to consider for nomination to the World Heritage List. Glendalough is an example of an early Christian monastic settlement, founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. There are number of monastic remains on the site, including; a round tower; churches; a priory; crosses; a ringfort; and St. Kevin's hut and cave.

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. It is available from the National Monuments Service and at archaeology.ie.

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except

buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State', but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map, which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Notification within which requirements for notifications of proposed works apply.

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)¹¹¹ is a manual containing a numbered list of all certain and possible monuments accompanied. An Urban Archaeology Survey was completed in 1995 and contained reports on historic towns dating to before 1700 A.D. with a view to delineating zones of archaeological potential (SMR Zones of Notification). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the RMP.

Figure 4.19 shows the spatial distribution of recorded monuments and associated SMR Zones of Notification in the County. There are hundreds of Recorded Monuments within the County, including graveyards, castles, forts, crosses and churches.

¹¹¹ The RMP was issued for each county between 1995 and 1998 in a similar format to the existing SMR. However, the RMP differs from the earlier lists in that, as defined in the Act, only monuments with known locations or places where there are believed to be monuments are included. The large archive and supporting

database are managed by the National Monuments Service and the records are continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. (<https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland>).

Clusters of archaeological heritage in the County are concentrated in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, along the coast and within and surrounding towns and villages. There are lower concentrations in the central upland areas.

There are 24 Monuments in State Care (15 in State Ownership and nine in State Guardianship)¹¹² within the County, including:

- Aghowle Church and Cross;
- Piper's Stones;
- Baltinglass Abbey;
- Crossoona Rath Ringfort and Ogham Stone;
- Glendalough;
- St. Mark's Cross;
- Castleruddery Motte;
- Castleruddery Stone Circle;
- Castletimon Ogham Stone;
- Rathturtle Ringfort;
- Dwyer-McAlister Cottage;
- Fassaroe Cross;
- Kilcoole Church;
- Kilcronee Church;
- Kindlestown Castle;
- Lemonstown Motte;
- Moylisha Wedge Tomb;
- Raheenachluig (Bray) Church;
- Baltinglass Hill Passage Tomb and Hillfort;
- Rathgall Hillfort;
- Seefin Passage Tomb;
- Threecastles Castle;
- Tornant Lower Ringfort and Barrows; and
- Downhill Church.

Other archaeological designations shown on Figure 4.19 include Major Sites of Archaeological Importance designated within the County¹¹³.

The Underwater Archaeology Unit was established within the National Monuments Service to manage and protect Ireland's underwater cultural heritage, including the quantification of the underwater resource and assessing development impacts in order to manage and protect this aspect of Ireland's heritage. The Shipwreck Inventory is principally a desktop survey with information gathered from a broad range of cartographic, archaeological and historical sources, both documentary and pictorial. Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can

be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such Orders can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements.

Rivers, estuaries and marine and coastal areas within and adjacent to the County may contain many features and finds associated with riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features.

4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

The term architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act 1999 as meaning all: structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings; groups of structures and buildings; and, sites which are of technical, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

There are hundreds of entries to the Record of Protected Structures within the County. Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within the County's settlements as shown on Figure 4.20.

¹¹² This list of National Monuments in State care includes those which are in the ownership and guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

¹¹³ Aghowle Church Cross; Piper's Stone; Baltinglass Abbey; Crossoona Ringfort and Ogham Stone; St. Mark's Cross; Castleruddery Lower Motte; Castleruddery Lower Stone Circle;

Castletimon Ogham Stone; Rath Turtle Moat; Dwyer McAlister Cottage; St. Valery's Cross; Glendalough; Kilcoole Church; Kilcronee Church; Kindlestown Castle; Lemonstown Motte; Moylisha Wedge-Shaped Gallery Grave (Lubbanasigha); New Court Church; Baltinglass Hill; Rathgal Hill Fort; Seefin Passage Grave; Threecastles Castle; Tornant Ringfort and Barrows; and St. Mary's Church.

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are encompassed:

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage¹¹⁴ of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

County Wicklow has an important vernacular heritage with many important historic buildings and structures dating back to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (including examples of cottages, houses, shops, farm complexes, outbuildings, mills, factories and forges). The notable buildings include: country and estate houses with boundary walls and vernacular farm buildings (Powerscourt, Russborough, Coolattin and Killruddery); the Edwardian terraces of Bray's seafront; the Arts and Craft style houses at Greystones; and the Georgian Merchant houses of Arklow.

Architecture within the County also includes industrial heritage associated with ship building, agriculture, weaving, transportation, stone cutting processes and mining. County Wicklow has a rich history of mining starting in the Bronze Age and continuing until the 20th century and including historical mining works in the Avoca Valley, Glendalough and Glendasan Valley and Glenmalure.

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area or group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures, whose character it is an objective to preserve in a development plan. The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. There are 18 ACAs

designated in the County (as shown on Figure 4.20) in the following settlements:

- Blessington (Town Centre);
- Enniskerry (Town Centre);
- Tinahely (Town Centre);
- Dunlavin (Town Centre) ;
- Rathdrum (2 ACAs: Main Street and Low Town);
- Delgany (Village Centre);
- Greystones (5 ACAs: Church Road; Killincarrig Village; The Burnaby; Blacklion; and Greystones Harbour);
- Wicklow Town (5 ACAs: Town Centre; Leirim Place; Bachelors Walk and Church Street; Bay View Road; and Brickfield Lane); and
- Donard (Village Centre).

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. Figure 4.20 shows entries to NIAH within the County.

4.12.3 Existing Problems

The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time within the County, however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.

¹¹⁴ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate

ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

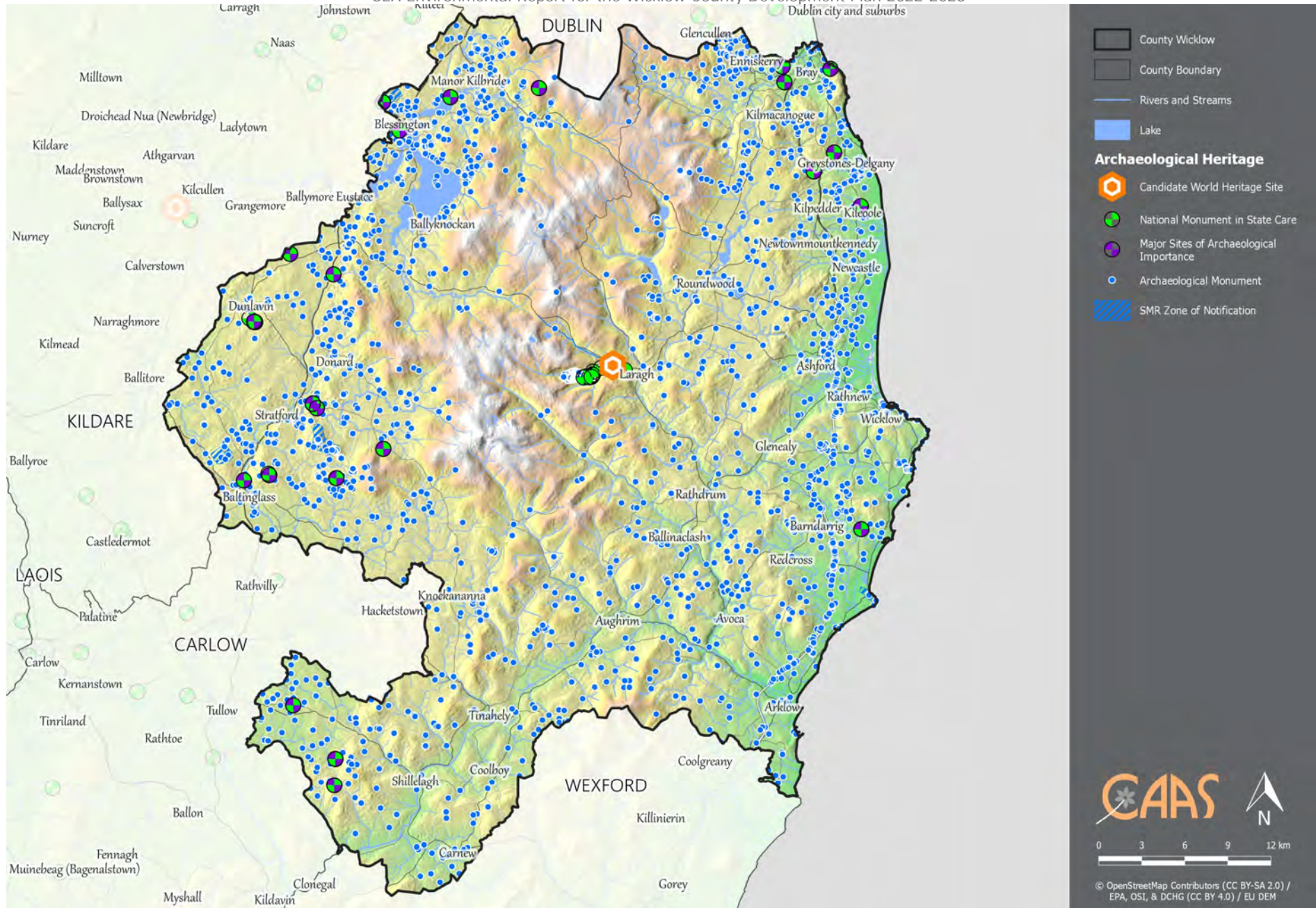


Figure 4.19 Archaeological Heritage

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

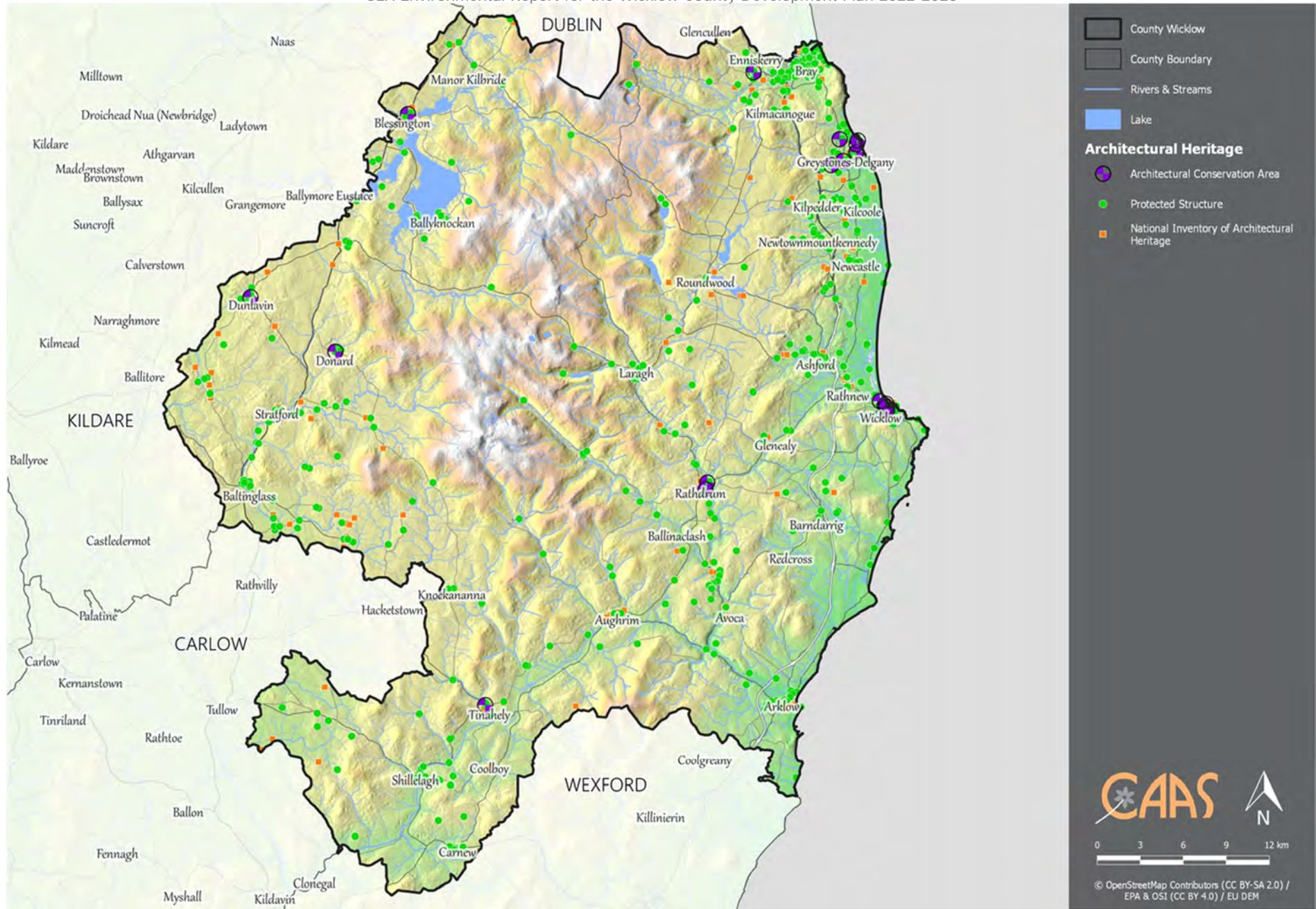


Figure 4.20 Architectural Heritage
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

4.13 Landscape

4.13.1 Introduction

Article 1 (a) of the European Landscape Convention provides a definition of landscape as follows; "Landscape means an area, as perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural/or human factors". The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

The topography of County Wicklow is dominated by the Wicklow Mountain range. With the exception of a narrow coastal strip and some low ground in the south, over two-thirds of the County lies above the 200 m contour. The backbone of the Mountains runs in a north east to south west direction across the County and is formed by granite. Glacial and periglacial features and landforms including u-shaped valleys, moraines, corries and glacial lakes have been left by the last ice age. In addition, the eastern coastal areas, extensive river valleys and reservoirs are amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in the County in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism.

4.13.2 Landscape Character Assessment

The European Landscape Convention was ratified in Ireland in 2002, this required EU Member States to adopt national measures to promote landscape, planning, protection and management.

The purpose of landscape character assessment is to provide the foundation for policy formulation and decision making for landscape management.

Wicklow County Council have identified 15 distinctive Landscape Areas (Figure 4.22) within six Landscape Categories (Figure 4.21), as detailed below:

1. **Mountain and Lakeshore Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**
 - 1(a) - The Mountain Uplands
 - 1(b) - The Blessington Lakes Area

- 1(c) - The Bray Mountains Group
- 1(d) - The North Eastern Valley

2. **Coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

- 2(a) - Northern Coastline
- 2(b) - Southern Coastline

3. **Area of High Amenity**

- 3(a) - North East Mountain Lowlands
- 3(b) - South East Mountain Lowlands
- 3(c) - The Southern Hills
- 3(d) - The Baltinglass Hills
- 3(e) - Transitional Lands

4. **Corridor Area**

- 4(a) - The N11 Corridor Area;
- 4(b) - The N81 Corridor Area;

5. **Rolling Lowlands**

Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6

6. **Urban Areas**

All towns ranging from Levels 1-6 of the Wicklow Settlement Hierarchy

The above Landscape Character Categories in County Wicklow are arranged in a hierarchy of one to six with a level of sensitivity. The 'very high' sensitivity areas are the most sensitive to development and therefore developments which are likely to create a significant environmental and particularly visual impact will best be absorbed in areas where the landscape is most robust, i.e. have the capacity to absorb development without significantly changing its character. Landscape Character Categories in County Wicklow which are most sensitive to development include Mountain and Lakeshore Areas and Coastal Areas.

4.13.3 Special Amenity Area Order

A Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO) is designed to protect areas that are of particularly high amenity value, which are sensitive to intense development pressure and which cannot be adequately protected by existing planning controls. One SAAO has been designated by Government at Bray Head, between Bray and Greystones (see Figure 4.23).

4.13.4 Protected Views and Prospects

The Plan area encompasses many sites and vantage points from which views over areas of great natural beauty, local landmarks, historic landscapes and adjoining Counties may be obtained. In addition to scenic views, the County also contains important prospects i.e.

prominent landscapes or areas of special amenity value or special interest which are visible from the surrounding area. Protected views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest and Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest are identified in the Plan and must be considered when assessing planning applications. These are mapped on Figure 4.23.

4.13.5 TPOs, Trees, Group of Trees and Woodlands

Tree Preservation Orders, trees, groups of trees and woodlands which are of environmental and/or amenity value (shown on Figure 4.23) have been identified for protection in the County Development Plan, with a long-term aim of linking groups together to provide more robust tree assemblages.

4.13.6 Landscape Designations in Adjacent Counties

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown borders Wicklow to the north. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council have identified 14 Landscape Character Areas and a number of landscape designations including Protected Views and Prospects and High Amenity Areas (including nearby Glencullen Valley, Glendoo Valley and Kilmashogue Valley).

County Kildare borders Wicklow to the west. There are 16 Landscape Character Areas identified within County Kildare. The Eastern Uplands Landscape Character Area is located adjacent to County Wicklow and is of 'medium sensitivity'. Other landscape designations within County Kildare include Scenic Routes, Hilltop Views and Scenic Viewpoints.

County Carlow borders Wicklow to the south-west. The Landscape Character Assessment for Carlow identifies four Landscape Character Areas, out of which two Landscape Character Areas are adjacent to the border of County Wicklow: Blackstairs and Mount Leinster Uplands LCA; and River Slaney – East Rolling Farmland LCA. The Landscape Character Areas are subdivided into Landscape Character Types. Other landscape designations within County Carlow include Views, Prospects and Scenic Routes.

County Wexford borders Wicklow to the south. The Landscape Character Assessment for Wexford identifies four Landscape Character

Units: Uplands; Lowlands; River Valleys; and Coastal. Sensitive areas within these Units include: Hills and Ridges; Water Bodies; The Islands; Coastal Promontories; The Hook Peninsula; Screen Hills; and Slobs.

4.13.7 Existing Environmental Problems

New developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of lands within the County however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

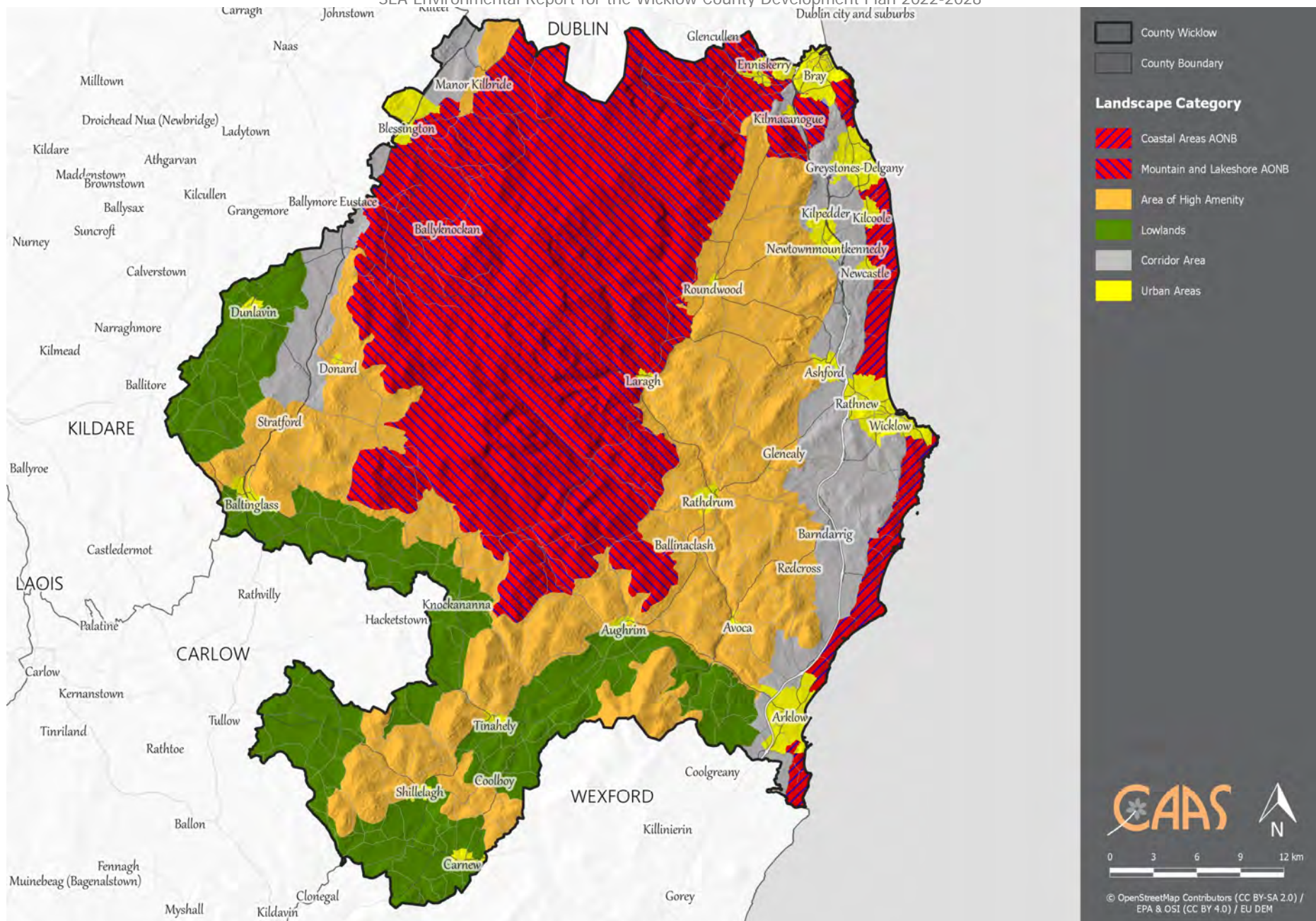


Figure 4.21 Landscape Categories

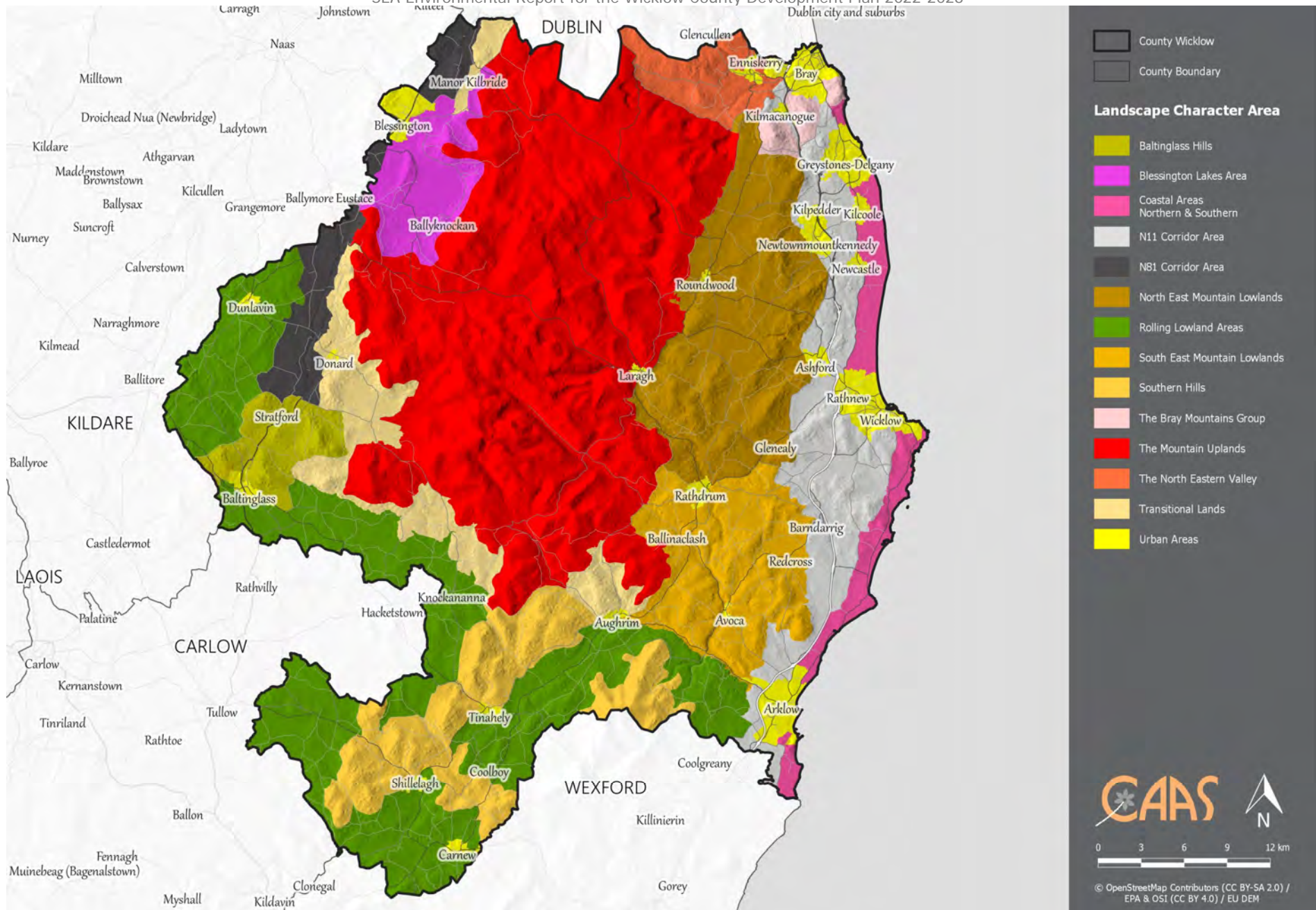


Figure 4.22 Landscape Areas
 CAAS for Wicklow County Council

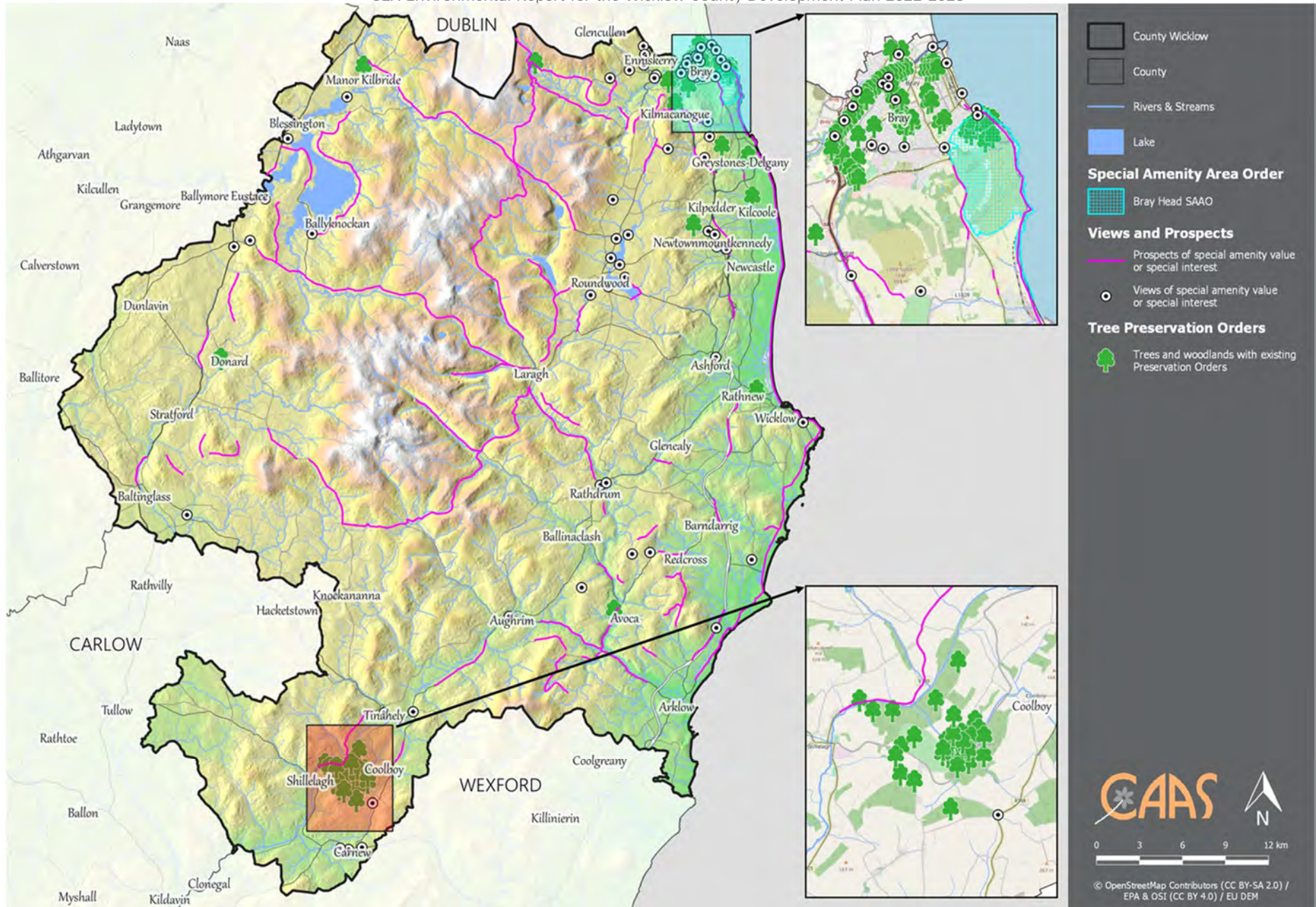


Figure 4.23 Other landscape designations

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the County occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other.

