

PROPOSED VARIATION NO 5 TO THE WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 (AS VARIED)

Draft Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:

Wicklow County Council



Date: September 2025

Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent,
Northwood, Dublin, D09 X899, Ireland

T: +353 1 658 3500 | E: info@ftco.ie

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

www.fehilytimoney.ie

Draft Natura Impact Report

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Draft	SND/RD/DOH/AM/NSC	RD	BG	30/09/2025

Client: Wicklow County Council

Keywords: Arklow Town, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Natura Impact Report, Proposed Variation, Local Planning Framework, LPF

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Legislative Context	1
1.3	Guidance.....	2
1.4	Assessment Process and Approach	2
2.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION	5
2.1	Overview.....	5
2.2	Context Setting Background to Wicklow County Council's Role and the Proposed Variation.....	5
2.3	Contents of the Arklow Local Planning Framework	6
3.	REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING	8
3.1	Introduction to Screening.....	8
3.2	Potential Interactions of the Proposed Variation on the receiving environment.....	8
3.3	European Sites within the Zone of Influence	9
3.4	In-Combination Effects With Other Plans And Programmes	14
3.5	Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	15
3.6	AA Screening Conclusion	18
4.	NATURA IMPACT REPORT	19
4.1	Introduction.....	19
4.2	Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected	19
4.3	Characterisation Potential Effects	19
4.3.1	Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area	20
4.3.2	Habitat or species Fragmentation.....	20
4.3.3	Disturbance to Key Species	20
4.3.4	Reduction in species density.....	20
4.3.5	Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value	21
4.3.6	Climate Change	21
5.	MITIGATION MEASURES	22
6.	CONCLUSIONS	41

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact

Appendix 2 – Defining the Zone of Influence

Appendix 3 – Relationship with other Plans and Programmes

Appendix 4 – Background Information to European Sites

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 3-1: European Sites Surrounding the Draft LPF Area	12
Figure 3-2: Hydrological Connectivity between the Draft LPF Area and European sites Immediately Surrounding the Draft LPF Area	13

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 3-1: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects to European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Draft LPF	15
Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Adverse Effects arising from the subject land area	19
Table 5-1: Objectives Embedded in the Draft LPF for mitigating adverse effects on European Sites	23
Table 5-2: Policies and objectives in the WCDP for mitigating adverse effects on European Sites.....	26
Table 5-3: Amendments to Objectives integrated into the Draft LPF.....	36
Table 5-4: New Objectives for the Draft LPF	40



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Proposed Variation No. 5 ("the Proposed Variation") to the Wicklow County Development Plan (WCDP) 2022-2028 (as varied), in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended)(hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Proposed Variation. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Wicklow County Council (WCC) adopts the Proposed Variation.

The Proposed Variation proposes administrative and technical changes to the Plan and adds contemporary detail on the planning framework in County Wicklow to Volume 1 of the Plan and will integrate the Draft Local Planning Framework (LPF) for Arklow into the WCDP. The integration of the Draft Arklow LPF into WCDP constitutes the substantive component of the Variation.

1.2 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (PDA).

The competent authority must carry out a Screening for AA to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed plan (Proposed Variation, in this case), individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, an AA of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.



The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where a proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the Proposed Variation is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).

1.3 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Fossitt, J. A. (2000). *A guide to habitats in Ireland*.
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002). This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).
- Atkinson, S., Magee, M., Moorkens, E.A. & Heavey, M. (2024). Guidance on Assessment and Construction Management in Margaritifera Catchments in Ireland. <https://e-mussels.eu/europe/conservation-guidelines>

1.4 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the potential for likely significant effects from a proposed plan or project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model. In order for a likely significant effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential likely significant effect is not of any relevance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.



In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the Draft LPF that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)¹ for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)² for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

The assessment commences with a description of the plan (Draft LPF, in this case), and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Draft LPF (Source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the Draft LPF, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the Draft LPF.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely Zoi of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The Zoi of a plan is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential likely significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the Zoi must be established on a case-by-case basis using the SPR framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3 sets out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the Zoi based on the sources of impacts arising from the Draft LPF. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the Draft LPF along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The potential for likely significant effects on the European Sites within the Zoi is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the Draft LPF on its own and in-combination with other plans and projects.

¹ SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

² SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2021) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the potential for likely significant effects, an NIR will need to be prepared for a plan.

The scope and content of the assessment in this instance was informed by the following:

- The submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment³ (SEA) process being undertaken on the Proposed Variation, including the Draft LPF.
- The SEA Scoping Report prepared for the Proposed Variation, including the Draft LPF.
- The EPA's AA Geo Tool (this can be found here - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>).
- The National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives
- WCC's current County Development Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

This Proposed Variation proposes administrative and technical changes to the WCDP, adds contemporary detail on the planning framework in County Wicklow to Volume 1 of the Plan, and will integrate the Local Planning Framework (LPF) for Arklow into the Plan. The integration of the Arklow LPF into the Plan constitutes the substantive component of the Proposed Variation. Considering this, the Zone of Influence utilised in this assessment focusses on the area of Arklow and the surrounding environment.

It should be noted that an AA of a Plan is strategic assessment that provides strategic level of protection for European sites. The need for AA was determined based on the 'precautionary principle' enshrined in EU environmental. A variety of development projects in the area may be 'screened out' for a project-level AA depending on the particular circumstances of those (i.e. the location and nature of the development and its potential environmental impacts).

³ 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.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION

2.1 Overview

WCC is preparing a Proposed Variation (No. 5) to the WCDP under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This Proposed Variation proposes administrative and technical changes to the Plan and adds contemporary detail on the planning framework in County Wicklow to Volume 1 of the WCDP, and will integrate the Local Planning Framework (LPF) for Arklow into the WCDP. The integration of the Draft Arklow LPF into the Plan constitutes the substantive component of the Variation.

The prospective Arklow LPF will provide a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the settlement of Arklow. This Plan, in conjunction with the WCDP, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

2.2 Context Setting Background to Wicklow County Council's Role and the Proposed Variation

WCC is required to fulfil its obligations under the PDA, and prepare local plans for any area that requires economic, physical and social renewal and for areas that are likely to be subject to large-scale development. WCC now intends to prepare a Local Planning Framework for Arklow via the making of a Proposed Variation, as detailed below, to the WCDP under Section 13 of the PDA.

Volume 1 of the WCDP contains the primary written statement while Volume 2 contains a suite of Town Plans. The changes integrated via the Proposed Variation includes modifications to the written statement in relation to the structure of the Plan and introduces the intention to prepare new Local Planning Frameworks for Greytones-Delgany and Kilcoole, Arklow and Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue). Any such LPF will need to take account of the zoning principles that have been set out in the WCDP, in addition to relevant guidelines and policies. The amendments have been elaborated upon and substantiated with the provision of a preamble, structure, maps, and an overview of the public consultation process.

This Proposed Variation (No. 5) will integrate the Arklow LPF into the WCDP. The Arklow LPF will be a statutory document containing guidelines as to how the