Figure 4.24 provides an Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in the County. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity. The map was prepared using Geographical Information System (GIS) software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

- European Sites – SACs and SPAs (10 points);
- Other Ecological designations – NHAs and pNHAs (5 points);
- Sensitive Landcover Categories (10 points);
- Margaritifera Sensitive Areas (5 points);
- WFD Status of Surface moderate and unassigned ecological status (5 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water poor ecological status (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water bad ecological status (15 points);
- Groundwater vulnerability (aquifers which are extremely vulnerable - 10 points; and highly vulnerable - 5 points);
- Source Protection Areas (Inner Protection Area 10 points; Outer Protection Area 5 points);
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Rivers (10 points) and Rivers in Nutrient Sensitive Areas (5 points);
- WFD RPA Rivers for Drinking Water (10 points);
- WFD RPA Salmonid River Regs (S.I. 293 only) and Surface Waters in Salmonid Regs (10 points);
- WFD RPA Rivers in Salmonid Regs (5 points);
- County Geological Sites (10 points);
- GSI Landslide Susceptibility (High or High Inferred – 10 points; Moderately High or Moderately High Inferred – 5 points);
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Flood Zone A (10 points) and Flood Zone B (5 points);
- Cultural Heritage including Architectural Conservation Areas, entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in State Care and entire to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (10 points);
- Scenic routes and view points (10 points);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty/Special Amenity Area Order - Bray (10 points); and
- Area of high amenity (5 points).

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental

deterioration. However, the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have been integrated into the Plan - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland and foothill areas of the County, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and High Amenity Area landscape designations, European Site ecological designations, archaeological heritage sensitives and areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability;
- Parts of the coastline and adjacent coastal areas, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape designations, European Site and proposed Natural Heritage Area ecological designations, areas of extreme groundwater vulnerability and coastal flood risk;
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Certain areas that are adjacent to streams and rivers, on account of flood risk.

The EPA-funded Environmental Sensitivity Mapping Web Tool could assist in lower tier consideration of plans and projects.

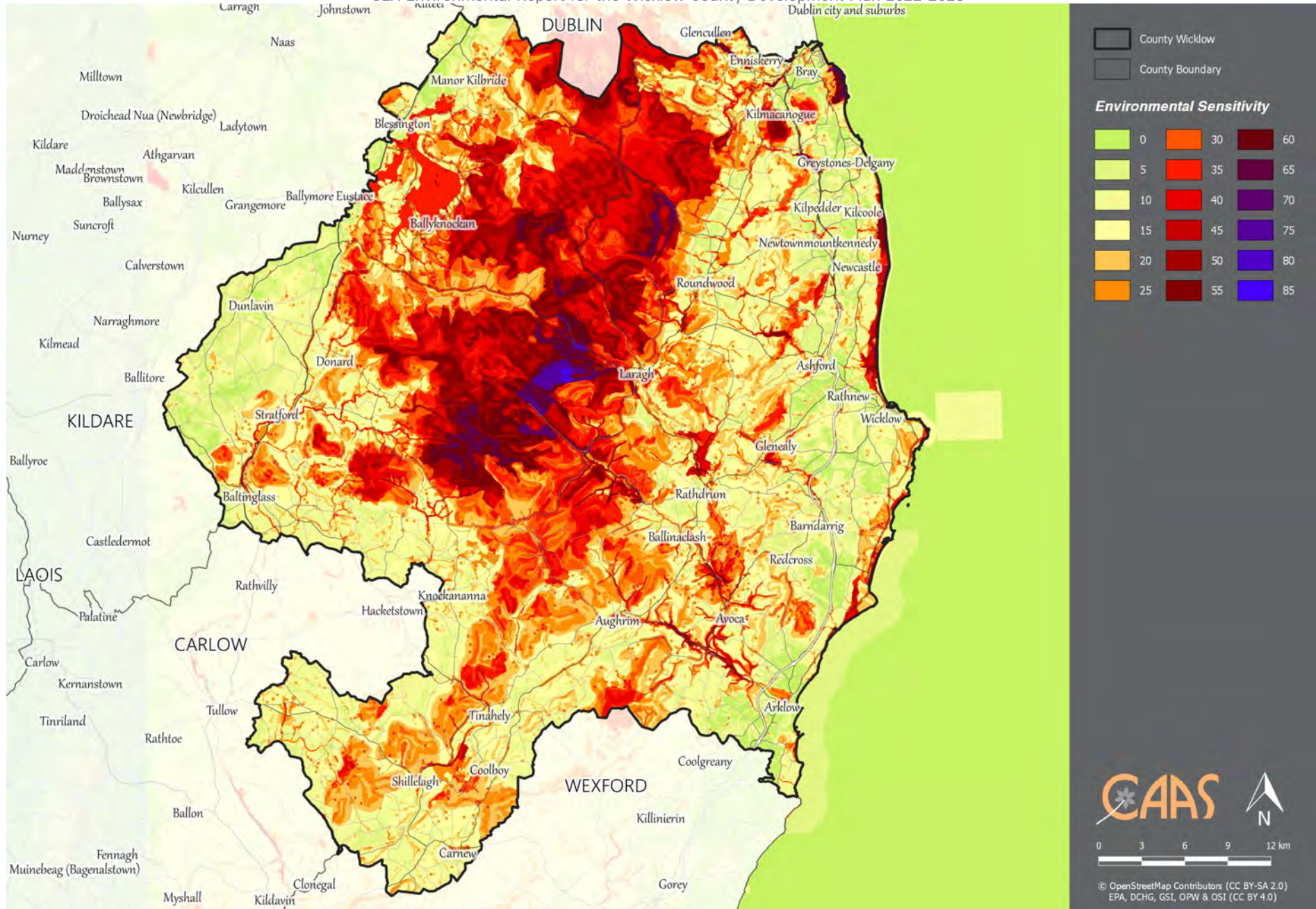


Figure 4.24 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Wicklow

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented.

The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if – in the case of adverse effects – unmitigated.

The SEOs are linked to indicators which can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of the Plan as well as identifying targets which the Plan can help work towards.

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf.

Further detail on legislation, plans and programmes are provided under Section 2 (and associated Appendix I “Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans, and Programmes”) and Section 4.

Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland RSES, the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs), Indicators and Targets

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity”
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource • Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County • Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF • In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement • To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive • Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' • Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County - this includes transport infrastructure • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated • Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan • Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive • Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure

SEA Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health • Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency • Promote continuing improvement in air quality • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% • NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels • Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter
Climatic Factors ¹¹⁵	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating

¹¹⁵ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically and include those under the headings of Electricity, Built Environment, Transport, Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use and Enterprise.

SEA Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
					the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Whether or not alternatives for the County Development Plan are available has been identified by Wicklow County Council under Tiers 1 to 4 detailed below. These alternatives are assessed in Section 7.

6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

6.3 Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

There are 21 settlements within the County, all of which have to be given a population target in the core strategy. The Core Strategy must ensure that all settlements are allocated a target. The Alternatives under Tier 1 are:

Tier 1 (i) Alternatives for Allocation of population Growth between the Settlements

- A.** Concentrate growth (60% of the overall population target) to the key towns Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew and the three self-sustaining growth towns Arklow, Greystones and Blessington.
- B.** Allocate the growth evenly between the 21 settlements.

Tier 1 (ii) Alternatives for Population Growth between the Municipal Districts

- A.** Provide for Municipal District Parity – this would require that the population target is distributed evenly between the five Municipal Districts – Arklow, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Greystones and Bray.
- B.** Do not provide for Regional Parity – allocate growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than its location within a particular municipal district.

6.4 Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

The regional settlement hierarchy identifies two types of settlement that sit below key towns on the hierarchy. These are 'Self-Sustaining Growth Towns' or 'Self Sustaining Towns'. Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are settlements with a moderate level of jobs and services include sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining. Self-Sustaining Towns include towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining. The Alternatives under Tier 2 are:

- A. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns.
- B. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Towns.

6.5 Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure and assess each planning application on its merits.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Villages and Serviced Sites

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Villages are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Tier 3 (iii): Alternatives for Rural Clusters

- A. Identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.
- B. Do not identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.

Tier 3 (iv): Alternatives for Employment Zonings in Rural Areas

- A. Provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B. Do not provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.

Tier 3 (v): Alternatives for Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas

- A. Provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B. Do not provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.

Tier 3 (vi): Alternatives for Community Zonings in Rural Areas

- A. Provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B. Do not provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.

6.6 Tier 4: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

Land use zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES. Requirements relating to land use zoning provided for by the NPF and RSES limit the availability of alternatives for various settlements.

Reasonable alternatives were identified for certain settlements, where these are available, and were considered as part of the iterative Plan-preparation/SEA process. Reasonable alternatives are limited by higher level planning objectives. The findings of the examination of available strategic reasonable land use zoning alternatives for settlements is provided at Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Screening for Available Reasonable Alternatives

Level	Settlement Typology	Settlements	Available Reasonable Alternatives		
			Not applicable	Not available	Assessable Alternatives
1	Metropolitan Area Key Town Core Region	Bray	LAP to be prepared		
2	Key Town Core Region	Wicklow - Rathnew	LAP to be prepared		
3	Self-Sustaining Growth Towns	Arklow	LAP to be prepared		
		Greystones - Delgany	LAP to be prepared		
		Blessington	LAP to be prepared		
4	Core Region	Baltinglass			✓
		Enniskerry	part of Bray LAP		
	Self-Sustaining Towns	Kilcoole	part of Greystones – Delgany LAP		
		Newtown- mountkennedy			✓
		Rathdrum			✓
5	Towns & Villages	Ashford			✓
	Small Towns Type 1	Aughrim			✓
		Carnew			✓
		Dunlavin			✓
		Tinahely			✓
6	Towns & Villages	Avoca		✓	
	Small Towns Type 2	Donard		✓	
		Kilmacanogue	part of Bray LAP		
		Newcastle		✓	
		Roundwood		✓	
Shillelagh		✓			

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects¹¹⁶ of implementing available alternatives that are described in Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

7.2 Methodology

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 5 and Table 7.1) are used in the assessment of alternatives.

The degree to which effects can be determined is limited as implementation of the Plan will involve assessment, consideration and decision-making associated with lower tier plans and individual projects. Nonetheless a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives¹¹⁷

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and

¹¹⁶ These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

¹¹⁷ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
			<p>projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County - this includes transport infrastructure • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency • Promote continuing improvement in air quality • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change <p>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</p>
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

Each of the alternatives would be part of a wider Plan envisaging – in compliance with the robust policy framework in place at national, regional and local level – sustainable development and compact growth in County Wicklow generally. As such, common environmental effects (as detailed on Table 7.2) would be present under Plans adopting each of the different alternatives, albeit to varying degrees.

Table 7.2 Effects common to Plans adopting each of the different alternatives

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.

Environmental Component	• Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	• Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

7.3.1 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Tier 1 (i) Alternatives for Allocation of population Growth between the Settlements

- A. Concentrate growth (60% of the overall population target) to the key towns Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew and the three self-sustaining growth towns Arklow, Greystones and Blessington.
- B. Allocate the growth evenly between the 21 settlements.

Alternative A is consistent with the NPF and RSES as it would support focussing the greatest amount of development into the key settlements and self-sustaining growth towns, which would strengthen these settlements and support infrastructure delivery including public transport.

The concentration of growth into Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport

links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By concentrating in the larger settlements in the County, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development in these centres would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including various smaller settlements.

Alternative B involves a dispersed population approach which has the potential to undermine the role of the larger settlements as key towns and self-sustaining growth towns and make it more difficult to deliver key infrastructure projects including public transport.

This approach would result in a greater expansion of the County’s smaller towns and villages. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in smaller settlements. Services and public transport are more limited and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Alternative B would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative B would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative B would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

Tier 1 (i) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Table 7.3 Assessment¹¹⁸ of Tier 1 (i) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Concentrate growth (60% of the overall population target) to the key towns Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew and the three self-sustaining growth towns Arklow, Greystones and Blessington.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L	
B. Allocate the growth evenly between the 21 settlements.		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L

¹¹⁸ The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Tier 1 (ii) Alternatives for Population Growth between the Municipal Districts

- A. Provide for Municipal District Parity – this would require that the population target is distributed evenly between the five Municipal Districts – Arklow, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Greystones and Bray.
- B. Do not provide for Regional Parity – allocate growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than its location within a particular municipal district.

Alternative A fails to take into account the capacity and function of settlements. It involves a dispersed population approach based on political boundaries.

This approach would provide growth to areas that would not be commensurate with the area or settlement's capacity to accommodate this growth. Growth where capacity is available would be stymied. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in certain MDs. Services and public transport are more limited in certain MDs and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services overall as a result. Alternative A would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative A would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative A would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

Alternative B is consistent with the NPF and RSES as it supports focussing the greatest amount of development into the key settlements and self-sustaining growth towns which will strengthen these settlements and support infrastructure delivery including public transport.

This approach would provide growth to areas that would be commensurate with the area's capacity to accommodate this growth. The concentration of growth into Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By allocating growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than location within a particular MD, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including various smaller settlements.

Tier 1 (ii) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.4.

Table 7.4 Assessment of Tier 1 (ii) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Provide for Municipal District Parity – this would require that the population target is distributed evenly between the five Municipal Districts – Arklow, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Greystones and Bray.		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L
B. Do not provide for Regional Parity – allocate growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than its location within a particular municipal district.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L	

7.3.2 Assessment of Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

The regional settlement hierarchy identifies two types of settlement that sit below key towns on the hierarchy. These are 'Self-Sustaining Growth Towns' or 'Self Sustaining Towns'.

Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are settlements with a moderate level of jobs and services include sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining.

Self-Sustaining Towns include towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.

- A. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns.
- B. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Towns.

Arklow is the main centre located in the south of the County and one of seven market towns in the core region that has a good level of local employment, services and amenities, which serve not just their resident populations but a wider catchment area. The centre has a large catchment and provides for the service needs of its residents and large geographical area. With completed and planned infrastructure improvements including the new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant and an Area Based Transport Plan, the town is poised for development and has the potential to significantly increase and strengthen its employment base.

Greystones-Delgany is served by high quality transport links to Dublin and the surrounding towns. The town is located on the DART/rail line, has good quality bus links and easy access onto the M/N11. Significant housing growth has already occurred in the 2016-2020 period and is likely to occur in 2020-2022. Future opportunities exist for infill development and consolidation of the built-up area. Access to coastal facilities, an attractive town centre and a broad range of social and recreational facilities enhance its overall appeal. The RSES identifies the redevelopment of the IDA 'strategic site' at Greystones as an objective in order to strengthen the employment base for North Wicklow and the Greystones Media Centre has recently been granted permission at this long time vacant strategic site. The capacity and frequency of the rail service between Greystones and Dublin City is to be improved, benefitting the town in terms of attracting investment.

Blessington acts as the service centre for a wide rural catchment. The town is served by a reasonable quality bus service including Dublin Bus and Bus Eireann services. The future re-alignment of the N81 to the west of the town provides a significant opportunity arises to regenerate the historic town centre, create a stronger urban structure, and strengthen the town's identity and sense of place. The town has the potential to provide for local growth in residential, employment and service functions.

Alternative A takes into account the function of the three settlements in terms of their wider context as services providers to a large hinterland and takes into account their capacity to accommodate additional development including housing, employment and services. Alternative A also facilitates distinguishing these three settlements from smaller settlements with more limited functions. By facilitating population and employment growth commensurate to the attributes of these settlements, Alternative A would provide for a more sustainable Settlement Hierarchy and a greater level of sustainable development at a County level. Alternative A would help to facilitate a more compact form of development at these settlements that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Alternative A would not increase pressure in lower-level settlements, which are generally less well-served and less-well connected, and the open countryside – and would, as a result, avoid potential adverse significant effects on various environmental components.

Alternative B is a conservative approach which focuses on the limited employment opportunities in all the settlements but fails to factor in the wider role these settlements play

and the broad range of services provided in these settlements. By limiting population and economic growth in the three towns, Alternative B would not provide an alternative to the same extent as Alternative A would to the Key Towns of Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew as places to live and work and would result in increased pressure in the other settlements with less capacity to accommodate growth and the open countryside. It would also hinder the future compact growth of the settlements. As a result, Alternative B would be likely to result in a greater extent of significant effects on various environmental components and would not be as sustainable as Alternative A.

Tier 2 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.5.

Table 7.5 Assessment of Tier 2 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L	
B. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Towns.		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L

7.3.3 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure and assess each planning application on its merits.

Alternative A provides for a robust and transparent policy approach to manage rural housing.

Restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Single dwellings in rural areas would be facilitated as appropriate and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative B Provides a vague and unclear policy approach to rural housing and risks facilitating a significant increase in urban-generated one-off housing in the open countryside which will undermine the role of small towns and villages and have consequences for the environment.

Not restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the

environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated housing development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Tier 3 (i) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.6.

Table 7.6 Assessment of Tier 3 (i) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L	
B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure and assess each planning application on its merits.		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Villages and Serviced Sites

- A.** Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B.** Villages are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Alternative A recognises the important role that villages play in sustaining rural communities and in providing a proactive approach to the sustainable development of rural areas.

Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative B has the potential to undermine the role rural villages play in sustaining rural communities and providing a viable alternative to one off housing.

Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Tier 3 (ii) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.7.

Table 7.7 Assessment of Tier 3 (ii) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L	
B. Villages are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L

Tier 3 (iii): Alternatives for Rural Clusters

- A.** Identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.
B. Do not identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role rural villages play in sustaining rural communities and has the potential to exacerbate one-off housing on unserviced sites in the countryside.

One-off housing on unserviced sites would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that rural villages and towns play in sustaining rural communities would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable at a County level and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions from developments in rural clusters.

Alternative B will provide greater protection for the countryside and support the role of small towns and villages as the appropriate location for new housing in rural areas.

Development within small towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play in sustaining rural communities would help to make development more sustainable at a County level and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (iii) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.8.

Table 7.8 Assessment of Tier 3 (iii) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L
B. Do not identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L	

Alternative B was originally chosen for the Chief Executive's Draft Plan but **Alternative A** was chosen by the Members for the Draft Plan for public display and is reflected in the final adopted Plan.

Tier 3 (iv): Alternatives for Employment Zonings in Rural Areas

- A.** Provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.
B. Do not provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas (potential employees).

Employment development at these locations beyond the development envelope of existing settlements would undermine the important role that rural villages and towns play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas and would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities). Alternative A would be against the principles of sustainable development and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment, including those on:

- Sustainable mobility, with increases in car usage, and associated adverse effects with respect to energy usage and travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air;
- Biodiversity and flora and fauna;
- Views and the landscape;
- Flood risk management that complies with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (note elevated flood risk at Inchanappa South/Ballyhenry and Kilpedder Interchange); and
- Ground and surface water bodies.

Alternative B would strengthen the role of towns and villages as the appropriate location for employment development on serviced land.

Employment development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (iv) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.9.

Table 7.9 Assessment of Tier 3 (iv) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.				PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L
B. Do not provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L			

Tier 3 (v): Alternatives for Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas

- A.** Provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B.** Do not provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main service providers. Tourism in rural areas outside of settlements can be facilitated by objectives that provide greater flexibility, rather than land use zonings. Tourism development in these rural areas would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that villages and towns play as the main service providers would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions from such developments.

Alternative B would support the important role that towns and villages play as the main service providers. Tourism in rural areas outside of settlements can be facilitated by objectives that provide greater flexibility, rather than land use zonings. Tourism development within the County’s towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main service providers would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (v) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.10.

Table 7.10 Assessment of Tier 3 (v) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.				PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L
B. Do not provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L			

Tier 3 (vi): Alternatives for Community Zonings in Rural Areas

- A.** Provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B.** Do not provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.

Community facilities should be provided on serviced land in settlements where it is proximate to residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. It is difficult and inefficient to service sites in rural areas particularly in terms of safe walking and cycling facilities.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main providers of community facilities, proximate to the residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. Development in rural areas would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that villages and towns play as the main service providers of community facilities would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions to and from these sites, which are inefficient to service in terms of safe walking and cycling facilities.

Alternative B would support the important role that towns and villages play as the main providers of community facilities, proximate to the residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. Development within the County’s towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main service providers of community facilities would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (vi) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.11.

Table 7.11 Assessment of Tier 3 (vi) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative (selected alternative for the Plan in bold)	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
A. Provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.				PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L
B. Do not provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L			

7.3.4 Assessment of Tier 4: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

The consideration of reasonable alternatives for relevant land use zonings that was undertaken as part of the iterative Plan-preparation/SEA process is provided on Table 7.12. Maps for each of the areas identified are provided in Appendix II “General Location of Land Use Zoning Alternatives considered when preparing the Draft Plan”.

Table 7.12 Assessment of Tier 4 Alternatives

Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
Baltinglass	Area 1: Bawnogues (N81) – former Action Area 3	New residential	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Baltinglass are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20. Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre. By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards. Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2. Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects; ecological (SAC)	1. Maintain residential zoning on part – reduce extent of zoning 2. Rezone part as Active Open Space 3. Rezone part as ‘E-employment’	1. Part already granted permission for residential development 2. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to SAC / river; need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation 3. Map fix to align with field boundaries
		Strategic Land Bank	Maintain designation Remove designation Reduce / expand designation Alternative uses		1. Rezone for ‘open space’ (3 grades – AOS, OS1 and OS2) 2. Rezone part ‘E-employment’	1. Enhanced options of outdoor recreation; enhanced protection in proximity to SAC / river; 2. Map fix to align with field boundaries
		Employment	Maintain employment zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand employment zoning Alternative uses		1. Maintain zoning but size reduced; layout reconfigured 2. Rezone part open space (2 grades OS1 and OS2)	1. Need to meet new employment objectives; services land in close proximity to residential and town centres areas; on transport corridor (N81); reconfigured to expand distance from SAC / river; 2. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to SAC / river; need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line
		Open Space	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Expand open space zone (OS1 and OS2)	1. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to SAC / river; 2. Need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line
		New Road and Bridge	Maintain objective Remove objective Alter objective (route / location)		Remove objective	No justification of traffic or planning ground identified. Potential significant environmental impacts on SAC / river
	Area 2: Baltinglass East - Sruhaun	Existing residential (with number of infill gaps sites)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Remove zoning (unzone); remove from plan boundary	1. Deficiencies in road network severely limit possibilities for new development 2. Elevated lands; reduce impact on landscape 3. Reduce potential for impact on archaeology and archaeological landscape 4. Ribbon development undesirable; alternative more suitable lands for new residential development in closer proximity to town centre (compact growth)	
	Area 3: Bawnogue – Baltinglass west (former SLO1, SLO2)	New residential SLO1 (low density)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning	Alternative use - OS	1. Less intensive use in environmentally sensitive location – proximate to River Slaney and European Site 2. Enhanced possibility for green corridor along full length of river	

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
			Alternative uses	designated; cultural heritage; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; and fluvial flood risk.	Expand OS zone from road to river	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Less intensive use in environmentally sensitive location – proximate to River Slaney and European Site 2. Enhanced possibility for green corridor along full length of river 3. Maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line
		Open Space SLO1	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses			
		New residential SLO2	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Alternative designation – strategic land bank	Having regard to population and housing targets for Baltinglass in accordance with parameter set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.
	Area 4: Newtownsaunders	Existing residential	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zoning reflected existing land use and provided limited opportunities for new development – considered unnecessary 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
		Active Open Space	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zoning reflected existing land use but no extension to same – considered unnecessary. Any extension could be considered without zoning (CDP objectives refer) 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.
		Community – Educational	Maintain CE zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand CE zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zoning reflected existing land use and provided for significant extension of same; may result in development excessively distant from town services; 2. Undeveloped rural area, potential for damage to landscape and natural environment 3. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.
Rathdrum	Area 1: Lands to W / NW of town centre	New residential (R20) Numerous	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	<p>Environmental sensitivities for Rathdrum are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20.</p> <p>Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not,</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend R20 zoned lands to RE (existing residential) 2. Maintain New Residential zoning on parcels (2 No.) 3. Change zoning of one parcel of R20 to AOS (see below) 4. Remove R20 zoning from remainder (unzone) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Part already developed or under construction (RE) 2. Part already permitted for residential development (RN) 3. Having regard to population and housing targets for Rathdrum in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 4. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to watercourse; 5. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.
		Active Open Space (AOS)	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses			

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				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
	Area 2: North of town centre	New residential (R10)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre. By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	1. Amend R10 zoned lands to RE (existing residential) 2. Remove R10 zoning from remainder (unzone)	1. Part already developed or under construction (RE) 2. Having regard to population and housing targets for Rathdrum in accordance with parameter set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 3. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to Avonmore River and European Site 4. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.
		Tourism (T)	Maintain T zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand T zoning Alternative uses		Expand T zoning	Reflect permitted development and existing land use
	Area 3: Riverine	Passive Open Space (OS2)	Maintain OS2 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand OS2 zoning Alternative uses	Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2. Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; proximity to European site; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; and fluvial flood risk.	Maintain and expand OS2 zoning	Enhanced and expanded protection zone along Avonmore River
Newtown-mountkennedy	Area 1: North of settlement	AG - agriculture	Maintain AG zoning Remove AG zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AG zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Newtownmountkennedy are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20. Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	Remove AG zoning (unzone)	1. Zoning unnecessary – all lands outside plan boundaries are 'agricultural / rural' by default. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction environmental footprint.
		AG* - agriculture	Maintain designation Remove designation Reduce / expand designation Alternative designation		Remove AG* designation	Lands zoned for employment use in CDP therefore zoning within NMKY plan redundant
	Area 2: Action Area 1	New residential (R1)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands	1. Maintain R1 zoning on part – reduce extent of zoning to northern part 2. Rezone part as RE – existing residential 3. An extent of Residential zoning on lands to the west of new distributor road was removed for the Chief Executive's Draft however the Members chose to add this back into the Draft Plan for public display and adopt as part of the Plan, subject to amendment. The environmental advice provided in relation to	1. Maintain R1 zone to allow for completion of northern end of new distributor road 2. Part already developed or granted permission for residential development (RE) 3. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 4. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
				elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	these lands is summarised under Sections 3.6 and 8.4 of this report..	
		New residential (R2) (west of new distributor road)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2. Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: unnecessary zoning; the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; fluvial flood risk; location of waste water treatment plant; and protection of rocky outcrop.	Rezone OS1	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Expand park area along river; provide for enhanced green corridor
		Active Open Space (AOS)	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses		1. Rezone part OS1 Rezone part CE	1. Land steeply sloping towards river and not suitable for playing pitch / sport use. Retain OS1 zoning and integrate into riverine park instead 2. Part of former AOS zone actually part of primary school site – zoning correction
		Open Space (OS)	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		1. Remove zoning from part 2. Re-align boundaries	1. Part of former OS zone now occupied by part built or permitted distributor road. 2. Align more correctly with built /permitted road and existing field boundaries
		Community – Education (CE)	Maintain CE zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand CE zoning Alternative uses		1. Expand zoning Re align boundaries	Align more correctly with existing land uses / land ownership, with as built /permitted road and existing field boundaries
		Agriculture (AG)	Maintain AG zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AG zoning Alternative uses		1. Remove zoning from part Rezone part OS1 and AOS	1. Zoning unnecessary – all lands outside plan boundaries are 'agricultural / rural' by default. 2. Expand opportunities for sports and recreation, and for biodiversity enhancement by expanding areas available for sports development (AOS) and expansion of riverine corridor (OS1)
	Area 3: Ballyronan – Action Area 2	Mixed Use (MU)	Maintain MU zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand MU zoning Alternative uses		1. Maintain MU on part – reduce extent of zoning 2. Rezone part as Open Space 1	Remove MU zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (water compatible)
		Employment (E)	Maintain employment zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand employment zoning Alternative uses		1. Maintain zoning but size reduced; layout reconfigured at northern boundary 2. Rezone part as Open Space 1	Remove E zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (water compatible)
		Active Open Space (AOS)	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses		1. Maintain zoning but size reduced; layout reconfigured at northern / north-eastern boundary 2. Rezone part as Open Space 1	1. Remove AOS zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (less vulnerable) 2. Maintain possibility of less developed ecological corridor along water course 3. Reflect existing wastewater treatment plant

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
	Area 4: Former Action Area 5, land to east and south				3. Rezone part PU (public utility)	
		New residential (R2) AA5	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
		Active Open Space (AOS) AA5	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	1. Delivery of AOS coupled with R2 zoning in AA5 - removal of R2 zoning as above removes delivery possibility for AOS 2. Alternative AOS zoned elsewhere in closer proximity to built up area
		Open Space (OS) AA5	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	Delivery of OS coupled with R2 zoning in AA5 to provide buffer and protect natural rocky outcrop - removal of R2 zoning as above removes need for zoning
		New residential (R1) & AOS	Maintain R1 and AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R1 and / or AOS zoning Alternative uses		1. Maintain R1 zoning on northern part – reduce extent of zoning to southern part 2. Rezone part as AOS – active open space	1. Maintain R1 on lands granted permission for residential development (under construction) 2. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, remainder of R1 lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 3. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 4. Expansion of AOS having regard to sports / activity needs of targeted population growth.
		ITLR Integrated Tourism & Leisure Recreation	Maintain ITLR zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand ITLR zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	1. Zoned as part of the larger ITLR block in CDP extending beyond plan boundary. ITLR zoning omitted from draft CDP. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
Ashford	Area 1: Former AA2 & SLO 2	New residential	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Ashford are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20. Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental	Maintain residential zoning	Site has granted permission for residential use.
		Employment	Maintain employment zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand employment zoning Alternative uses		Maintain employment zoning	Need to meet new employment objectives; serviced land in close proximity to residential and town centres areas. (Some of the zoned lands are in ownership of the Local Authority the maintaining of such lands provides the best opportunity for new employment developments).
		Open Space	Maintain open space zoning		Maintain Open Space zoning	Need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; lands to be developed as part of the overall objectives for the Action Area 1

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
			Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce/expand open space zoning Alternative uses	<p>components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.</p> <p>Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.</p> <p>Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; and serviced land.</p>		
		Community & education	Maintain Community & education zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Maintain Community & Education zoning	Lands required to meet community infrastructure needs associated with new housing growth, adjoining existing community facility (school) and in close proximity to residential and town centres areas and educational uses.
		Areas 2A, 2B, 2C	New residential (Former SLO 1)		Maintain residential zoning Maintain SLO Zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Remove zoning (unzone)
		New residential (Former SLO 4)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having regard to population and housing targets for Ashford in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 	
		New residential (Former Action Area 1)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove zoning (unzone) Partial rezoning as active open space (AOS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having regard to population and housing targets for Ashford in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl Partial rezoning of land for active open space, less intensive use; enhancing options for outdoor recreation 	
	Aughrim	Area 1: Area south of Aughrim River	Employment (E)	Maintain E zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand E zoning Alternative uses	<p>Environmental sensitivities for Aughrim are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20.</p> <p>Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Retain E zoning (part) Replace E zoning with OS1 (part) Replace E zoning with PU (part) see below
Open Space (POS)	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Expand open space zone (OS1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove development zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (water compatible) Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to river Need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line 		
Public utility (PU)	Maintain PU zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand PU zoning		Expand PU zoning	Having regard to the need for increased capacity in WWTP, additional lands may be required for plant expansion; necessary to ensure ongoing effective management of wastewater from the settlement, to ensure environment protected to utmost degree.		

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
	Area 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D	2A: Residential R15 (SLO2 & SLO3)	Maintain R15 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R15 zoning Alternative uses	<p>access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.</p> <p>Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.</p> <p>Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; water services and need to protect the environment; lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; and fluvial flood risk.</p>	Remove zoning (unzone)	<p>1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Aughrim in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</p> <p>An extent of New Residential zoning on these lands was removed for the Chief Executive's Draft however the Members chose to add this back into the Draft Plan for public display and adopt as part of the Plan. The environmental advice provided in relation to these lands is summarised under Sections 3.6 and 8.4 of this report.</p> <p>1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Aughrim in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</p>
		2B: Residential R10	Maintain R10 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R10 zoning Alternative uses		Provide New Residential Zoning	
		2C, 2D: Residential Special (AUG1, AUG2, AUG3)	Maintain R-S zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R-S zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	
Carnew	Area 1: Former SLO 3	Residential (R20)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	<p>Environmental sensitivities for Carnew are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20.</p> <p>Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to</p>	Alternative use (AOS)	<p>1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Carnew in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>2. Expand opportunities for sports and recreation</p>
		Community & Education (CE)	Maintain CE zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand CE zoning Alternative uses		Alternative use (AOS)	
	Area 2: North of town centre	New residential R20 (Former SLO 2)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	<p>potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to</p>	Remove zoning (unzone)	<p>1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Carnew in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</p>
		New residential R20 (east of Malton Park)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses		<p>1. Remove zoning (part)</p> <p>2. Change zoning to SLB (strategic land bank)(part)</p>	

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
		New residential R20 (north of Tomacork View)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	<p>develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.</p> <p>Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.</p> <p>Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects; riverine ecology and status of water body; and landscape/views along the river.</p>	Maintain residential zoning	Permitted residential development under construction
		Former Strategic Land Bank	Maintain SLB designation Remove designation Reduce / expand SLB designation Alternative uses		Reduce extent of designation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of lands do not fulfil criteria for SLB designation – <i>'potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure'</i> and considered excessive in scale having regard to the likely long term development needs of Carnew. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
		Open space (OS1)	Maintain OS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand OS zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	These OS lands acted as buffer to future development on lands adjoining to south; as these development lands have been un-zoned and are no longer required for delivering development this area zoned open space is no longer required.
		New Road (linking Tomacork and Coolattin roads)	Maintain objective Remove objective Alter objective (route / location)		Remove objective	No justification of traffic or planning ground if the surrounding lands are not developed.
Dunlavin	Area 1: Former AA1	New residential (R20)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	<p>Environmental sensitivities for Dunlavin are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20.</p> <p>Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various</p>	Alternative designation (SLB)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. Lands however considered to fulfil criteria to be designated SLB - <i>potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure</i>
		Area 2: Former AA2 & SLO 1	New residential R20 (Former AA2)		Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove zoning (unzone)(part) Change to open space (AOS) (part)
		New residential R15 (former AA2)	Maintain R15 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R15 zoning Alternative uses		Change to open space (AOS)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. Reconfiguration of AOS area to align with sports grounds adjacent
		New residential R20 (former SLO1)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses		Alternative designation (SLB)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. Lands however considered to fulfil criteria to be designated SLB - <i>potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure</i>

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected	Reasons for choosing selected outcome
	Area 3: Former SLO 2	New residential (R20)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	environmental components would be contributed towards. Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2. Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; and the need to provide for compact growth.	1. Remove zoning (unzone)(part) 2. Change to open space (AOS) (part)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 3. Expansion and reconfiguration of AOS area to provide for enhanced sporting/recreation needs of target population growth
	Area 4: Former AA3	Residential R20	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses		Provide New Residential Zoning	1. An extent of New Residential zoning on these lands was removed for the Chief Executive's Draft however the Members chose to add this back into the Draft Plan for public display and adopt as part of the Plan. The environmental advice provided in relation to these lands is summarised under Sections 3.6 and 8.4 of this report.
Tinahely	Area 1: Former SLO4	Employment E – SLO4	Maintain E zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand E zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Tinahely are described under Section 4 and Section 8.8.20. Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	Remove zoning (unzone)	1. No justification for large quantum of employment zoning having regard to scale and growth parameters for Tinahely; maintain SLO3 only 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
	Area 2: Residential (various)	R15 (3 locations)	Maintain R15 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards. Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2. Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: population and housing targets; and the need to provide for compact growth.	1. Alter one area of R15 to RE 2. Remove zoning elsewhere	1. Alter R15 at Bramble Hill to RE to reflect development constructed / under construction 2. Having regard to population and housing targets for Tinahely in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 3. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
		R Special (3 locations)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		1. Alter one area of R-S to SLB 2. Remove zoning elsewhere	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Tinahely in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 3. One area at Churchlands however considered to fulfil criteria to be designated SLB - <i>potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure</i>
Area 3: Strategic Land Bank (various)	Former Strategic Land Bank	Maintain SLB zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand SLB designation Alternative uses		Remove designation (majority)	1. Majority of lands do not fulfil criteria for SLB designation – <i>'potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure'</i> and considered excessive in scale having regard to the likely long term development needs of Tinahely 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.	

7.4 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the tiers of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which are identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Members.

Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

8.1 Introduction

This section provides an assessment of environmental effects using the information on the current state of the environment (provided in Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 8.1) from implementation of the Plan.

The degree of significance of effects occurring cannot be fully determined at this level of decision making due to the lack of exact detail available with regard to the type or scale of development that will be permitted under the Plan. However, a strategic assessment can be undertaken.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives¹¹⁹

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and waste water capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County - this includes transport infrastructure Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids

¹¹⁹ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels.
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses. Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

8.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are one of the types of effects which have been considered by the assessment of the alternatives. Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

There are two types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered, namely:

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities (such as those identified under Section 4), future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.4 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.2.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.6 (and associated Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes"), Section 4 and Section 5. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, adjoining County Development Plans and Local Area Plans);

- Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme, Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010, Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Climate Policy Position and Climate Action 2014, Low Carbon Development Act 2015 as amended and White Paper Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015, Climate Action Plan 2021, the National Adaptation Framework 2018, and the Wicklow Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 and Climate Action Charter 2019);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan and Transportation Policies and Strategies); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:
 - sustainable compact growth;
 - sustainable mobility/a shift from motorised transport modes to more sustainable and non-motorised transport modes; and
 - renewable energy development.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to Green Infrastructure, including beyond the County border;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects is consistent with those described on Table 8.2. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

These effects would have the potential, if unmitigated, if they occurred, to result in changes in the environment within and beyond County Wicklow.

A variety of the issues covered by the Plan provisions are regional issues which are considered: at Regional Assembly level, in the Eastern and Midland RSES and by planning authorities across the Region. The solutions to these issues are often regional solutions which are subject their own consenting procedures. Works arising outside of the Plan as a result of providing for new development within the County including those arising as a result of the cumulative provision of development in the wider Eastern and Midland region would potentially conflict with a number of environmental components, across the wider Eastern and Midland region and beyond, including: ecology, soil function, the status of water bodies and the landscape. Some of these conflicts would be mitigated by measures

which will be integrated into the Plan while some will be mitigated by measures arising out of separate consent procedures.

8.3 Overall Evaluation

Wicklow County Council have integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes into the Plan (see Section 9). Table 8.2 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan – see Section 9.

Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors. Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO) codes are taken from Table 8.1.

Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation). 	BFF

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under “Soil”, “Water” and “Air and Climatic Factors” below. 	PHH
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change. 	S

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	W
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	MA

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable compact growth; Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	AC
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	CH
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures. 	L

8.4 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

The Plan, considered as a whole, contributes towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development and complies with various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation.

Various Plan provisions that would contribute towards the sustainable development of the County would, at the same time, have the potential to conflict with the environment, were mitigation measures not taken into account. This is normal and mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to deal with these potential effects.

However, various parts of the Plan are internally inconsistent with the overall approach provided for by the Plan:

- A number of amendments to the Chief Executive's Draft Plan (in advance of public display of the Draft Plan) agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process. These amendments and the environmental and planning assessment documented and provided to the Members at the time is provided at Table 3.1 under Section 3 of this SEA Environmental Report.
- A number of proposed amendments to the Draft Plan that was placed on public display agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process. These amendments and the environmental and planning assessment documented

and provided to the Members at the time is provided at Table 3.2 under Section 3 of this SEA Environmental Report.

8.5 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network¹²⁰.

SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. Recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan.

Various policies and objectives have been integrated into the Plan through the SEA, SFRA and AA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

8.6 Integration of Climate Action into the Plan¹²¹

The Plan will contribute towards climate action in combination with:

- The Climate Action Plan that identifies 493 climate mitigation and/or adaptation actions, including: Action 214 Rollout of Social Housing National Retrofitting Programme in 2021 with retrofitted properties required to reach BER B2 or

¹²⁰ 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 plan/programme/project to proceed; and
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

¹²¹ This section is informed by content from Section 2.2.2 of the Plan

equivalent; Action 190 Ensure national, regional, and local planning frameworks encourage and facilitate the development of district heating where appropriate to facilitating compact urban development; and Action 78 Implement the National Planning Framework.

- The National Planning Framework, which has identified National Strategic Outcome Objectives 8 "Build Climate Resilience" and 9 "Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy" under National Strategic Outcome 8 "Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society".
- The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that has identified various Regional Policy Objectives relating to climate action, including RPO 7.32 "With the assistance and support of the Climate Action Regional Offices, local authorities shall develop, adopt and implement local climate adaptation and mitigation strategies which shall address issues including local vulnerability to climate risks and identify and prioritise actions, in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework, National Mitigation Plan.", RPO 7.22 "Local authority development plan and local area plans, shall identify, protect, enhance, provide and manage Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner and should also have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species", RPO 7.23 "Support the further development of Green Infrastructure policies and coordinate the mapping of strategic Green Infrastructure in the Region", RPO 7.35 "EMRA shall, in conjunction with local authorities in the Region, identify Strategic Energy Zones as areas suitable for larger energy generating projects, the role of community and micro energy production in urban and rural settings and the potential for renewable energy within industrial areas. The Strategic Energy Zones for the Region will ensure all environmental constraints are addressed in the analysis. A regional landscape strategy should be developed to support delivery of projects within the Strategic Energy Zones." and RPO 7.40 "Local authorities shall include policies in statutory land use plans to promote high levels of energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in existing buildings, including retro fitting of energy efficiency measures in the existing building stock and energy efficiency in traditional buildings. All new buildings within the Region will be required to achieve the Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)."

Climate change action is one of three cross-cutting key principles of the Plan and has been integrated into the Plan in a proactive way with the inclusion of relevant policies and objectives; strategic policy outcomes incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into land-use planning, supported by land-use policies and objectives that where relevant incorporate objectives that both mitigate against the source of the causes of climate change and adapt to reduce the impacts of climate change. Climate

change action informs objectives in relation to all chapters of the Plan, including the town and settlement plans and the Plan appendices.

Given the Plan's remit as a land use framework not all sources and impacts are addressed in the Plan objectives (e.g. impact on insurance costs). The Plan's role in addressing climate change is part of a combined overall effort by Wicklow County Council to fulfil its role in addressing the climate change challenge. Climate change poses a real threat to ecosystems, however these ecosystems including wetlands and woodlands, are important for their role as carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection. As it noted in the RSES, careful land management is needed to ensure that land use changes do not impact on the ability of the natural environment to absorb climate impacts. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment also have a key role to play in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The approach taken in crafting the Plan is to identify what are the impacts and sources of climate change, identify the key sectors of the sources of impacts that are relevant to the County Plan as a land use plan and to ensure that these are considered in the crafting of all policies and objectives.

Under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Local Authorities are required to prepare local Climate Action Plans outlining how they are implementing their adopted Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation strategies.

Building on existing climate action policies, the RSES identifies the following five areas where Climate Change Action should be targeted in the region namely Built Environment, Sustainable Transport, Energy and Waste, Flood Resilience and Water, and Green Infrastructure and Eco-system services. How these are dealt with under the Plan is detailed on Table 8.3 below.

Table 8.3 How Climate Action has been integrated into the Plan

Sector	Summary of how Plan contributes towards Climate Action
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of sustainable settlement patterns, with a focus in compact growth • Regeneration of town and village centres, with the prioritising of the development of underutilised and brownfield sites • Promotion of environmentally sustainable development in terms of location, layout, design and energy and water usage.
Sustainable Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide policy, objectives and standards that promote and facilitate a sustainable approach to transportation with strategies and objectives in place to facilitate the necessary actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduction in the need to use motorised vehicles, increased opportunities for walking and cycling; - reduction in journey length and times, reduction in congestion; - higher intensity of use of public transport; - development and increased usage of alternative vehicle fuel sources, such as electricity, hydrogen and biofuels.
Energy & Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide policy, objectives and standards that promote and facilitate the development of alternative and renewable sources of electricity to meet the electricity demand with policy and objectives for reduction in electricity use, wind energy, solar energy, hydro energy, bio-energy and small scale renewable electricity generation. • Support the development of enabling infrastructure, especially at the ports/harbours, for the off-shore wind energy sector. • Support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling • Promote the circular economy and the 'just transition' to clean energy.
Flood resilience & water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure • Conservation and enhancement of water resources including sea, rivers, lakes and groundwater. • Effective and environmentally sound management of waste water. • Reduction and management of flood risk. • To build resilience to increased risks of extreme weather events, changes in sea level and patterns of coastal erosion to protect property, critical infrastructure and food security.
Natural Heritage & Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve and enhance biodiversity, protected habitats and species. • To identify, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services and promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as coastlines, farmlands, peatlands, uplands woodlands and wetlands. • Promote and facilitate an environmentally sustainable approach to practicing agriculture and forestry.

8.7 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components

Component	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air and Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Population and Human Health			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Soil				Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Water					No	Yes	No	No
Air and Climatic Factors						Yes	No	No
Material Assets							Yes	Yes
Cultural Heritage								Yes
Landscape								

8.8 Detailed Evaluation¹²²

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF, PHH, S, W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 110.

The following applies to each of the sub-sections 8.8.1 to 8.8.20 below:

The Plan is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the National Adaptation Framework, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.6 “*Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes*” in this report).

These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and already provide for various measures that have been compiled into the Plan. The Plan aligns with these documents and will be incorporated into the review and preparation of these documents.

Lower tier plans and projects must be consistent and comply with the provisions of the Plan and of these other policies, plans etc. and will be subject to their own project level EIA and AA requirements as relevant. An assessment of cumulative effects is provided at Section 8.2 of this report.

8.8.1 Chapter 2: Development Plan Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to the Plan’s Vision and Strategic County Objectives. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Vision, Strategic Principles and Strategic County Outcomes against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p>				

¹²² The Plan’s provisions are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the Plan provisions are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column. The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

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The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The Vision, Strategic Principles and Strategic County Outcomes in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.8.2 Chapter 3: Core Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
The purpose of the Core Strategy is provide relevant information to show that the development plan provisions, in particular its population, housing, retail transport and climate action strategies are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and with Specific Planning Policy Requirements specified in guidelines under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Planning Act. This Chapter provides a Core Strategy Map and addresses issues including population, housing, settlement hierarchy, population and housing allocations, zoning, rural housing, transport and accessibility, retail, integration of environmental and climate action considerations and compliance with specific planning policy requirements.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Core Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The Core Strategy would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

8.8.3 Chapter 4: Settlement Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter comprise those relating to the Plan’s Settlement Strategy. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Settlement Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. 				

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Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The Settlement Strategy Objectives in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:

- CPO4.1 “having regard to the availability of services and infrastructure and in particular, to direct growth into key towns, self-sustaining growth towns, self-sustaining towns and small towns”.
- CPO4.2 “To secure compact growth”
- CPO4.3 “Increase the density in existing settlements”
- CPO4.4 “Support investment in infrastructure and services”
- CPO4.5 “To ensure that all settlements, as far as is practicable, develop in a self sufficient manner”
- CPO4.6 “To require new housing development to locate on designated housing land within the boundaries of settlements”
- CPO4.7 “to review population targets where service delivery is impeded”
- CPO4.8 “To prepare new local plans”
- CPO4.9 “Target the reversal of town and village centre decline”
- CPO4.10 “To support the sustainable development of rural areas by encouraging growth while managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid over-development”
- CPO4.11 “Strengthen the established structure of villages and smaller settlements”
- CPO4.12 “to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to meet rural housing requirements in small towns and villages”
- CPO4.13 “To require that the design, scale and layout of all new residential development is proportionate to the existing settlement, respects the character, strengthens identity and creates a strong sense of place”
- CPO4.14 “To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality”
- CPO4.15 “To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape”

The preparation of any Local Area Plan (CPO4.8) will be subject to screening for and/or full SEA and AA.

8.8.4 Chapter 5: Town and Village Centres Placemaking & Regeneration

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Town and Village Centres Placemaking & Regeneration. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

Commentary

The assessment of the Plan's Town and Village Centres Placemaking and Regeneration Objectives against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The Town and Village Centres Placemaking and Regeneration Objectives in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:

- CPO 5.1 “protect and maintain the viability of town and village centres”
- CPO 5.2 “protect and increase the quality, vibrancy and vitality of town and villages centres”.
- CPO 5.6 “reverse decline, foster resilience and encourage new roles and functions for streets, buildings and sites within towns and villages”
- Various Town and Village Regeneration & Rejuvenation Priorities across the County
- CPO 5.7 “identify and pursue transformational regeneration and renewal proposals and public realm initiatives”
- CPO 5.15 “Support the preparation of Placemaking Strategies for towns and villages”
- CPO 5.16 “actively pursue and implement environmental and public realm improvements and provision of amenities”
- CPO 5.17 “harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets”
- CPO 5.18 “protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets”
- CPO 5.19 “implement environmental and public realm improvements in town and village centres to a high standard and finish”
- CPO 5.20 “establish a database of strategic brownfield and infill sites so that brownfield re-use can be managed and co-ordinated across multiple stakeholders as part of the active land management process”

The preparation of any Local Area Plan (CPO 5.24) will be subject to screening for and/or full SEA and AA.

8.8.5 Chapter 6: Housing

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Housing. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Housing provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The Housing provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, including provisions under the headings of Density, Height and Scale, Sequence / Phasing of Housing, Protection of Residential Amenity in Transitional Areas, Housing in Rural Settlements and Housing in the Open Countryside.</p>				

8.8.6 Chapter 7: Social and Community Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Social and Community Development. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Social and Community Development provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The Social and Community Development provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, including provisions under the headings of Leisure and Recreation, Open Space and Culture.</p>				

8.8.7 Chapter 8: Built Heritage

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Built Heritage. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Built Heritage provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County's built heritage (including archaeological heritage and architectural heritage).</p>				

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.8.8 Chapter 9: Economic Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Economic Development. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Economic Development provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. The guiding principles for the identification of locations for strategic employment growth outlined in the RSES and the RSES’s Economic Strategy’s key objectives (Smart Specialisation, Clustering, Orderly Growth, Placemaking and Future Proofing and Risk Management) have been integrated into the Economic Development provisions in this Chapter.</p> <p>Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Provisions such as those relating to agriculture, forestry and fishing are essential to the sustenance of rural populations and associated existing sustainable rural management practices, which can often sustain biodiversity.</p> <p>Agriculture is essential to the sustenance of rural populations and associated existing sustainable rural management practices which can often sustain biodiversity. Agriculture is however a source of waste and emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter can have significant effects on water, soil, water, biodiversity and human health.</p> <p>Forestry and access to forestry for amenity would contribute towards the sustenance of rural populations and can improve the biodiversity value of the countryside. Depending on how it is developed, forestry has the potential to adversely affect various environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna, water and human health, the landscape.</p> <p>The practices of fishing and aquaculture together with related development (such as infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations) has the potential to adversely affect various environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna, water and human health,</p> <p>Zoning for employment development in rural areas (relating to CPO 9.13) is considered under the alternatives assessed at Section 7.3.3.</p> <p>The Economic Development Objectives in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO 9.3 “normally require new employment generating developments to locate on suitably zoned or identified land in settlements” • CPO 9.17 “it is the objective of the Council to: comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents” • CPO 9.22 “encourage and facilitate the development of ‘green’ industries, including industries relating to renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, waste recycling and conservation” • CPO 9.29 “support and facilitate regeneration and renewal” • CPO 9.36 “appropriate to and compatible with the character of the rural environment” • CPO 9.37 “environmentally sustainable agricultural activities” • CPO 9.40 “ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses” • CPO 9.41 “shall be compatible with the protection of rural amenities” • CPO 9.43 “afforestation in appropriate locations” • CPO 9.44 “sustainable forest management” • CPO 9.47 “promote the use of native hardwood species using seed of native provenance where possible in afforestation schemes” 				

- CPO 9.50 “sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry”
- CPO 9.51 “Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted”
- CPO 9.52 “facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of minerals in the County in a manner”

8.8.9 Chapter 10: Retail

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Retail. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Retail provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>The Retail provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPO 10.1 “ensure the continued vibrancy and vitality of town and village centres”. • CPO 10.2 “facilitate measures to improve the accessibility of centres by developing a pedestrian and cyclist friendly environment” • CPO 10.7 “Retail Impact Assessments / Traffic and Transport Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Retail Planning Guidelines, 2012 and relevant Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines” 				

8.8.10 Chapter 11: Tourism and Recreation

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Tourism and Recreation. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Tourism and Recreation provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements</p>				

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to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan contributes towards the provision of land use activities and developments relating to tourism and recreation – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors and associated potential adverse effects. Such effects would include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, including tourism. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, energy, access or accommodation. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising would be contributed towards by Plan provisions including those relating to infrastructure capacity, visitor management, green infrastructure and ecosystem services.

Zoning for tourism development in rural areas (relating to CPO 11.20) is considered under the alternatives assessed at Section 7.3.3.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

The Tourism and Recreation provisions in this Chapter of the Plan (including CPOs 11.41, 11.42 and 11.43) would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.8.11 Chapter 12: Sustainable Transportation

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Sustainable Transportation. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Sustainable Transportation provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Many of the provisions in this Chapter primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health. The facilitation of journeys by car, in particular, would give rise to emissions to air. The Plan references various projects that are provided for by higher level plans and programmes. Projects would need to be subject to normal planning and environmental assessment processes, as well as complying with the Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure, as provided for by CPO 12.10.</p> <p>With regard to the expansion of Bray-Fassaroe, the Plan identifies (CPO 12.66) that the Council will continue to work with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and the transport agencies to facilitate the delivery of key enabling infrastructure required to develop the two strategic sites, especially for the westward extension of the town to Fassaroe, including Bray-Fassaroe public transport links and road improvements.</p> <p>Refer also to further commentary on green infrastructure under Section 8.8.17 "Chapter 18: Green Infrastructure".</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				

8.8.12 Chapter 13: Water Services

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Water Services. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Water Services provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The primary purpose of many of the Policy Objectives is to contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment (including the Water Quality Objectives and the Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity Objective). Provisions relating to water supply, wastewater and surface water management would, by protecting water resources, providing safe drinking water and appropriately treating waste water, contribute towards the protection of various environmental components including: human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, the status of waters, flood risk management and soil. There would be potential for significant adverse environmental effects upon various environmental components to arise during construction of water services infrastructure. Such potential significant adverse effects could also arise during operation: the protection of human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the status of waters, could all be conflicted with by outflows and abstractions.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				

8.8.13 Chapter 14: Flood Risk Management

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Flood Management. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Flood Risk Management provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>				

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The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The primary purpose of these Policy Objectives is to contribute towards flood risk management and the protection and management of the environment (including the Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity Objectives). These provisions would benefit the protection of human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, water status and existing infrastructure and services. Flood risk management infrastructure (if required) has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas and adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams or along estuaries and the coast. Potential adverse effects will be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.8.14 Chapter 15: Waste Management and Emissions

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Waste Management and Emissions. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary: The assessment of the Plan’s Waste Management and Emissions provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO’s BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The primary purpose of these Policy Objectives, which include those relating to Solid Waste Management, Hazardous Waste, Air Pollution, Noise Pollution and Light Pollution, is to contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment. Waste Management provisions incorporate circular economy principles that are supported in the RSES through RPO 10.25.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				

8.8.15 Chapter 16: Energy and Information Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Energy and Information Infrastructure. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary: The assessment of the Plan's Energy and Information Infrastructure provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Various provisions in this Chapter contribute towards the framework for the development of energy. These Policies Objectives would contribute towards achieving various government objectives and targets including those relating to climate mitigation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of energy to be consumed from renewable sources. The development of renewable energy would have the potential to adversely impact upon the environment, if unmitigated. Further general commentary on the types of potential effects arising from certain renewable energy types is provided below.</p> <p>Wind Energy Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts include those associated with construction and operation of the turbines and ancillary facilities and infrastructure (including roads and electrical infrastructure) • Potential human health impact: shadow flicker, noise, and impacts arising from landslides • Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna including birdlife and marine habitats • Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology and changes to drainage • Potential impacts on water status during construction – this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity • Potential impacts upon the context of protected archaeological and architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – as well as unknown archaeological heritage • Potential impacts upon traffic during construction due to transportation of turbine components • Changes to the character of areas would be likely to occur however visual impacts would depend on various factors including the size, number and spacing of the turbines, perception of the relevant areas and any cumulative effect arising from multiple wind farms <p>Solar Energy Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – at micro scale • Potential impacts on habitats and species and micro scale • Large scale installations may have visual impacts – these would depend on perception of the relevant area -, however these are unlikely to be provided for <p>Hydro-Energy Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the scale and location of the development there is potential for impacts to occur on biodiversity, in particular aquatic biodiversity • Potential to impact upon the morphological, biological and chemical status of waters - this could interact with drinking water sources (in freshwater) and biodiversity • Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology and sediment regimes in off-shore areas • Operation could impact upon flood risk elsewhere • Potential impacts upon archaeological heritage or nearby architectural heritage, including context • Changes to the character of locations may occur however visual impacts would depend upon, inter alia, the size of the installation, ancillary facilities and the perception and visibility of the relevant area <p>Bio-Energy Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets. Can provide for the use of agricultural and other wastes Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna arising from changes in vegetation. Soil structure may also be impacted upon. • Changes in farming practices may lead to changes in drainage and runoff which could impact upon biological and chemical status of waters - - this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity • Potential human health impact: odour and noise from operation of plants 				

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- Potential impacts upon traffic during operation due to transportation of fuel to plants
- Fuels derived from bio-mass still produce emissions however these are less than those derived from fossil fuels
- Changes to the land cover of areas could occur however visual impacts would depend on perception of the relevant area;
- Biomass plants may have visual impacts - these would depend on perception of the relevant area

Geothermal Energy

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets.

Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:

- Potential impacts upon the status of waters and ecology contained within, especially arising from changes in the temperature of groundwater which can impact upon the structure and ecology of the aquifer and any dependent surface waters - this could interact with drinking water sources
- Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology
- Potential impacts upon archaeology, including unknown underground archaeology
- Potential impacts upon on site water services
- Potential impacts upon context of archaeological and architectural heritage arising from surface installation

Information Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure has the potential to result in significant adverse effects and require significant levels of energy to operate.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Mitigation has been integrated into various Energy and Information Infrastructure provisions including:

- CPO 16.1 “encourage the development of wind energy in accordance with the County Wicklow Wind Strategy”
- CPO 16.5 “having due regard to architectural amenity and heritage”
- CPO 16.7 “subject to due consideration of ecological impacts, in particular, the free flow of fish and maintenance of biodiversity corridors”
- CPO 16.12 “where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment, landscape, biodiversity or local amenities”
- CPO 16.13 “does not impact on groundwater quality”
- CPO 16.20 “Proposals for the undergrounding of cables should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised”
- CPO 16.25 “reduce journey; times, length, congestion and to increase the attractiveness of public transport”
- CPO 16.31 “subject to environmental and visual amenity constraints”

8.8.16 Chapter 17: Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Natural Heritage and Biodiversity. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

Commentary:

The assessment of the Plan’s Natural Heritage and Biodiversity provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County’s natural heritage (including biodiversity, water, soil and landscape).

The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.8.17 Chapter 18: Green Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Green Infrastructure. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Natural Heritage and Biodiversity provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>Most of these provisions specifically provide for the protection and management of the environment, benefitting the protection of biodiversity, the landscape, waters and cultural heritage.</p> <p>The development of new and existing greenways, blueways, peatways, trails and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Wicklow, adjoining counties and beyond has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). Furthermore, projects would need to be subject to normal planning and environmental assessment processes, as well as complying with the Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure, as provided for by CPO 18.17. The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				

8.8.18 Chapter 19: Marine Spatial Planning and Coastal Zone Management

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Marine Spatial Planning and Coastal Zone Management. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary: The assessment of the Plan's Marine Spatial Planning and Coastal Zone Management Objectives against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The provisions contained in the Plan for the protection of coastal assets (settlement, infrastructural, ecological, cultural, recreational and amenity) will help to facilitate the orderly development of the County.</p> <p>Coastal defences and protection measures have the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas along the coast.</p> <p>Most of these provisions specifically provide for the protection and management of the environment, benefitting the protection of biodiversity, the status of waters, human health, the landscape, land and cultural heritage.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				

8.8.19 Chapter 20: Implementation and Monitoring

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Implementation and Monitoring. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p>Commentary The assessment of this Chapter against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>				

SEA Monitoring Programme for monitoring the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, including those if unmitigated, is detailed at Section 10 of this SEA Environmental Report.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.8.20 Volume 2: Towns and Settlement Plans

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Volume 2 includes written objectives and zoning for the following towns and settlements. For more details, please refer to the Plan.</p> <p>Level 4 - Self-Sustaining Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baltinglass Newtownmountkennedy Rathdrum <p>Level 5 - Small Towns Type 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashford Aughrim Carnew Dunlavin Tinahely <p>Level 6 - Small Towns Type 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoca Donard Newcastle Roundwood Shillelagh <p>Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	
<p>Commentary</p> <p>Environmental considerations were integrated into the land use zoning for the County's settlements through an interdisciplinary approach involving Planners and environmental specialists. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA process facilitated zoning that avoids impacts upon sensitive ecology and European Sites. The AA concluded that the Plan, including Volume 2 will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of European Sites¹²³. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk. The planning team also took into account other environmental considerations including sustainable mobility and sensitivities relating to cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as taking into account overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities (which is similar to that shown on Figure 4.24 on page 77 but was produced at lower scale for some settlements). <p>Where reasonable alternatives in relation to the application of land use zoning were identified by the Planning Team as being available (for Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin and Tinahely), these were considered by the iterative Plan-preparation/SEA process (see Sections 6 and 7 of this report).</p> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>				

¹²³ 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 plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

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As identified in Volume 2, there are a wide range of land use types identified under each of the Land Use Zoning Objectives. Proposals for development will need to demonstrate compliance with the various written provisions of the Plan, as relevant, including those relating to environmental protection and management. Environmental considerations, such as those related to elevated levels of flood risk or European site ecological designations, may limit the types of uses that may be possible at certain sites. The written provisions of Volume 2 were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA process.

The provisions in Volume 2 would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Level 4 Plans establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of each settlement (Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy and Rathdrum), and seek to enhance and facilitate the balancing of economic, social and environmental infrastructure in order to maintain and develop a high quality of life without compromising the protection of the environment and the needs of future generations. These settlements are identified in the Core Strategy as 'self-sustaining towns' 'towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining'. Self-Sustaining Towns are towns that require contained growth, focusing on driving investment in services, employment growth and infrastructure whilst balancing housing delivery. There is a strong emphasis on aligning population growth with employment growth to make these towns more self-sustaining and capable of accommodating additional growth in the future.

Key sensitivities in each of the Level 4 settlements that have been considered by the Plan preparation/SEA/AA/SFRA processes include those summarised below.

Baltinglass

- Potential for flooding arising from the presence of the River Slaney which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation.
- Wastewater capacity is adequate to accommodate existing and planned development in the town.
- Capacity of the current water supply (including the springs) will meet the water supply needs of the town in the medium term and will be likely sufficient to accommodate development targeted in this plan.
- Traffic congestion along the Main Street.
- The R747/N81 junction has been identified as an area in need of improvement in particular the removal of hazardous pedestrian movements on this route.
- Contains a significant amount of natural, archaeological and built heritage.
- Six buildings within the core are listed on the Record of Protected Structures, with a further seven entries located outside the town core but within the plan area.
- Various recorded monuments including the recorded monuments at Baltinglass Hills which is also listed as a zone of archaeological potential.
- Landscape within and around Baltinglass comprises of the corridor area along the N81 national secondary route/an area of high amenity in recognition of the presence of the Baltinglass hills to the north east and the rural area relating to low lying farmlands to the south of the town.
- One listed view within the plan area south of Baltinglass along the R747 'view of Rathnagree and Rathcoran hillforts'.
- One listed prospect north of the town 'Prospect of Slaney River valley, Baltinglass Abbey, Rathnagree and Rathcoran hillforts'.

Newtownmountkennedy

- Greystones WWTP has a current capacity of 40,000PE and loading of c. 25,000PE. There is adequate capacity to serve the proposed growth in Newtownmountkennedy.
- Newtownmountkennedy is served by the Vartry Water Scheme which has capacity to accommodate the water demands of the existing and planned future population.
- One of the key issues arising in Newtownmountkennedy relates to the vehicular dominance of the main street, and its alignment / design which allows for high speeds thereon, which is diminishing safety for pedestrians / cyclist and the overall experience and function of the town centre.
- There are 15 structures within the plan boundary, as set out in the Wicklow Record of Protected Structures in the Wicklow County Development Plan, which are mainly located within the town centre.
- Glendarragh Stream, Newtownmountkennedy River and Ballyronan Stream present surface water, flooding and ecological sensitivities.

Rathdrum

- Wastewater - having regard to the population target set out in the plan, it would appear that no capacity issues are likely to arise during the plan period and beyond.
- Water supply - Rathdrum is served by a spring water supply located in the Ballinderry area to the west of Rathdrum. Water is stored in a reservoir at Ballinderry initially and thereafter at a reservoir in Ballygannon closer to Rathdrum. This water source is under pressure and Wicklow County Council is currently working with Irish Water to augment same to cater for the planned population increase.
- Public transport - improvement in these public transport services will be necessary to allow for a workable park and ride facility for the people of Rathdrum and surrounding hinterland.
- Walking and cycling - while the majority of the main routes in the town have footpaths, many are narrow and in need of enhancement to width and overall quality.
- Vehicular movement - with increased population in the town and increased car ownership, traffic flows are steadily increasing and coupled with the lack of width on the main street due to on street car parking; congestion is common, particularly at busy times such as at school pick up time.
- There are 9 buildings within the plan area of Rathdrum recorded for heritage value and listed on the Wicklow Record of Protected Structures.
- There are two Architectural Conservation Areas in the settlement – the main town centre and 'Low Town'.
- Within the town, there is one national monument recorded – a graveslab at St. Saviour's Church. Surrounding the plan area there are a number of additional recorded monuments such as an enclosure at Knockadosan, and raths at Glasnarget and Balleese.
- The key feature in the settlement is the Avonmore River. This river represents a significant salmonid catchment with significant populations of salmon, sea-trout, brown-trout and lamprey. Although not designated a candidate SAC for freshwater pearl mussel, the system does contain populations of the mussel.

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Level 5 Plans establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of each settlement (Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin and Tinahely), and seek to enhance and facilitate the balancing of economic, social and environmental infrastructure in order to maintain and develop a high quality of life without compromising the protection of the environment and the needs of future generations. Level 5 settlements in County Wicklow are the smaller towns of the County that provide important economic and social services to their populations and immediate hinterland. Such towns normally have a good range of infrastructural services and are suited to accommodating urban generated housing demand.

Key sensitivities in each of the Level 5 settlements that have been considered by the Plan preparation/SEA/AA/SFRA processes include those summarised below.

Ashford

- Wastewater: there is adequate capacity to meet the needs of the plan area alongside the projected populations for Wicklow and Rathnew up to 2031.
- Water Supply: Ashford Town will have sufficient water supply to meet the needs of projected population growth. One building on Record of Protected Structures (former Garda Station) and demesne structures and grounds surrounding centres.
- Few archaeological sites in the plan area.
- Vartry River (Salmonid River) flows through the town to The Murrough, a protected wetland on the coast.
- Landscape is considered to be of low vulnerability.

Aughrim

- Wastewater - improvements to the plant are required, and funding has been sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024. No new development shall be permitted unless there is adequate capacity in the wastewater collection and treatment system.
- Water Supply - the current public water supply in Aughrim and Annacurrigh is abstracted from the Tinakilly River at Threewells to the north-east of the town. It is intended during 2021-2022 to replace this supply by connecting Aughrim to the Arklow water supply scheme with a connection to the water treatment plant at Ballyduff, and this new supply will have adequate capacity to accommodate the growth level targets for Aughrim in this plan up to 2031 and beyond.
- Public Transport: there are no public transport facilities within the town with the exception of the rural transport scheme provided by local link.
- Walking and cycling: the local authority will aim to improve pedestrian, cyclist and traffic safety and accessibility throughout the town and to provide safe and high quality links between residential areas and the town centre, community/sports facilities and the school. In addition, the Local Authority will continue to work with the local community to maintain and provide new amenity walking routes in and around the town, in particular the Arklow – Shillelagh greenway.
- The Aughrim River, which flows from confluence of the Derry Water and River Ow forms a significant natural feature south of the town centre area.

Carnew

- Wastewater - the plant was designed for a load capacity of 2,300pe and as of 2018 is working at a current load of 1,559pe well within operational limits.
- Water Supply - there are currently no deficiencies in the supply or network, which would impact on the development of Carnew.
- There are 12 structures located within the town of Carnew recorded for heritage value and listed on the Record of Protected Structures. Within and surrounding the plan area there are a number of recorded monuments including Carnew Castle/Tower House, Rock Art, and a Grave Slab within the grounds of 'All Saints Church'.
- Recorded monuments include Carnew Castle/Tower House.
- Landscape is designated as a Rural Area and there are no listed views or prospects within or surrounding the plan area.

Dunlavin

- Wastewater - the plant will be capable of meeting the requirements of the planned population up to 2031.
- Water Supply - improvements to the supply are required, and funding has been sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024. No new development shall be permitted unless there is adequate capacity in the water supply system.
- Entire town core is designated as an area of 'archaeological potential or significance' and as an 'Architectural Conservation Area', while the disused rail line is an important man made landscape feature of cultural and amenity value, with features such as granite bridges, railway mounds and cuttings, and the former station and platform still remaining.

Tinahely

- Wastewater - no new development shall be permitted unless there is adequate capacity in the wastewater collection and treatment system.
- Water Supply - there are currently no deficiencies in this supply or network, which would impact on future development.
- Parts of Tinahely are at flood risk. Lands at a high and moderate risk of flooding are identified on the attached flood risk maps.
- Town centre would benefit from the introduction of additional off street public parking.
- Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation is a key feature.
- Contains an Architectural Conservation Area.

Level 6 Plans establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of each settlement (Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood and Shillelagh), and seek to enhance and facilitate the balancing of economic, social and environmental infrastructure in order to maintain and develop a high quality of life without compromising the protection of the environment and the needs of future generations. Level 6 settlements in County Wicklow are the smallest 'towns' of the County, but still provide important economic and social services to their population and rural hinterland. Such towns normally have a reasonable range of infrastructural services and are suited to accommodating some urban generated housing demand, with necessary controls in place to ensure that new development is in proportion to the scale, grain and pattern of the settlement.

Key sensitivities in each of the Level 6 settlements that have been considered by the Plan preparation/SEA/AA/SFRA processes include those summarised below.

Avoca

- Scenic rural setting along the Avoca River.
- A Traffic Accessibility Plan was implemented in 2011/2012, through which works were completed to improve pedestrian accessibility and traffic safety throughout the town.
- Adjacent to wide floodplain.
- Lack of transportation links between the town centre and lands west of the R752.

- Water supply reservoir has sufficient storage capacity to provide for current target levels of future growth.
- Wastewater treatment plant is currently overloaded and no further connections are being permitted until a new plant is provided by Irish Water. IW has selected the existing plant site as the preferred site for the new plant and design work is progressing.

Donard

- Water supply: the public water supply to Donard is from Donard/Hollywood scheme. This supply has adequate capacity to accommodate the growth target for Donard.
- Wastewater: system is likely to have adequate capacity for the targeted levels of growth.
- Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Browns Beck River.
- Range of 18th and 19th century architecture in the town some of which are listed in the Record of Protected Structures.
- The town green provides an attractive open space while the views of the surrounding wooded landscape from the town enhance its rural setting. Donard is located in close proximity to Lugnaquilla Mountain, the highest peak in Wicklow and is well positioned to take advantage of the natural and recreational amenities in the surrounding hinterland, particularly with regard to potential to serve visitors and tourists.

Newcastle

- Water Supply: currently supplied by the Vartry Scheme which has adequate capacity for the targeted level of growth.
- Waste Water Treatment: currently served by a Waste Water Treatment Plant located on Sea Road. The capacity of the treatment plant is 1,000 population equivalent (PE) with a current loading of c. 900 PE; therefore capacity for new development is limited.
- Castle ruins.

Roundwood

- Water Supply: Roundwood is served by a single bored well which has capacity constraints. Improvements to this supply are required, and funding has been sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024. No new development shall be permitted unless there is adequate capacity in the water supply system.
- Waste Water Treatment: The existing wastewater plant in Roundwood has a capacity of 1,600pe (population equivalents) and a current loading of c. 1,200pe. The spare capacity is likely to be sufficient to accommodate the moderate growth target in this plan.
- Attractive setting with views of the Vartry Reservoir and surrounding mountainous landscape.

Shillelagh

- Water supply - There are currently no deficiencies in this supply or network, which would impact on the development of Shillelagh.
- Wastewater - The current loading is c. 450pe, and therefore capacity to accommodate new development is limited, but should be sufficient to meet the moderate growth targeted during the lifetime of this plan.
- Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, flows through the town.
- Town was planned as part of the Fitzwilliam estate in the 17th century with the nearby Coolattin House being the seat of the estate.

The aim of the **Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan** to establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of Laragh and Glendalough, and to enhance and facilitate the balancing of tourism, economic, social and environmental infrastructure in order to maintain and develop a high quality of life without compromising the protection of the environment and the needs of future generations.

Key sensitivities at Laragh-Glendalough that have been considered by the Plan preparation/SEA/AA/SFRA processes include those summarised below.

- Wastewater: plant has a design capacity of 1,000pe and has a current loading of 715pe. This plant is therefore likely to have capacity to meet the housing growth target, but may come under pressure in the event of any significant new tourism or other commercial development occurring. No new development shall be permitted unless there is adequate capacity in the wastewater collection and treatment system.
- Water supply to the Laragh Water Supply Scheme is sourced from a surface water source at Glenmacnass which is fed to the Laragh Reservoir by gravity from the Glenmacnass Treatment Works. The Laragh distribution system extends to Glendalough in the west. At present, water supply is able to meet demand but in times of dry weather and high demand, such as the tourist season, supply can be limited. No new development shall be permitted unless there is adequate capacity in the water supply system.
- Laragh village and the Glendalough area suffer from traffic congestion during periods of peak demand, which has the effect of reducing the amenity and safety of the area.
- Unique natural, archaeological and built heritage within and surrounding the Plan area including Glendalough Early Medieval Monastic Settlement and Wicklow Mountains National Park.

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes.

Mitigation was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

9.2 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and the adoption of the Plan, Wicklow County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Housing;
- Landscape;
- Climate Action;
- Built Environment;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Energy and Waste;
- Flood Resilience and Water;
- Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure Provisions;
- Development and Design Standards; and
- Single Rural Houses Design Guidelines.

9.3 Consideration of Alternatives

Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 6), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Council considered a number of alternatives for the Plan.

These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process (see Section 7) and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of preferred alternatives, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

9.4 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.

Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES.

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level.

Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

9.5 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

Various provisions have been integrated into the text of the Plan through the Plan-preparation and SEA, SFRA and AA processes. Both the Planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation which was developed over multiple iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Table 9.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could help to minimise flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan¹²⁴

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity</p> <p>Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p>Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>Environmental Protection</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Corridor and Route Selection</p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives</p> <p>General</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Protected sites and species</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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:</p>

¹²⁴ Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , 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) , 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) 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. <p>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 .</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) 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.</p> <p>Sites & Corridors of ecological & biodiversity value</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</p> <p>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 long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.</p> <p>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.</p>

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p> <p>In particular, to support the development of existing and examine the feasibility of new walking, cycling, horse riding and water based routes and trails along the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way; • the extension of the 'Blessington Greenway' walk around the Phoulaphuca reservoir; • the expansion of a lakeshore walk around the Vartry reservoir; • the extension of the old Shillelagh branch recreational trail - railway walk from Arklow to Shillelagh; • the development of a route along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass. • the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road; • the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes). • the Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells. • 'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle. <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Recreation and Tourism</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes ; • Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16. <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Light Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development & Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 19.13 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 plan¹²⁵.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cell 2 Bray Head CPO 19.17</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect and enhance Bray Head, in accordance with the SAO. 2. To maintain and enhance amenity routes on Bray Head and in particular the cliff path from Bray to Greystones. 3. To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps, while preserving the rugged and natural character of the area and its paths 4. To protect all listed views and prospects to or from Bray Head as set out in the Local Area Plan for Bray MD and County Development Plan. 5. Development, which would reduce existing areas of heathland, maritime grassland and wooded areas, will not normally be permitted except for reasons of overriding public interest. 6. To facilitate existing agricultural usage of Bray Head, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitat diversity. 7. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its amenity and green break function between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding; b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area; c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell. 8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft or hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown) CPO 19.18</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its function as a green break between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding; b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area; c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell. 2. To maintain and enhance the cliff path from Bray to Greystones, while preserving its rugged and natural character. 3. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.

¹²⁵ 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 plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

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Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant if Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p>Cell 4 Greystones Town CPO 19.19</p> <p>1. To support the objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole, in particular to provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park. The development shall provide leisure, recreational, open space and marine facilities, and mixed form residential, commercial, civic and social amenities, centred around the harbour and marina. The development shall provide a link to the coastline with public access and coastal protection works provided to preserve the landscape from further erosion in the future.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage and changing / toilet facilities.</p> <p>Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin) CPO 19.20</p> <p>1. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</p> <p>2. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>3. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</p> <p>4. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</p> <p>7. To facilitate and support the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities.</p> <p>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the ecological and amenity value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</p> <p>1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</p> <p>3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations.</p> <p>6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</p> <p>7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</p> <p>8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</p> <p>9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p>10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</p> <p>1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively.</p> <p>3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port.</p> <p>5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south.</p> <p>6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</p> <p>1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites; b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and d) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types; e) automated gates will not be permitted on any development. <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p>Cell 9 Brittas Bay CPO 19.24</p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. To protect, conserve and encourage the recovery of the beach-dune system at Brittas Bay, in accordance with the conservation objectives for which the SAC is designated, and as per site specific conservation management prescriptions prepared in 2018. Development that results in the erosion of the beach-dune system will not be permitted. In this respect, the Council will particularly ensure protection against erosion caused by amenity and recreational use of the dunes.</p> <p>4. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>7. All services and facilities to serve the local community and tourists shall be located within the boundaries of Ballynacarrig Village. Notwithstanding this, one small-scale local service type development shall be considered in proximity to the South Beach car park. The development may comprise a shop/service garage/pub/restaurant/café development. The maximum floor area of the development shall be 200m².</p> <p>8. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New tourist accommodation shall be directed into one of the three identified development clusters of Ballynacarrig Village, Brittas Bridge and Cornagower (as shown on Map XX.02), or to existing developed sites. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where the following criteria are complied with, will accommodation be considered on a greenfield site outside a cluster: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the development shall be located in close proximity to the identified clusters and shall have or be provided with direct and high quality connections to the clusters and to the coast; ii. the development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design. b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design; d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant if Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>9. To limit the size of existing public car parks to the present levels and to support the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the road at Cornagower East.</p> <p>10. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>11. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>12. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p>Cell 10 Mizen Head to Arklow (Sallymount / Johnstown) CPO 19.25</p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>a) New tourist accommodation shall be limited to suitable sites west of the coast road that are served by high quality road network and are or can be provided with direct and proximate access to the coast.</p> <p>b) Permission will only be considered for new tourist accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc).</p> <p>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design.</p> <p>d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types.</p> <p>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>7. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>8. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the coast road, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>9. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>10. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water and energy infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p>Cell 11 Arklow Environs CPO 19.26</p> <p>1. To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Arklow coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the Arklow Town and Environs Local Area Plan.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>3. To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour / marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone jetty.</p> <p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p>Cell 12 Arklow Head / Clogga CPO 19.27</p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>3. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p>

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			<p>4. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>6. New tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing developed cluster at Clogga or to existing developed sites;</p> <p>a) permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</p> <p>b) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited;</p> <p>d) automated gates will not be permitted on any development; and</p> <p>e) new development shall have or be provided with high quality direct access to the main traffic routes;</p> <p>f) development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</p> <p>7. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>8. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</p>
<p>Population and human health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Seveso Sites</p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the “COMAH Regulations”, (S.I. No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, public health and safeguarding of public health, and protection of the environment; ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2.</p>	
<p>Soil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Soils & Geology</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance ‘County Geological Sites’ (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatland stability; • Carbon emissions balance; and • Hydrology and ecology.
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p>Water Quality Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.1 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 Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO 13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (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 location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO 13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newtownmountkennedy - Rathdrum - Dunlavin - The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p>

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water efficient equipment; - Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; - Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; - Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; - The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; - In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arklow - Blessington - Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca - Laragh – Glendalough - Lakes area around Blessington - Large and Small Villages <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; • the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); • the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and • in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>Flood Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p>	

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant if Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures, and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme; - Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme; - Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme; - Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows; and - Ensure that development proposals support, and do not impede or prevent, progression of such schemes. <p>CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).</p> <p>CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary.</p> <p>CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines).</p> <p>CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. • An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding. • Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed. • Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines. • Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA. <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>CPO 14.10 To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.</p> <p>CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving.</p> <p>CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Water Systems</p> <p>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</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 location) 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.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Air Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p>Noise Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Refer to Section 8.6 "Integration of Climate Action into the Plan".</p>
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG); • 'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)', EPA 2006; • 'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009; • 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and • 'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009. <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newtownmountkennedy - Rathdrum - Dunlavin

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<p>Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies. CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible. CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted. CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme. <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water efficient equipment; - Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; - Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; - Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; - The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; - In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arklow - Blessington - Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca - Laragh – Glendalough <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; • the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); • the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and • in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:</p> <p>Solid Waste Management Objectives CPO 15.1 To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site. CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development & Design Standards of this plan). CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites. CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste. CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area. CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Hazardous Waste Objectives CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan. CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of open space amenities, • sustainable management of water, • protection and management of biodiversity, • protection of cultural heritage, and • protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and • the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment) <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption), • the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority, • the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow, • the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area, <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrrough Coastal Protection Study, the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities 	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p> <p>Archaeology Objectives CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>

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		<p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules X.01 & X.02 and Maps X.01 & X.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate new or improved public access to and erection of appropriate interpretive signage at National Monuments, archaeological sites, castles, sites of historic interest and archaeological landscapes in State or private ownership, as identified in Schedule 08.02 and Map 8.02 of this plan, in co-operation with landowners.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p>Other Structures & Vernacular Architecture Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA. • The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line. • The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings. 	

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible. • A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required. • The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used. • Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA. <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p>Historical & Cultural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p> <p>CPO 8.28 Any road or bridge improvement works along the Military Road shall be designed and constructed with due regard to the history and notable features of the road (in particular its original support structures, route and alignment), insofar as is possible and reasonable given the existing transport function of the road.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p>Landscape, Views & Prospects</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan.

10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring programmes.

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further

refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

10.3 Sources

The Plan forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

10.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan, in consultation with others. This report will seek to address the indicators set out on Table 10.1. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports (reports will be made available to the public) and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)¹²⁶ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)¹²⁷ Consultations with the NPWS (see Section 10.4)¹²⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with DECC (see Section 10.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC

¹²⁶ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

¹²⁷ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

¹²⁸ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
			will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets)		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH AA/Screening for AA for each application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance ¹²⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where marine water bodies are failing to meet good ecological status, this will be interrogated with the Marine Institute and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to RSES

¹²⁹ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<p>activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with the Marine Institute and DHLGH in such a circumstance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity. Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water (see Section 10.4) DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (see Section 10.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Climatic Factors	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with DHLGH (see Section 10.4). 	
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
International/European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a “screening procedure” is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species’ habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	<p>combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution. 	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks Reducing invasive alien species Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss 	<p>plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments. 	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the</p>

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UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards

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	<p>with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>– in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk of flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve “good status” for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the</p>

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Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Landscape Convention 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may</p>

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	<p>landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</p>		<p>arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bali Road Map (2007)</p>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Cancun Agreements (2010)</p>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to

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European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	<p>comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020	<p>The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	<p>Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.</p>	<p>The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020	<p>Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.</p>	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; • Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; • Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<p>contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes. 	
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. 	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]	<p>The Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies</p>

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European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	<p>and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. 	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good 	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation,</p>

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Protection of Waters Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. 	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Plan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Climate Action Plan 2021 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021. 	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, including in 2022, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards

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European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; • Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; • Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; • Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; • Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; • Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; • Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; • Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and • Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. • Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing on and offshore wind, • Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, • Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, • Growing sustainable transport; and • Building out robust and efficient networks. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: <p>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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			objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Charter (2019)	Wicklow County Council signed up to the Climate Action Charter in December 2019. This charter includes substantial targets with regard to mitigation of climate change and increase energy efficiency.	Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of drawing up an implementation plan which takes in all the actions from the Climate Action Charter and the Climate Adaptation Strategy. The implementation plan will list all the actions, who is responsible for delivering it and an indication of the time to deliver it.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Island Grid Study 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO₂ emissions compared to portfolio 1 All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards

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	<p>various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. 	<p>– in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</p>	<p>Vision: <i>“Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.”</i></p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</i> 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; 	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 		
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i> 	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Framework sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. 	<p>The three priorities stated in the Framework are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</p>	<p>Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.</p>	<p>Key targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels). At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018. At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. 	<p>Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards</p>

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			– in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	<p>combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on River Basin Districts (RBDs). • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. • Sets groundwater quality standards. • Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	Six strategic objectives as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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<p>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</p> <p>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</p> <p>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Rural Development Programme</p>	<p>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas</p>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</p>	<p>'Our Rural Future' provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Framework acknowledges that the country is heading into an era of unprecedented change as we recover from the impact of COVID-19, as we adapt to new ways of working, as the impact of Brexit presents itself and as we transition to a climate-neutral society. This change is considered a significant opportunity for rural areas.</p>	<p>Our Rural Future focuses on the following thematic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband. • Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas. • Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages. • Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities. • Enhancing public services in rural areas. • Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy. • Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry. • Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities. • Nurturing our culture and heritage. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017</p>	<p>The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.</p>	<p>The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Sustainable Communities, • Supporting Enterprise and Employment, • Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential, • Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and • Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. 	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afforestation and Creation of Woodland • NeighbourWood Scheme • Forest Roads • Reconstitution Scheme 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Improvement Scheme • Native Woodland Conservation Scheme • Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions • Producer Groups • Innovative Forest Technology • Forest Genetic Reproductive Material • Forest Management Plans 	<p>arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
River Basin Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	<p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. • To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. 	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. 	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. • To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. • To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies</p>

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Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland • Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 • Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Context Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination Enhancing the Visitor Experience Research in the Irish Tourism Sector Supporting Local Communities in Tourism Wider Government Policy International Context Co-ordination Structures 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets <p>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. • There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025. The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. • Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997)	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; • to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards

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Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)		to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.	– in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences • Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. • In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020)	The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland. The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.	The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment. • Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector. • Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection. • Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period. • Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses. • Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors; • Increase the contribution to the national GDP; • Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework; • Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; • Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; • Implement and comply with environmental legislation; • Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity; • Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and • Engagement and participation by all. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to

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Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. 	comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. • Vision Statement: “The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas.” • Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy. 	Core principles deriving from the strategic vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high-quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high-quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans (including Development Plans Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes) in force within County Wicklow and in other adjoining planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development. Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2016-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2023	It sets out a vision of what can be achieved in Wicklow, with clear priorities and a series of detailed actions and next steps to ensure the County is realising its potential over the next 5 years.	<p>The goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Wicklow as a year round destination; Capture more overnight tourism; Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation; Convert day visitors to staying visitors; Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets; Strategic approach to marketing and promotion; and Deliver sustainable development. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Heritage Plan 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.	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may

SEA Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions; and Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate information. 	arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015	Sets out a strategy for increasing our understanding and appreciation of this along with measures for enhancing the protection of this valuable resource	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide a focussed approach for the county, identifying priorities habitats and species in need of attention and the action required to secure their future. <p>It identifies opportunities and needs for partnership work and, is the start of a targeted and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation in the county.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Noise Action Plan 2018- 2023	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	Response to the impact that the climate change is having and will continue to have on the County of Wicklow and its citizens. It addresses how Wicklow County as an organisation responds to the impacts of Climate Change.	<p>The Plans' objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make Wicklow a stronger county by reducing impacts of future climate change related events; Fully consider and mainstream climate adaptation in the day to day delivery of services by Wicklow County Council; <p>Actively engage with and inform citizens and communities in Wicklow about the impacts of climate change. Public awareness is key to developing effective climate adaptation measures.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow County Council Draft Energy Plan/Energy Performance Strategy (2020)	Wicklow County Council Housing and Corporate Estate Department are currently working on an Energy Plan / Energy Performance Strategy which seeks to deliver the targets of the Charter with regard to Council's infrastructure / assets.	Upgrading of the public lighting to LED lights is an example of such a project.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Healthy Wicklow 2018-2021	Wicklow County Council produced the 'Healthy Wicklow' strategy in line with the 'National Activity Plan' and the 'Healthy Ireland' framework.	The document aims to assess the requirements and provides objectives with which to improve the overall health and well-being of the people of Wicklow and is guided with the four following key goals:	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</p>	<p>combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Wicklow Age-Friendly Strategy 2017-2022</p>	<p>The age-friendly strategy was developed with the aim of making Wicklow an age friendly county, a county in which all public service and private sector providers work in partnership to make Wicklow great. It gives commitments to improving infrastructure both physical and social as well as services and information provision to improve the quality of life of older people across the county.</p> <p>The strategy aims, in combination with other government and county programmes and plans, including the County Development Plan, to make Wicklow a county that is more accessible and accommodating to people as they grow older.</p>	<p>The document seeks to address existing issues and improve the conditions for the ageing population in Wicklow under the following 9 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 1 Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Theme 2 Transportation Theme 3 Housing Theme 4 Social Participation Theme 5 Respect and Social Inclusion Theme 6 Civic Participation and Employment Theme 7 Communication and Information Theme 8 Community Support and Health Services Theme 9 Safety and Security 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Wicklow Tourism Strategy & Marketing Plan 2018 - 2023</p>	<p>The Strategy notes that the County is performing well but has enormous untapped potential arising from its natural and built assets, proximity to large markets and relationship to the stories and promise of Ireland's Ancient East. It is recognised that tourism growth strategy should maximise off-peak visits, deliver business year round, be high value, attract international as well as domestic visitors and it must maximise the positive economic impact, achieving overnight stays as a priority.</p>	<p>The Strategy identifies five priority actions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop new accommodation; ▪ Develop the key settlements of Bray, Wicklow, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs; ▪ Masterplan for Glendalough; ▪ Grow thematic experiences; ▪ Develop a common narrative. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>County Wicklow Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2026</p>	<p>The Statement identifies a number of goals for tourism in County Wicklow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Wicklow as a year round destination, • Capture more overnight tourism, • Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation, • Convert day visitors to staying visitors, and • Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets and deliver sustainable development. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>
<p>County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020 - 2025</p>	<p>The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for realising the potential of Wicklow's outdoor recreation assets in a manner which prioritises environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>The Strategy identifies five outdoor recreations hubs / clusters – Glendalough, Rathdrum, Blessington/Baltinglass, Tinahely/Shillelagh and East Coast maritime. Objectives identified include: Expansion of the trails network, preparation of an outdoor recreation transport plan and increase awareness of environmental and cultural responsibilities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>

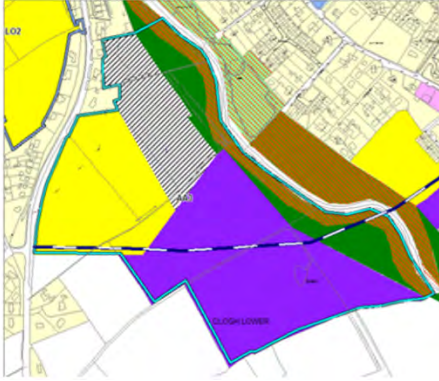
SEA Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Eastern and Midland Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin: A Breath of Fresh Air/Come Here To Me Dublin brands	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appendix II General Location of Land Use Zoning Alternatives considered when preparing the Draft Plan

Baltinglass Area 1: Bawnogues (N81) – former Action Area 3

Current Plan (2016)

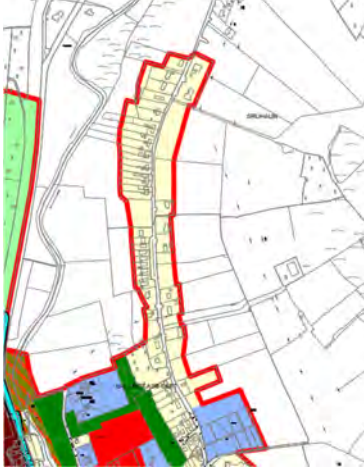


Draft Plan (2021)



Baltinglass Area 2: Baltinglass East - Sruhaun

Current Plan (2016)

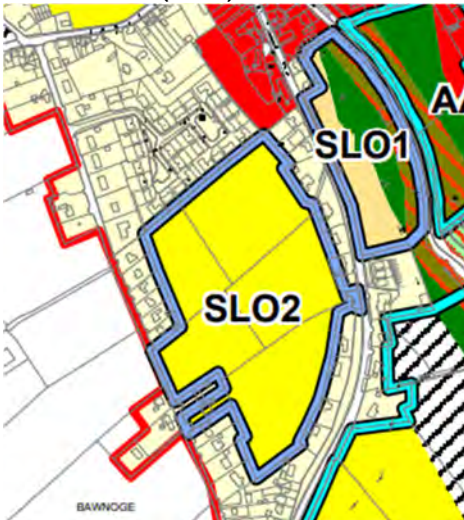


Draft Plan (2021)



Baltinglass Area 3: Bawnogues – Baltinglass west (former SLO1, SLO2)

Current Plan (2016)

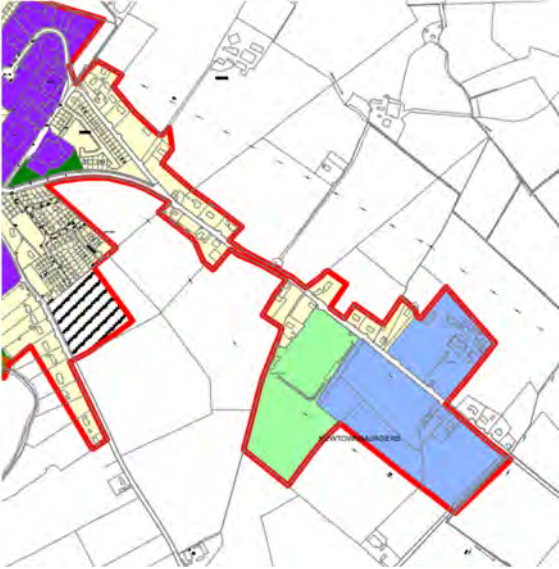


Draft Plan (2021)

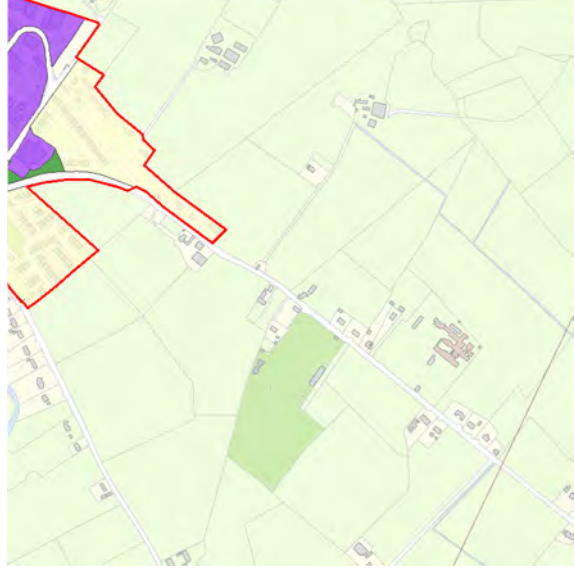


Baltinglass Area 4: Newtownsaunders

Current Plan (2016)

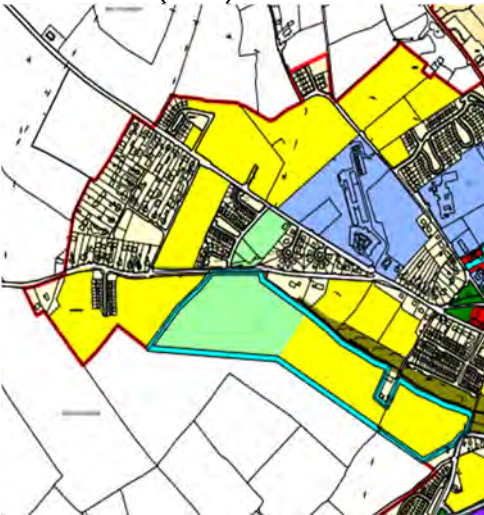


Draft Plan (2021)

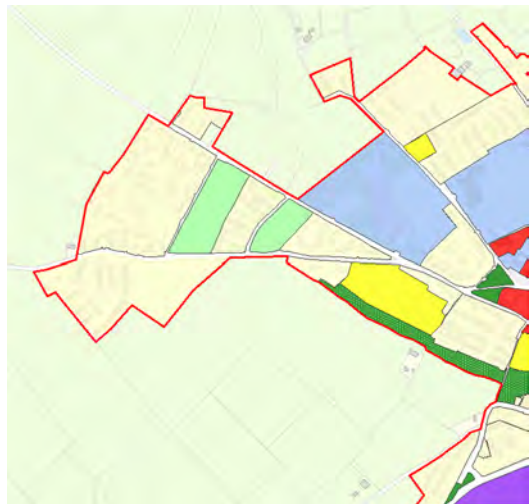


Rathdrum Area 1: Lands to W / NW of town centre

Current Plan (2017)

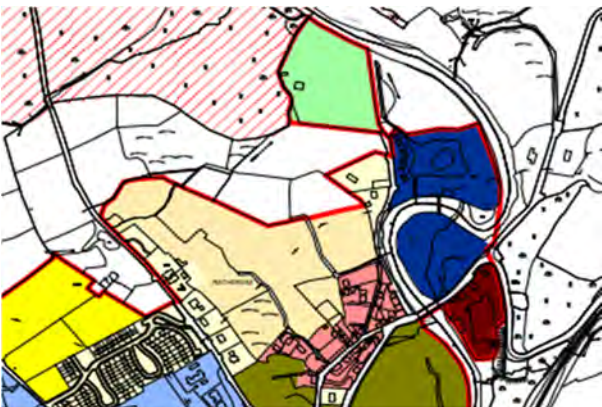


Draft Plan (2021)

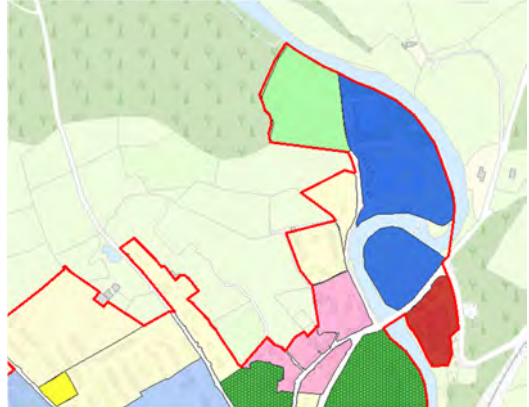


Rathdrum Area 2: North of town centre

Current Plan (2017)



Draft Plan (2021)



Rathdrum Area 3: Riverine

Current Plan (2017)

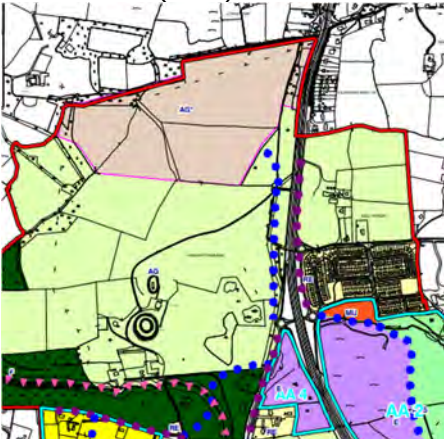


Draft Plan (2021)

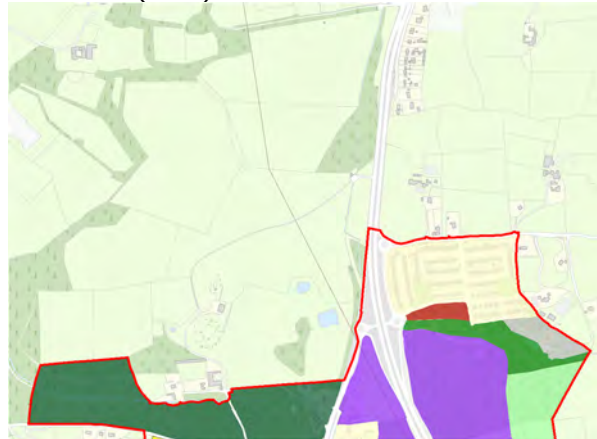


Newtownmountkennedy Area 1: North of settlement

Current Plan (2008)



Draft Plan (2021)

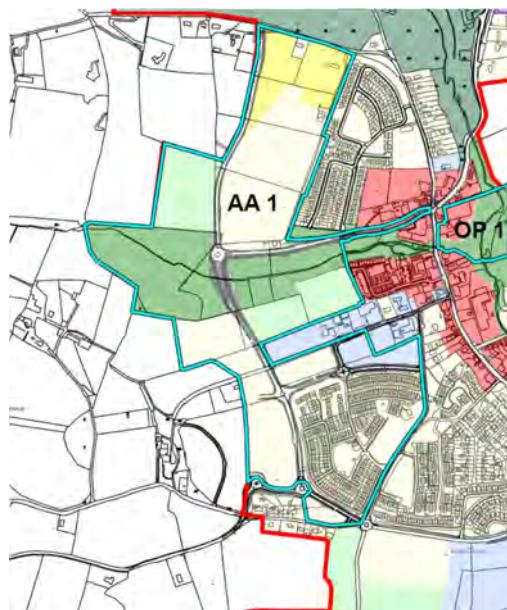


Newtownmountkennedy Area 2: Action Area 1

Current Plan (2008)

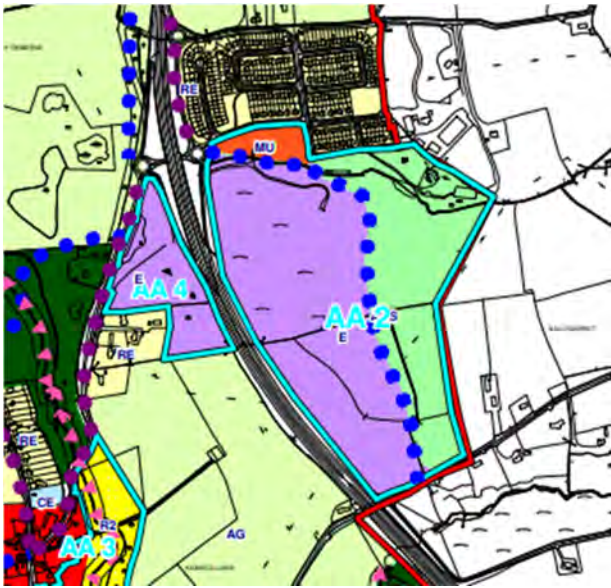


Draft Plan (2021)

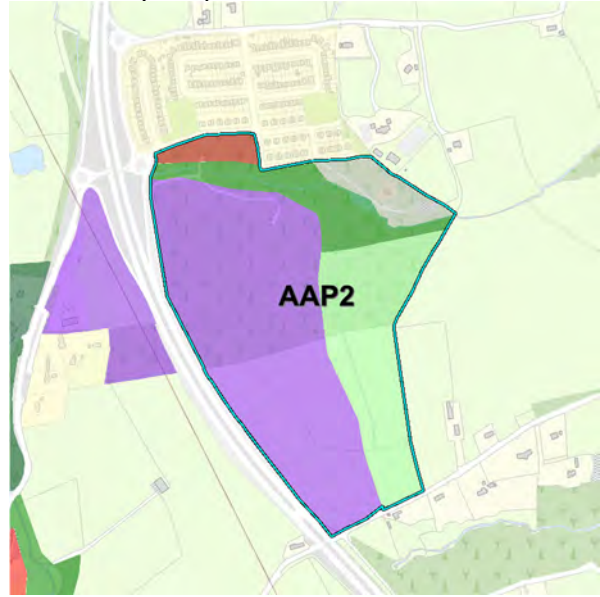


NewtownmounTkennedy Area 3: Ballyronan – Action Area 2

Current Plan (2008)

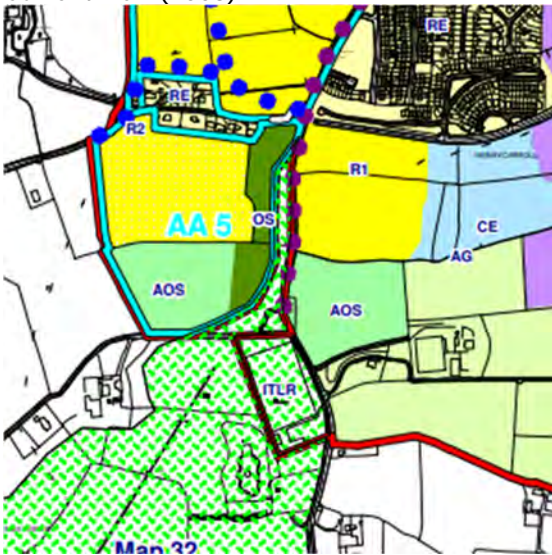


Draft Plan (2021)



NewtownmounTkennedy Area 4: Former Action Area 5, land to east and south

Current Plan (2008)

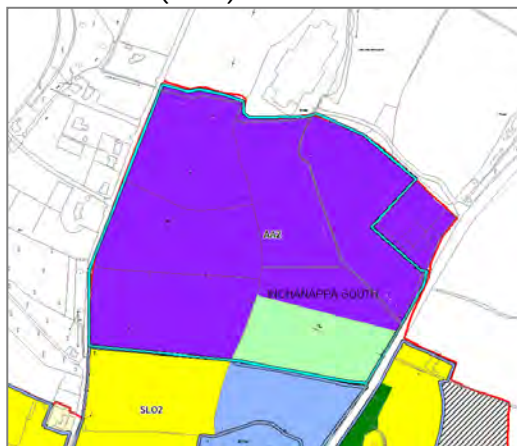


Draft Plan (2021)



Ashford Area 1: Former AA2 & SLO 2

Current Plan (2016)

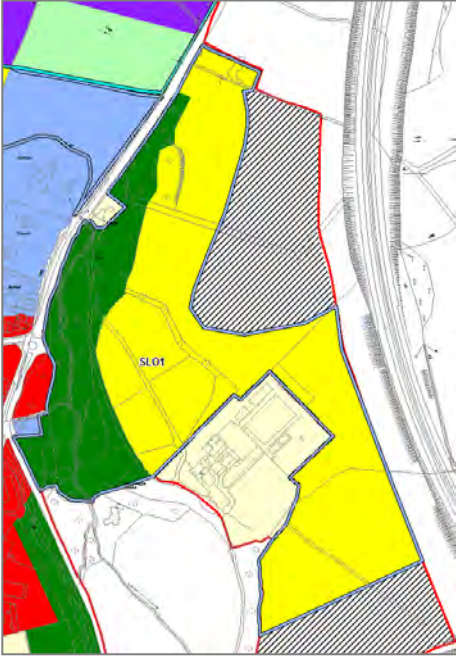


Draft Plan (2021)



Ashford Area 2A

Current Plan (2016)

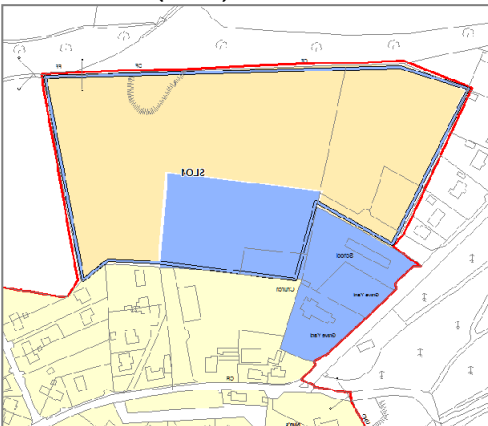


Draft Plan (2021)



Ashford Area 2B

Current Plan (2016)

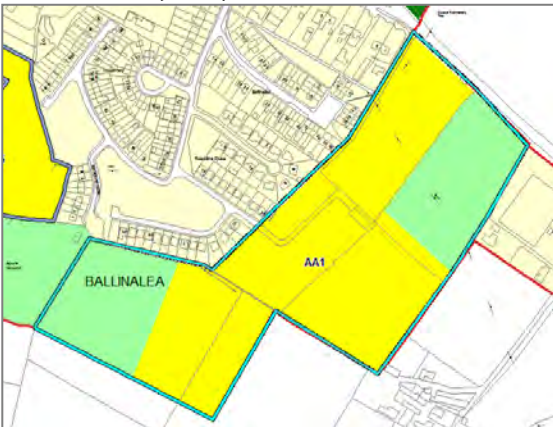


Draft Plan (2021)

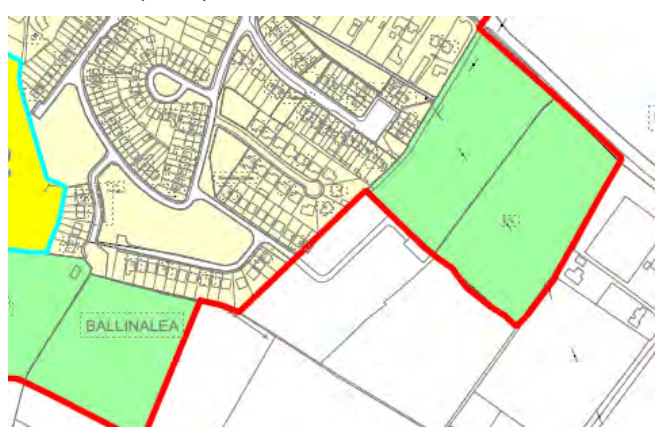


Ashford Area 2C

Current Plan (2016)

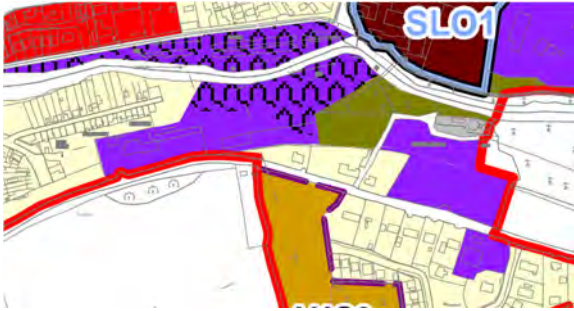


Draft Plan (2021)

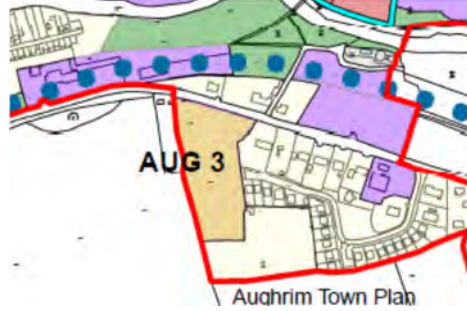


Aughrim Area 1: Area south of Aughrim River

Current Plan (2016)

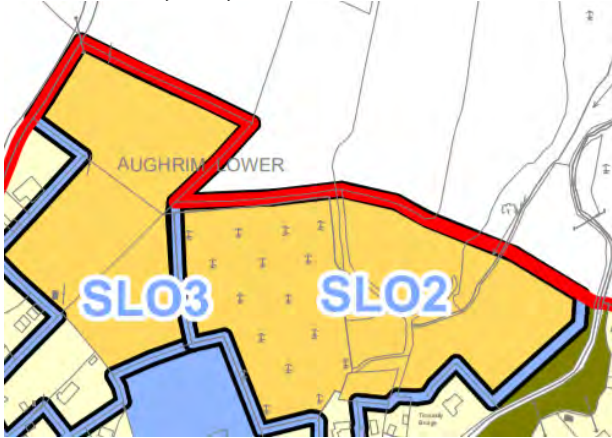


Draft Plan (2021)

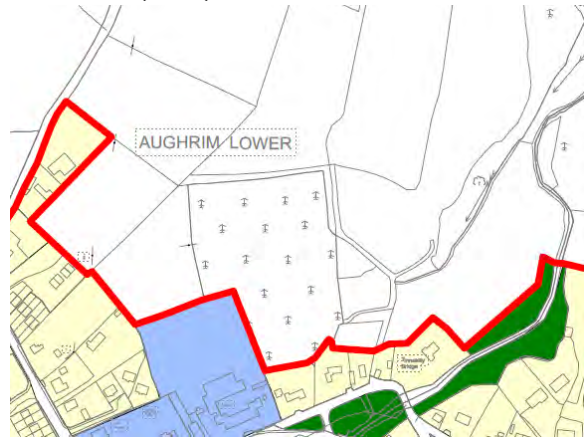


Aughrim Area 2A

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)



Aughrim Area 2B

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)

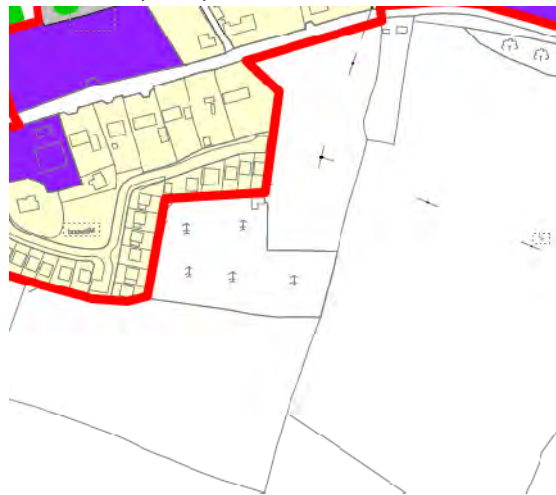


Aughrim Area 2C

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)



Aughrim Area 2D

Current Plan (2016)

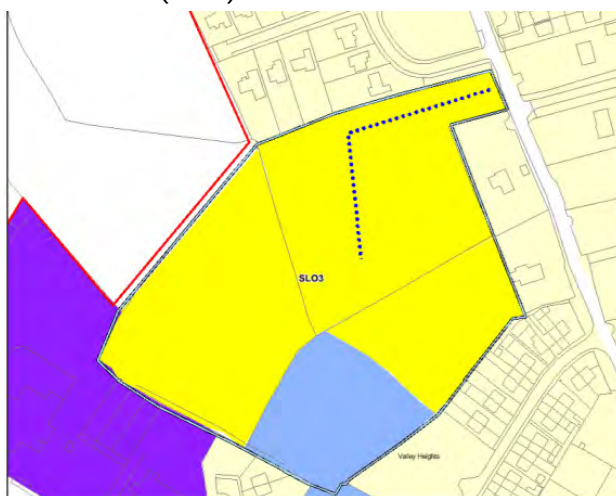


Draft Plan (2021)

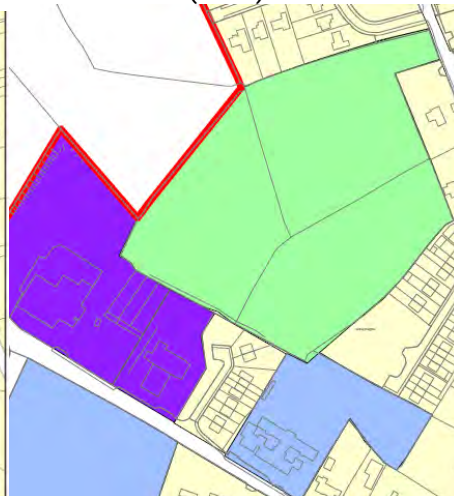


Carnew Area 1: Former SLO 3

Current Plan (2016)

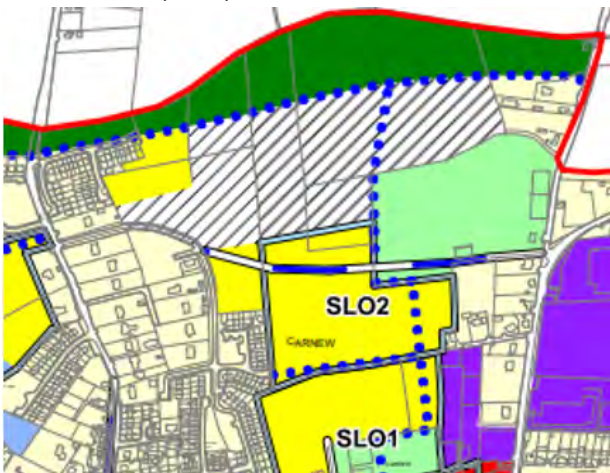


Draft Plan (2021)

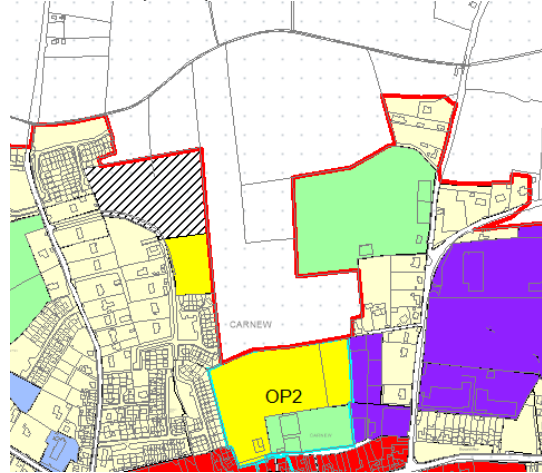


Carnew Area 2: North of town centre

Current Plan (2016)

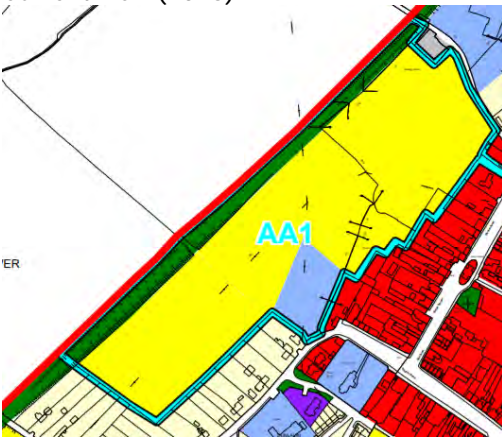


Draft Plan (2021)



Dunlavin Area 1: Former AA1

Current Plan (2016)

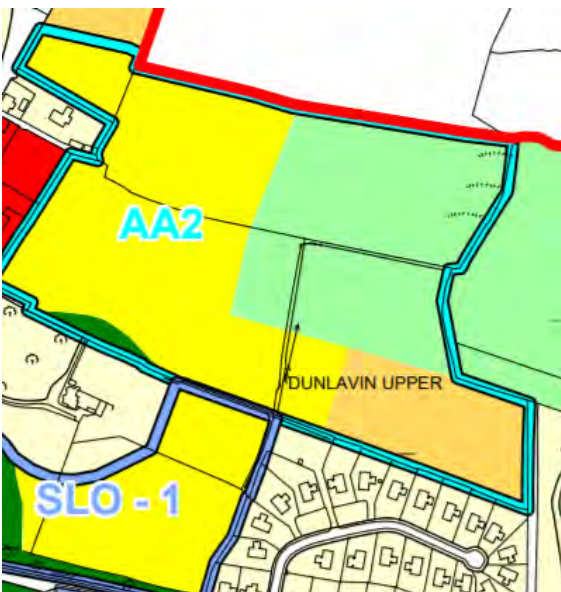


Draft Plan (2021)



Dunlavin Area 2: Former AA2 & SLO 1

Current Plan (2016)

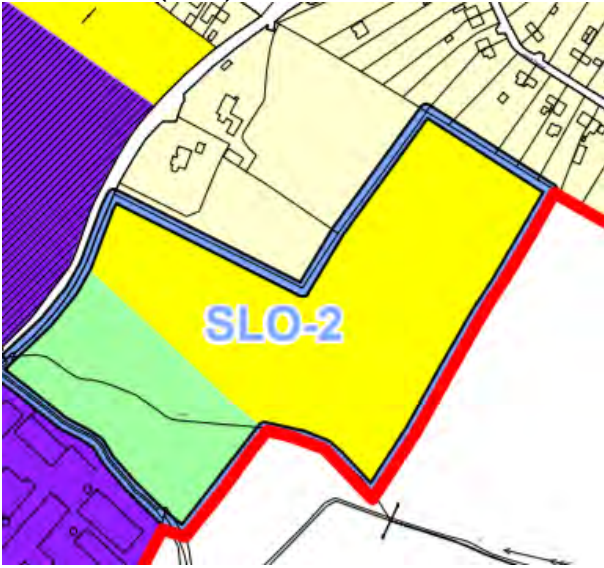


Draft Plan (2021)

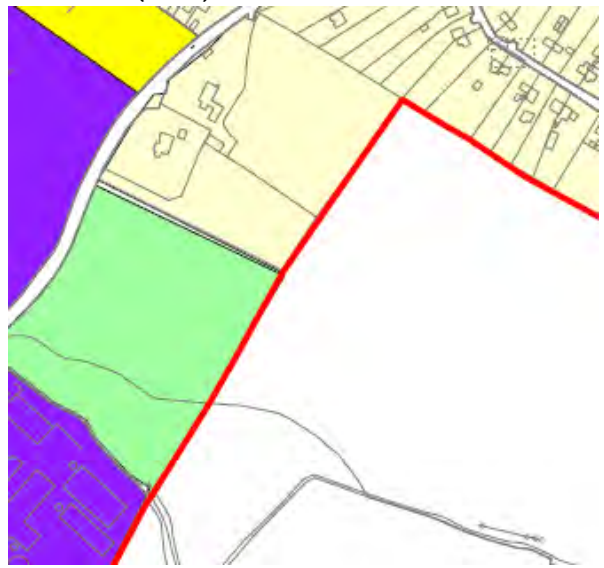


Dunlavin Area 3: Former SLO 2

Current Plan (2016)

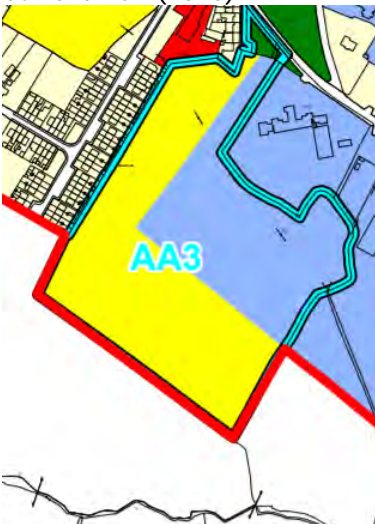


Draft Plan (2021)

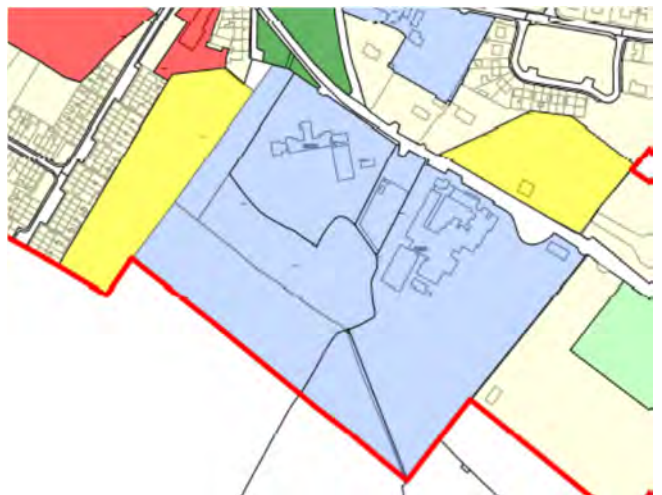


Dunlavin Area 4: Former AA3

Current Plan (2016)

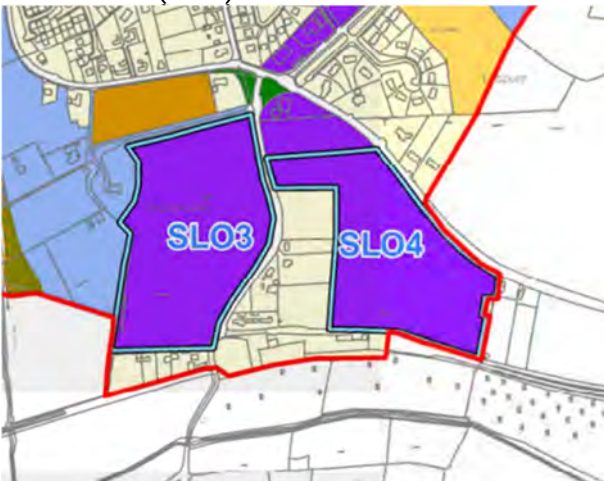


Draft Plan (2021)

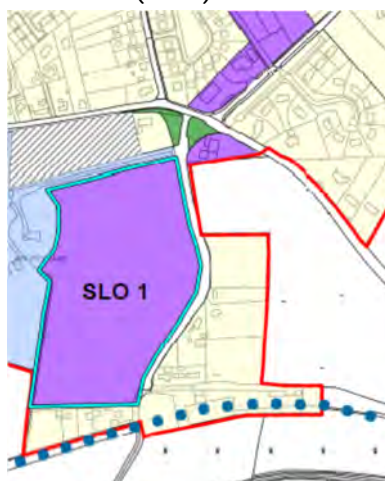


Tinahely Area 1: Former SLO4

Current Plan (2016)

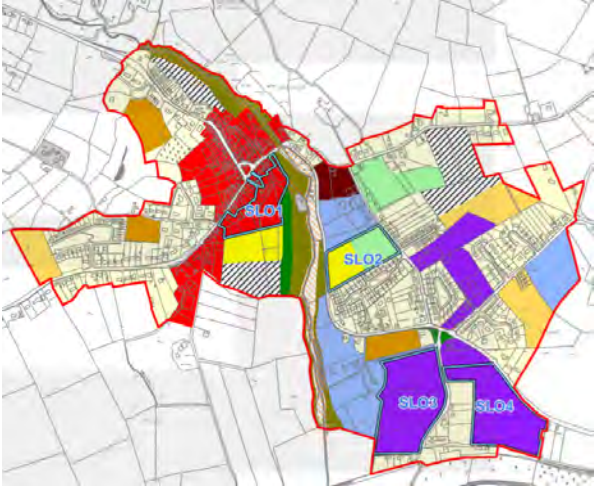


Draft Plan (2021)

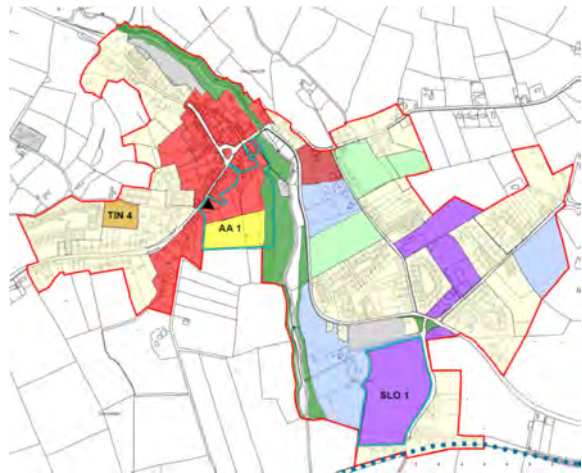


Tinahely Area 2: Residential (various)

Current Plan (2016)

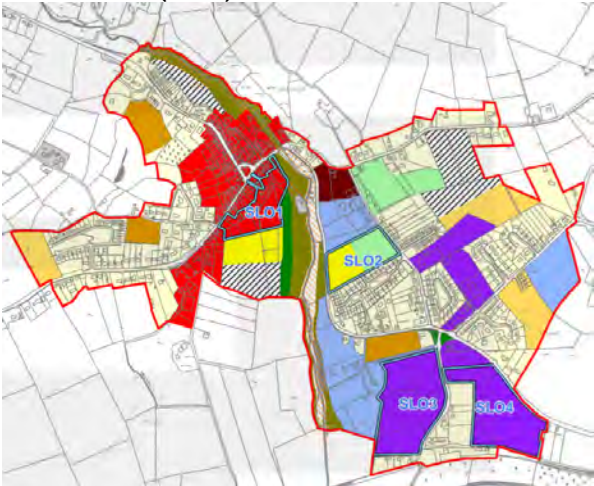


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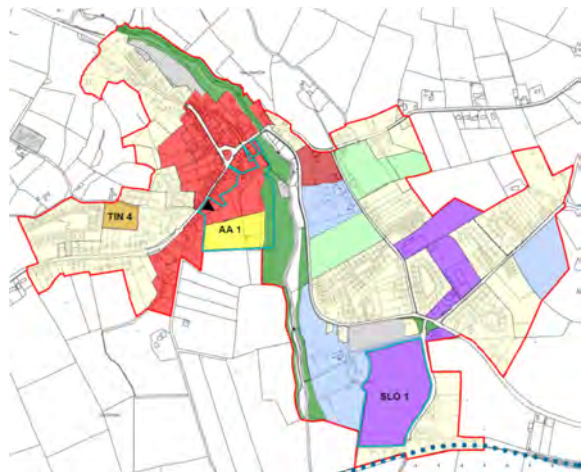


Tinahely Area 3: Strategic Land Bank (various)

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)



SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

APPENDIX III – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

FOR THE

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

for: Wicklow County Council

County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin



OCTOBER 2022

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Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan'). The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan. The Environmental Report has been prepared as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for the Plan.

What is SEA?

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic, social and other considerations.

Why is SEA needed? The Benefits

The SEA has been carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the European SEA Directive and in order to enable sustainable development and environmental protection and management. SEA is the planning authority's and the public's guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the County.

SEA enables the planning authority to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the County – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible areas in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain and improve services to existing and future communities.

SEA enables requirements relating to environmental protection and management to be integrated into the Plan so that compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also facilitated.

SEA provides greater to the public and to developers. Plans are more likely to be adopted without delays or challenges and planning applications are more likely to be granted permission. Environmental mitigation is more likely to cost less.

An overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Wicklow is shown on Figure 1.1.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland and foothill areas of the County, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and High Amenity Area landscape designations, European Site ecological designations, archaeological heritage sensitives and areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability;
- Parts of the coastline and adjacent coastal areas, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape designations, European Site and proposed Natural Heritage Area ecological designations, areas of extreme groundwater vulnerability and coastal flood risk;
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Certain areas that are adjacent to streams and rivers, on account of flood risk.

How does the SEA work?

All of the main environmental issues in the area were assembled and considered by the team who prepared the Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that contributes towards the protection and management of environmental sensitivities. It also helped to identify wherever potential conflicts between the Plan and the environment exist and enabled these conflicts to be mitigated.

The SEA was scoped in consultation with designated environmental authorities.

What is included in the Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan?

- A description of the environment and the key environmental issues;
- A description and assessment of alternatives for the Plan;
- An assessment of the provisions of the Plan; and,
- Mitigation measures, which will avoid/reduce the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and will contribute towards compliance with important environmental protection legislation.

Difficulties Encountered during the SEA process

No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment. There was limited water services information available for some settlements within the County however objectives requiring the provision of appropriate levels of water services alongside new development have been integrated into the Plan.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

What happens at the end of the process?

An SEA Statement is prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

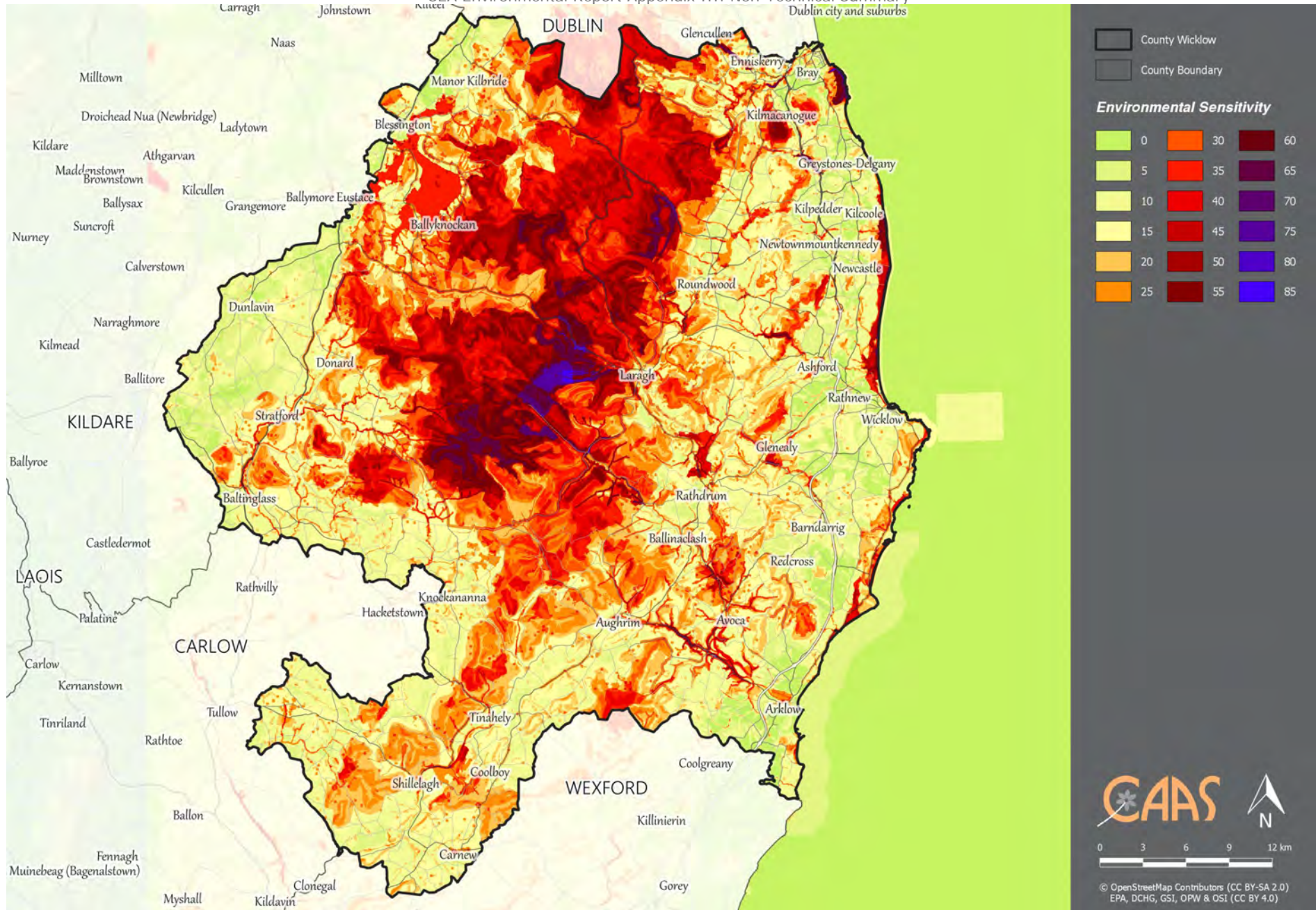


Figure 1.1 Environmental Sensitivities that the Plan directs incompatible development away from CAAS for Wicklow County Council

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Wicklow County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Wicklow over the six-year period 2022-2028.

2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan consists of three Volumes as follow:

- Volume 1: The Written Statement which comprises of 20 Chapters, providing objectives for each Chapter as follows:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction and Context
 - Chapter 2: Development Plan Strategy
 - Chapter 3: Core Strategy
 - Chapter 4: Settlement Strategy
 - Chapter 5: Placemaking for Town and Village Centres
 - Chapter 6: Housing
 - Chapter 7: Community Development
 - Chapter 8: Built Heritage
 - Chapter 9: Economic Development
 - Chapter 10: Retail
 - Chapter 11: Tourism and Recreation
 - Chapter 12: Sustainable Transportation
 - Chapter 13: Water Services
 - Chapter 14: Flood Risk Management
 - Chapter 15: Waste and Environmental Emissions
 - Chapter 16: Energy and Information Infrastructure
 - Chapter 17: Natural Heritage and Biodiversity
 - Chapter 18: Green Infrastructure
 - Chapter 19: Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management
 - Chapter 20: Implementation and Monitoring
- Volume 2: Town and Settlement Plans.
- Volume 3: Appendices, including the AA Natura Impact Report, the SEA Environmental Report and the SFRA Report.

2.3 Plan Vision

The Vision of the Plan is:

'to guide and facilitate the sustainable growth of the County in a manner which supports a deep respect for its unique natural heritage, capitalises on the potential of our towns and villages to deliver compact growth, facilitates healthy placemaking, supports the creation of self-sustaining settlements and rural areas that are attractive places to live in, work in and visit, provides for new job opportunities, embraces climate action and enables the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy, improves sustainable mobility and conserves our heritage.'

The Development Plan Strategy is guided by three Strategic Principles: Healthy Placemaking; Climate Action; and Economic Opportunity. These cross-cutting principles align with the key principles identified in the RSES. These principles frame the strategic county outcomes.

2.4 Strategic County Outcomes

The ten Strategic County Outcomes are informed by the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the key issues arising in submissions from members of the public. The three cross-cutting principles inform the core strategy and the county policy objectives which will guide and inform all new development in the County over the next six years.

SCO1 Sustainable Settlement Patterns & Compact Growth

The delivery of compact growth in all towns and villages by capitalising on the potential for infill and brownfield development, moving away from a reliance on greenfield development and creating places that encourage active lifestyles is essential for the successful delivery of the development plan strategy.

SCO2 Resilient Town and Village Centres – Regeneration & Renewal

Activate the potential for renewal of our town and village centres, creating resilient, adaptable and vibrant places with a strong focus on people. It is essential that we protect and maintain the viability of town and village centres, target the reversal of decline and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes. It is important that regeneration and renewal projects respect and embrace Wicklow's beautiful old buildings and historic streetscapes which give our settlements their identity and strong sense of place. The quality of new architecture will have a long standing impact on the quality of our settlements and therefore should be of the highest quality to withstand the test of time.

SCO3 Strong Rural Communities and Sustainable Rural Development

Strengthen rural communities and support the sustainable development of rural areas. Encourage innovation and rural diversification in order to sustain vibrant rural communities. Leverage the potential of rural settlements to accommodate sustainable growth and a range of services including social and economic enterprise.

SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities

Places should facilitate a high quality of life for all regardless of age or ability. Access to quality housing, employment, childcare, education, health services, community facilities and a clean unpolluted, environment including clean air and water, are defining elements of healthy, attractive and successful places. Investment in a well-designed public realm which includes public spaces, parks, playgrounds, streets and recreational infrastructure to cater for all ages is essential.

SCO5 Sustainable Mobility

The County Development Plan plays an important role in influencing a reduction in GHG emissions by guiding the sustainable growth of the County. The integration of land use and transportation planning, in order to support sustainable mobility and encourage a shift away from the private car to active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport, will deliver improvements in terms of quality of life and climate change.

SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

SCO7 Climate Resilience and the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Support the transition to low carbon clean energy by facilitating renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations and supporting the development of off-shore renewable energy enabling infrastructure especially at ports and harbours. Facilitate the sustainable management of waste including the circular economy. Restrict development in areas that are at risk of flooding and protect the natural landscape and biodiversity.

SCO8 A Strong Economy

Strengthen and broaden the economic base, harness opportunities for economic growth to build economic resilience, strengthen enterprise ecosystems and create quality jobs that align with population growth, ensure a good standard of living and reduce the need for long-distance commuting. Support placemaking improvements that will generate economic confidence and in turn make settlements more attractive to employers and a skilled workforce.

SCO9 Tourism

Capitalise on Wicklow's location within Ireland's Ancient East and facilitate a year round tourism industry that harnesses Wicklow's natural amenities and vast recreational opportunities. Ensure that tourism development respects and protects the very assets it depends upon.

SCO10 Education & Skills

Recognising the important link between education and skills and employment opportunities, it is necessary to continue to improve the opportunities for education and skills within the County and to further develop Wicklow County Campus Centre of Excellence as a third level education facility for enterprise, education, training, research and development.

2.5 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and the adoption of the Plan, Wicklow County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including: Housing; Landscape; Climate Action, Energy and

Environment; Built Environment; Sustainable Transport; Flood Risk Management; Green Infrastructure Provisions; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage; and Development Management Standards.

The undertaking of this SEA process and the associated AA and SFRA processes contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as summarised in Section 6 of this report.

2.6 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is acknowledged that many of the major issues affecting the County's development are contingent on national policy and government funding.

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix of the main SEA ER. These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region. The County Development Plan will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions, such as Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Section 3 The Environmental Baseline

3.1 Introduction

The summary of the environmental baseline of the County is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 3.11, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

3.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of a new Plan it is uncertain how permission for new development would be applied for and considered.

The 2016-2022 Plan has contributed towards environmental protection within County Wicklow. If the 2016-2022 Plan was to expire and not be replaced by the 2022-2028 Plan, this would result in a deterioration of the County's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled.

Such adverse effects could include:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
 - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
 - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
 - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
- Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

3.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna that is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects includes that on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

The most ecologically sensitive and heavily designated and protected areas within County Wicklow include upland areas (including peat bogs and forests) and coastal areas (including intertidal flats, islands, sand and dunes). Coastal waters and various rivers and lakes provide habitats for sensitive species. Dispersed areas of marginal agricultural lands that may include ecological sensitivities occur throughout the County's lowlands and foothills.

A network of green spaces, including gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, railway lines and patches of woodland and scrub, provide habitats and ecological connectivity within the County and beyond.

Designated sites within the County include Special Areas of Conservation¹ (SACs) and Special Protection Areas² (SPAs). These are mapped on Figure 3.1. There are 18 European sites (14 SACs and 4 SPAs) designated within the County. Other ecological designations occur within and adjacent to the County and these are detailed in the main SEA Environmental Report.

The most dominant land cover types are pastures throughout the County and peat bogs in the centre of the County. Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats include: non-irrigated land; pastures; complex cultivated patterns; land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation; broad-leaved forest; coniferous forest; mixed forests; natural grassland; moors and heaths; transitional woodland and scrub; beaches dunes sand; sparsely vegetated areas; inland marshes; peat bogs; salt marshes; water bodies; and coastal lagoons.

Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report include: Agriculture; Forestry; Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources); Energy production processes and related infrastructure development; Development and operation of transport systems; Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas; Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry); and Climate change.

Ireland's Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services. Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

¹ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000.

² SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

3.4 Population and Human Health

In the 2016 Census the total population of Wicklow was identified as being of 142,425 persons, an increase in total population in the County by c. 4% (c. 5,785 persons) since the previous census. The population growth targets for the County for 2026 and 2031 are 155,000 - 157,500 and 160,500 – 164,000 respectively.³

The new population provided for by the Plan will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for waste water treatment at the municipal level;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County.

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country.

3.5 Soil

Blanket peat and peaty soils (mainly in the central and north-western upland parts of the County) and brown earths⁴ (occupying most of the southern, eastern and western parts of the County) are the two most dominant soil types in the County.

Peatlands are unique systems comprising of peat soil providing as significant carbon stores and supporting a range of unique species. Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues. The peatland areas along the central uplands of the County are subject to various ecological designations.

Outcropping rock is identified in a number of upland and coastal locations.

Geological Survey of Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Wicklow was completed in 2014 and identifies 62 County Geological Sites. Concentrations of these designations can be found in the upland areas and along the coast.

The County has numerous locations with a history of landslide events. Many of these events are associated with the upland peatland areas in the Wicklow Mountains and coastal areas.

³ Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

⁴ Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

3.6 Water

Surface and Ground Water Status

Most of the County is situated within the catchment of Avoca-Vartry (an area drained by the Rivers Avoca and Vartry and by all streams entering tidal water between Sorrento Point and Kilmichael Point). The County is also partially drained by the catchments: Liffey and Dublin Bay; Slaney and Wexford Harbour; Barrow; and Owenavorrigh. The main rivers within the County include the rivers: Slaney; Derry; Kings; Dargle; Vartry; Aughrim and Avoca.

The WFD status of most of the rivers and lakes within the County is classified as *moderate*, *good* and *high*, however sections⁵ of rivers (including: Newtownmountkennedy; Rathnew; Avonbeg; Brown's Beck Brook; and Ballyduff Stream) are identified as *poor* and the Avoca River is identified as *bad* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) of transitional waterbodies within and surrounding the County is identified as *moderate* (including Broad Lough and Avoca Estuary).

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) of rivers, transitional and coastal waters within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 3.2.

The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the County is mostly identified as being of *good* status, with areas of *poor* status in the south-east⁶ and in the central parts of the County⁷.

Bathing Water Quality

There are six bathing locations identified as Bathing Waters under the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, as amended: Bray South Promenade; Greystones South; Silver Strand; Brittas Bay North; Brittas Bay South; and Clogga.

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2019⁸ shows that locations of designated bathing waters along the County's coastline are either classified as *excellent*⁹ (at Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga) or *good*¹⁰ (at Silver Strand).

Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The aquifers underlying most the County are generally classified as being of:

- *High and moderate*, throughout the County, including in upland and foothill areas;
- *Low vulnerability*, mainly in the coastal location along the east of the County; and
- *Extreme vulnerability* and *extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* including in the central upland areas.

Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk of flooding from sources including groundwater, pluvial¹¹ and fluvial¹².

There is historic evidence of flooding at locations, including: along the Rivers Slaney, Greese and Avonbeg; at estuarine locations on the Rivers Vartry, Avoca and Dargle; and at various locations along the coastline.

Locations within and adjacent to the County that were identified by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in 2012 as requiring detailed assessment of flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment) include: Arklow; Ashford and Rathnew; Aughrim; Avoca; Baltinglass; Blessington; Greystones and Environs; Kilcoole; Newcastle; and Wicklow. Detailed predictive flood risk mapping is now available for these areas.

⁵ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)

⁶ Underlying an historic mine at Avoca.

⁷ Underlying historic mines at Glendalough and Glenmalure.

⁸ EPA Report (2020) on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2019*

⁹ The highest, cleanest class

¹⁰ The second highest, second cleanest class

¹¹ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

¹² Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

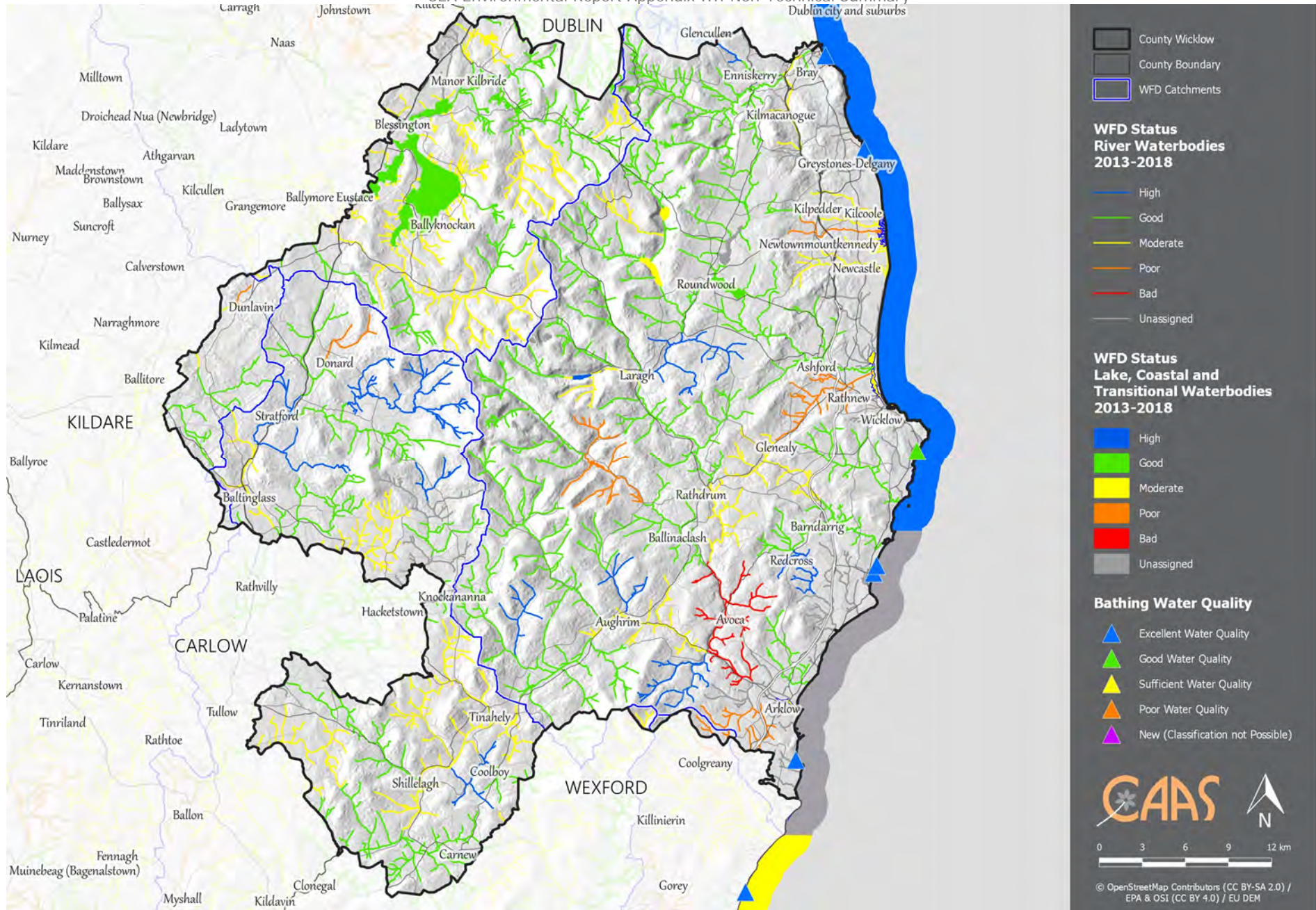


Figure 3.2 Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

3.7 Air and Climatic Factors

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems).

The National Climate Action Plan 2021 is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050. The Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.

Climate mitigation describes action to reduce the likelihood of climate change occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g. emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2020 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately - 2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. It is noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included.

Climate adaptation is a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

The National Adaptation Framework Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, 2018), sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

The Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 seeks to:

- Make Wicklow a stronger county by reducing impacts of future climate change related events.
- Fully consider and mainstream climate adaptation in the day-to-day delivery of services by Wicklow County Council.
- Actively engage with and inform citizens and communities in Wicklow about the impacts of climate change.

The EPA's (2020) *Air Quality in Ireland 2019* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

With regard to solutions, the report identifies that:

- To tackle the problem of particulate matter, clean ways of heating homes and improve energy efficiency of homes can be progressed; and
- To reduce the impact of nitrogen dioxide, transport options in the Government's Climate Action Plan can be implemented and transport choices can be considered by individuals.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current¹³ air quality within the County is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

¹³ 25/02/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)
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3.8 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those referred to below, covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 3.9) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 3.6 and 1.1).

Public Assets and Infrastructure

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the Plan, if unmitigated, include; settlements; resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; transport and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.); forestry; and natural resources that are covered under other topics such as water and soil.

Waste Water

The County is served by 39 Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs), the majority in the ownership and maintenance of Irish Water. In unserved areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems.

Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned within the County to improve the existing network, to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan. This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in areas serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is identified as being available in all of these settlements except for Arklow, Auhgrim, Avoca and Knockananna. The highest levels of headroom are available at Shanganagh WWTP to the north of Bray, Wicklow Town WWTP and Greystones WWTP. Wicklow County Council will support and facilitate the delivery of new or improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements: Arklow; Blessington; Auhgrim; Tinahely; Avoca; and Laragh – Glendalough.

Water Supply

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above. The most recent available RAL (Q4 of 2020 published in January 2021) identifies eight County Wicklow drinking water supplies (at Auhgrim/Annacurra, Enniskerry, Wicklow, Bray, Greystones/Windgates/Tempelcarraig, Kilmacanogue and Newtown-Newcastle-Kilcoole.) where actions for improvement have been proposed and/or are being implemented.

Waste Management

Waste management across the County is guided by the Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021.

Transport

Road and rail infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes.

Land

The Plan seeks to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential adverse environmental effects. Brownfield lands are generally located within urban/suburban areas.

Coastline

Management of the County's coastline (of over 60 km) and coastal erosion are topics with relevance to various environmental components. The coastline of County Wicklow is amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in the County, in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries. Many of the County's settlements have developed along or near the coast. Wicklow port is identified as a port of Regional Significance and Arklow port is identified as a regional port in the Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy. There are existing/ planned marinas at Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow.

Coastal Vulnerability Index mapping for the County is available from the GSI to evaluate impacts of sea-level rise. Vulnerability ranges from *low* (including certain stretches of the coast between Bray and Greystones and south of Wicklow Town) to *moderate* (including from Greystones to Newcastle) to *high* (including from Newcastle to Wicklow Town).

Existing Problems

There are a number of challenges with respect to the provision of water services infrastructure, some of which are summarised above.

The provisions of the new County Development Plan will contribute towards protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets.

3.9 Cultural Heritage

Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped.

There are many sites of significant archaeological interest in County Wicklow, including: the Baltinglass hillfort complex in the west of the County; Rathgall hillfort in the south of the County; and Glendalough Early Medieval Monastic Site in the Wicklow Mountains.

There are hundreds of Recorded Monuments within the County, including graveyards, castles, forts, crosses and churches.

Clusters of archaeological heritage in the County are concentrated in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, along the coast and within and surrounding towns and villages. There are lower concentrations in the central upland areas.

Architectural Heritage

County Wicklow has an important vernacular heritage with many important historic buildings and structures dating back to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (including examples of cottages, houses, shops, farm complexes, outbuildings, mills, factories and forges). The notable buildings include: country and estate houses with boundary walls and vernacular farm buildings (Powerscourt, Russborough, Coolattin and Killruddery); the Edwardian terraces of Bray's seafront; the Arts and Craft style houses at Greystones; and the Georgian Merchant houses of Arklow.

Architecture within the County also includes industrial heritage associated with ship building, agriculture, weaving, transportation, stone cutting processes and mining. County Wicklow has a rich history of mining starting in the Bronze Age and continuing until the 20th century and including historical mining works in the Avoca Valley, Glendalough and Glendasan Valley and Glenmalure.

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. There are hundreds of entries to the Record of Protected Structures within the County. Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within the County's settlements

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. There are 18 ACAs designated within the County:

- Blessington (Town Centre);
- Enniskerry (Town Centre);
- Tinahely (Town Centre);
- Dunlavin (Town Centre);
- Rathdrum (2 ACAs: Main Street and Low Town);
- Delgany (Village Centre);

- Greystones (5 ACAs: Church Road; Killincarrig Village; The Burnaby; Blacklion; and Greystones Harbour);
- Wicklow Town (5 ACAs: Town Centre; Leirim Place; Bachelors Walk and Church Street; Bay View Road; and Brickfield Lane); and
- Donard (Village Centre).

Existing Problems

The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time within County Wicklow, however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.

3.10 Landscape

The topography of County Wicklow is dominated by the Wicklow Mountain range. With the exception of a narrow coastal strip and some low ground in the south, over two-thirds of the County lies above the 200 m contour. The backbone of the Mountains runs in a north east to south west direction across the County and is formed by granite. Glacial and periglacial features and landforms including u-shaped valleys, moraines, corries and glacial lakes have been left by the last ice age. In addition, the eastern coastal areas, extensive river valleys and reservoirs are amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in the County in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism.

Wicklow County Council have identified 15 distinctive Landscape Areas (Figure 3.3) within six Landscape Categories, as detailed below:

- 1. Mountain and Lakeshore Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**
1(a) - The Mountain Uplands, 1(b) - The Blessington Lakes Area, 1(c) - The Bray Mountains Group, 1(d) - The North Eastern Valley
- 2. Coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**
2(a) - Northern Coastline and 2(b) - Southern Coastline
- 3. Area of High Amenity**
3(a) - North East Mountain Lowlands, 3(b) - South East Mountain Lowlands, 3(c) - The Southern Hills, 3(d) - The Baltinglass Hills and 3(e) - Transitional Lands
- 4. Corridor Area**
4(a) - The N11 Corridor Area and 4(b) - The N81 Corridor Area
- 5. Rolling Lowlands**
Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6
- 6. Urban Areas**
All towns ranging from Levels 1-6 of the Wicklow Settlement Hierarchy

The above Landscape Character Categories in County Wicklow are arranged in a hierarchy of one to six with a level of sensitivity. The 'very high' sensitivity areas are the most sensitive to development and therefore developments which are likely to create a significant environmental and particularly visual impact will best be absorbed in areas where the landscape is most robust, i.e. have the capacity to absorb development without significantly changing its character. Landscape Character Categories in County Wicklow which are most sensitive to development include Mountain and Lakeshore Areas and Coastal Areas.

A Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO) is designed to protect areas that are of particularly high amenity value, which are sensitive to intense development pressure and which cannot be adequately protected by existing planning controls. One SAAO has been designated by Government at Bray Head, between Bray and Greystones.

The Plan area encompasses many sites and vantage points from which views over areas of great natural beauty, local landmarks, historic landscapes and adjoining Counties may be obtained. In addition to scenic views, the County also contains important prospects i.e. prominent landscapes or areas of special amenity value or special interest which are visible from the surrounding area. Protected views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest and Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest are identified in the Plan and must be considered when assessing planning applications.

Existing Environmental Problems

New developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of lands within the County however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

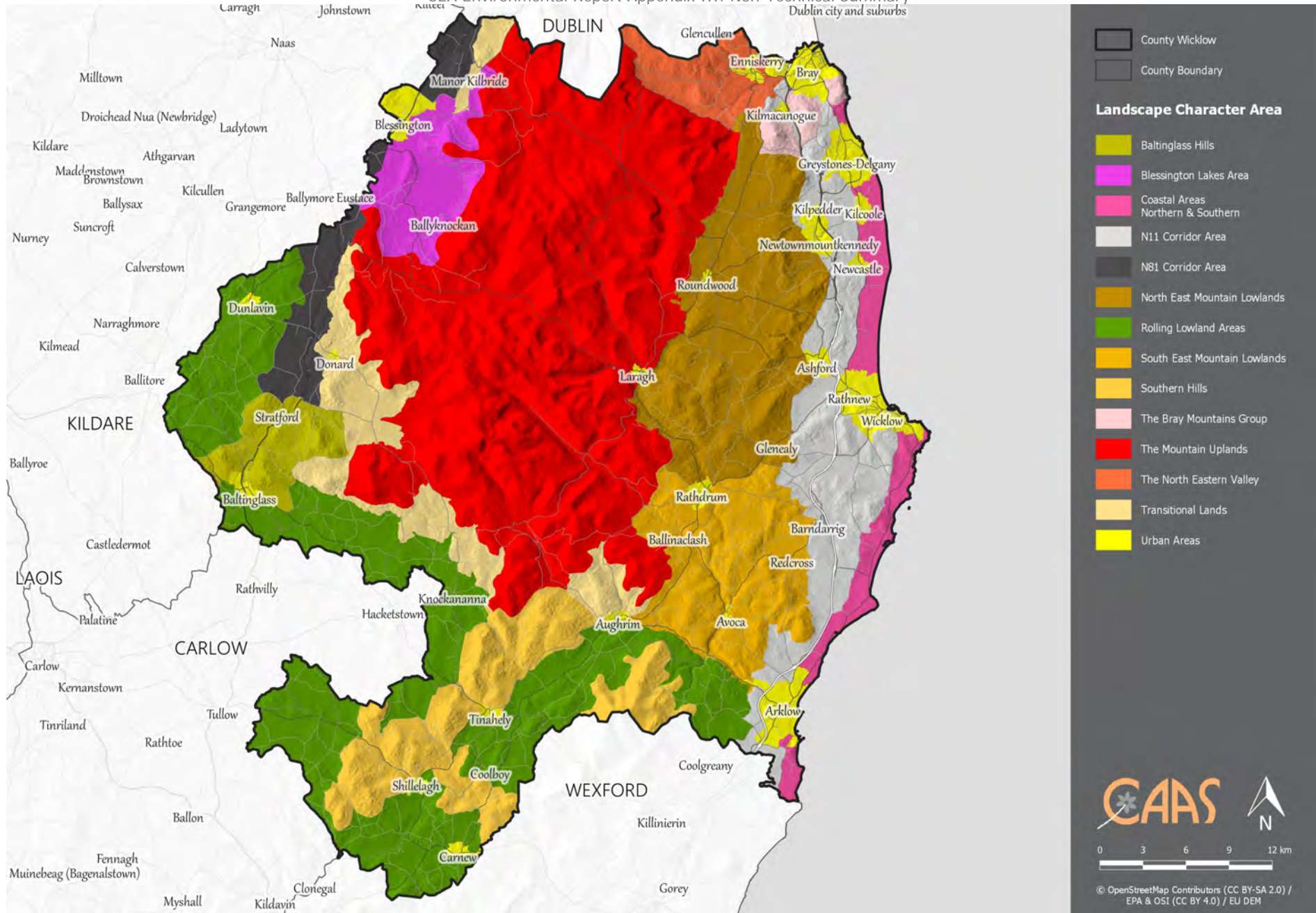


Figure 3.3 Landscape Areas
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

3.11 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and that are required to be implemented. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Table 3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County - this includes transport infrastructure Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Section 4 Alternatives

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Available reasonable alternatives for the County Development Plan are provided under Tiers 1 to 4 detailed below.

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

4.3 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Tier 1 (i) Alternatives for Allocation of population Growth between the Settlements

- A. Concentrate growth (60% of the overall population target) to the key towns Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew and the three self-sustaining growth towns Arklow, Greystones and Blessington.
- B. Allocate the growth evenly between the 21 settlements.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A is consistent with the NPF and RSES as it would support focussing the greatest amount of development into the key settlements and self-sustaining growth towns, which would strengthen these settlements and support infrastructure delivery including public transport.

The concentration of growth into Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By concentrating in the larger settlements in the County, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development in these centres would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including various smaller settlements.

Alternative B involves a dispersed population approach which has the potential to undermine the role of the larger settlements as key towns and self-sustaining growth towns and make it more difficult to deliver key infrastructure projects including public transport.

This approach would result in a greater expansion of the County's smaller towns and villages. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and

brownfield sites available in smaller settlements. Services and public transport are more limited and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Alternative B would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative B would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative B would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

Tier 1 (ii) Alternatives for Population Growth between the Municipal Districts

- A.** Provide for Municipal District Parity – this would require that the population target is distributed evenly between the five Municipal Districts – Arklow, Baltinglass, Wicklow, Greystones and Bray.
- B.** Do not provide for Regional Parity – allocate growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than its location within a particular municipal district.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Alternative A fails to take into account the capacity and function of settlements. It involves a dispersed population approach based on political boundaries.

This approach would provide growth to areas that would not be commensurate with the area or settlement's capacity to accommodate this growth. Growth where capacity is available would be stymied. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in certain MDs. Services and public transport are more limited in certain MDs and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services overall as a result. Alternative A would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative A would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative A would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

Alternative B is consistent with the NPF and RSES as it supports focussing the greatest amount of development into the key settlements and self-sustaining growth towns which will strengthen these settlements and support infrastructure delivery including public transport.

This approach would provide growth to areas that would be commensurate with the area's capacity to accommodate this growth. The concentration of growth into Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones and Blessington would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By allocating growth based on settlement function and capacity rather than location within a particular MD, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including various smaller settlements.

4.4 Assessment of Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

The regional settlement hierarchy identifies two types of settlement that sit below key towns on the hierarchy. These are 'Self-Sustaining Growth Towns' or 'Self Sustaining Towns'. Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are settlements with a moderate level of jobs and services include sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining. Self-Sustaining Towns include towns with high levels of population growth and a weak employment base which are reliant on other areas for employment and/or services and which require targeted 'catch up' investment to become more self-sustaining.

- A. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns.
- B. Identify Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as Self-Sustaining Towns.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Arklow is the main centre located in the south of the County and one of seven market towns in the core region that has a good level of local employment, services and amenities, which serve not just their resident populations but a wider catchment area. The centre has a large catchment and provides for the service needs of its residents and large geographical area. With completed and planned infrastructure improvements including the new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant and an Area Based Transport Plan, the town is poised for development and has the potential to significantly increase and strengthen its employment base.

Greystones-Delgany is served by high quality transport links to Dublin and the surrounding towns. The town is located on the DART/rail line, has good quality bus links and easy access onto the M/N11. Significant housing growth has already occurred in the 2016-2020 period and is likely to occur in 2020-2022. Future opportunities exist for infill development and consolidation of the built-up area. Access to coastal facilities, an attractive town centre and a broad range of social and recreational facilities enhance its overall appeal. The RSES identifies the redevelopment of the IDA 'strategic site' at Greystones as an objective in order to strengthen the employment base for North Wicklow and the Greystones Media Centre has recently been granted permission at this long time vacant strategic site. The capacity and frequency of the rail service between Greystones and Dublin City is to be improved, benefitting the town in terms of attracting investment.

Blessington acts as the service centre for a wide rural catchment. The town is served by a reasonable quality bus service including Dublin Bus and Bus Eireann services. The future re-alignment of the N81 to the west of the town provides a significant opportunity arises to regenerate the historic town centre, create a stronger urban structure, and strengthen the town's identity and sense of place. The town has the potential to provide for local growth in residential, employment and service functions.

Alternative A takes into account the function of the three settlements in terms of their wider context as services providers to a large hinterland and takes into account their capacity to accommodate additional development including housing, employment and services. Alternative A also facilitates distinguishing these three settlements from smaller settlements with more limited functions. By facilitating population and employment growth commensurate to the attributes of these settlements, Alternative A would provide for a more sustainable Settlement Hierarchy and a greater level of sustainable development at a County level. Alternative A would help to facilitate a more compact form of development at these settlements that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Alternative A would not increase pressure in lower-level settlements, which are generally less well-serviced and less-well connected, and the open countryside – and would, as a result, avoid potential adverse significant effects on various environmental components.

Alternative B is a conservative approach which focuses on the limited employment opportunities in all the settlements but fails to factor in the wider role these settlements play

and the broad range of services provided in these settlements. By limiting population and economic growth in the three towns, Alternative B would not provide an alternative to the same extent as Alternative A would to the Key Towns of Bray and Wicklow-Rathnew as places to live and work and would result in increased pressure in the other settlements with less capacity to accommodate growth and the open countryside. It would also hinder the future compact growth of the settlements. As a result, Alternative B would be likely to result in a greater extent of significant effects on various environmental components and would not be as sustainable as Alternative A.

4.5 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

Tier 3 (i): Alternatives for Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure

- A. Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- B. Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure and assess each planning application on its merits.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A provides for a robust and transparent policy approach to manage rural housing.

Restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Single dwellings in rural areas would be facilitated as appropriate and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative B Provides a vague and unclear policy approach to rural housing and risks facilitating a significant increase in urban-generated one-off housing in the open countryside which will undermine the role of small towns and villages and have consequences for the environment.

Not restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated housing development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Tier 3 (ii): Alternatives for Villages and Serviced Sites

- A. Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- B. Villages are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A recognises the important role that villages play in sustaining rural communities and in providing a proactive approach to the sustainable development of rural areas. Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would help

to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within Villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative B has the potential to undermine the role rural villages play in sustaining rural communities and providing a viable alternative to one off housing. Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Tier 3 (iii): Alternatives for Rural Clusters

- A.** Identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.
- B.** Do not identify unserviced Rural Clusters as a type of settlement with capacity for growth.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B was originally chosen for the Chief Executive's Draft Plan but Alternative A was chosen by the Members for the Draft Plan for public display and is reflected in the final adopted Plan.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role rural villages play in sustaining rural communities and has the potential to exacerbate one-off housing on unserviced sites in the countryside.

One-off housing on unserviced sites would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that rural villages and towns play in sustaining rural communities would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable at a County level and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions from developments in rural clusters.

Alternative B will provide greater protection for the countryside and support the role of small towns and villages as the appropriate location for new housing in rural areas.

Development within small towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play in sustaining rural communities would help to make development more sustainable at a County level and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (iv): Alternatives for Employment Zonings in Rural Areas

- A.** Provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B.** Do not provide Employment Zonings in Rural Areas.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas (potential employees).

Employment development at these locations beyond the development envelope of existing settlements would undermine the important role that rural villages and towns play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas and would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities). Alternative A would be against the principles of sustainable development and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment, including those on:

- Sustainable mobility, with increases in car usage, and associated adverse effects with respect to energy usage and travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air;
- Biodiversity and flora and fauna;
- Views and the landscape;
- Flood risk management that complies with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (note elevated flood risk at Inchanappa South/Ballyhenry and Kilpedder Interchange); and
- Ground and surface water bodies.

Alternative B would strengthen the role of towns and villages as the appropriate location for employment development on serviced land.

Employment development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (v): Alternatives for Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas

A. Provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.

B. Do not provide Tourism Zonings in Rural Areas.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main service providers. Tourism in rural areas outside of settlements can be facilitated by objectives that provide greater flexibility, rather than land use zonings. Tourism development in these rural areas would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that villages and towns play as the main service providers would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions from such developments.

Alternative B would support the important role that towns and villages play as the main service providers. Tourism in rural areas outside of settlements can be facilitated by objectives that provide greater flexibility, rather than land use zonings. Tourism development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main service providers would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

Tier 3 (vi): Alternatives for Community Zonings in Rural Areas

- A. Provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.
- B. Do not provide Community Zonings in Rural Areas.

Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Community facilities should be provided on serviced land in settlements where it is proximate to residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. It is difficult and inefficient to service sites in rural areas particularly in terms of safe walking and cycling facilities.

Alternative A has the potential to undermine the important role that towns and villages play as the main providers of community facilities, proximate to the residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. Development in rural areas would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to damage the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Undermining the important role that villages and towns play as the main service providers of community facilities would hinder efforts to make development more sustainable and would result in an increased level of travel related greenhouse gas emissions to and from these sites, which are inefficient to service in terms of safe walking and cycling facilities.

Alternative B would support the important role that towns and villages play as the main providers of community facilities, proximate to the residential communities that will be availing of such facilities. Development within the County's towns and villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Supporting the role that small towns and villages play as the main service providers of community facilities would be consistent with the principles of sustainable development and would benefit efforts to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions.

4.6 Assessment of Tier 4: Land Use Zoning

Reasonable alternatives for land use zoning were identified as being available for the following settlements: Baltinglass; Newtownmountkennedy; Rathdrum; Ashford; Aughrim; Carnew; Dunlavin; and Tinahely. The consideration of reasonable alternatives for relevant land use zonings that was undertaken as part of the iterative Plan-preparation/SEA process took into account issues including:

- Environmental sensitivities – these are summarised under Section 3 of this Non-Technical Summary and include ecological designations, cultural heritage, riverine ecology, the status of water bodies, landscape/views and flood risk.
- Consolidation of land use zoning, which would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health).
- Reducing greenfield development, which would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components.
- Whether water services infrastructure is already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for;
- Access to transport infrastructure.
- Proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
- The need to facilitate services at settlement centres.
- Population and housing targets.
- The need to provide for compact growth.
- Lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects.

Further detail is provided in the main SEA Environmental Report.

4.7 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the tiers of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which are identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Members.

Section 5 Summary of Effects arising from Plan

5.1 Overall Effects

Table 5.1 summarises the overall environmental effects arising from Plan provisions. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan – see summary at Section 6.

5.2 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network¹⁴. SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. Recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan. Various policies and objectives have been integrated into the Plan through the SEA, SFRA and AA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

5.3 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

The Plan, considered as a whole, contributes towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development and complies with various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation.

Various Plan provisions that would contribute towards the sustainable development of the County would, at the same time, have the potential to conflict with the environment, were mitigation measures not taken into account. This is normal and mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to deal with these potential effects.

However, various parts of the Plan are internally inconsistent with the overall approach provided for by the Plan:

- A number of amendments to the Chief Executive's Draft Plan (in advance of public display of the Draft Plan) agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process.
- A number of proposed amendments to the Draft Plan that was placed on public display agreed by Members and adopted as part of the final Plan would have potential for likely significant negative environmental effects and were advised against during the Plan-preparation/SEA process.

These parts of the Plan include, for example:

- Addition of settlements to Level 7 of the Settlement Hierarchy;
- Addition of settlements to Level 8 of the Settlement Hierarchy;
- Addition of settlements to Level 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy;
- Occupancy Controls under Levels 7, 8 and 9 of the Settlement Hierarchy;
- Plan provision relating to Housing in the Open Countryside;
- Plan provision relating to the Luas; and
- Various provisions of the Plan relating to the extension of settlement plan areas/boundaries and associated Land Use Zoning.

¹⁴ 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 plan/programme/project to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 5.1 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. • Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. • Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation). 	BFF

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under “Soil”, “Water” and “Air and Climatic Factors” below. 	PHH
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change. 	S

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	W
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	MA

SEA Environmental Report Appendix III: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable compact growth; ○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; ○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; ○ Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and ○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. • Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	AC
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	CH
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures. 	L

Section 6 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

6.1 Mitigation

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes.

Mitigation was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development¹⁵;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan¹⁶;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan¹⁷; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

6.2 Monitoring

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified at Table 3.1 and used in the evaluation. Monitoring indicators, targets, sources and remedial action is provided at Table 6.1 overleaf.

¹⁵ Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and the adoption of the Plan, Wicklow County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Housing;
- Landscape;
- Climate Action;
- Built Environment;
- Sustainable Transport;
- Energy and Waste;
- Flood Resilience and Water;
- Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure Provisions;
- Development and Design Standards; and
- Single Rural Houses Design Guidelines.

¹⁶ Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 4), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Council considered a number of alternatives for the Plan. These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of preferred alternatives, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

¹⁷ Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level. Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

Table 6.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)¹⁸ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)¹⁹ Consultations with the NPWS²⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

¹⁸ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

¹⁹ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

²⁰ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<p>from development permitted under the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH AA/Screening for AA for each application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance²¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where marine water bodies are failing to meet good ecological status, this will be interrogated with the Marine Institute and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to RSES activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with the Marine Institute and DHLGH in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.

²¹ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74% NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC (at monitoring evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.

SEA Environmental Report Appendix III: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with DHLGH 	
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation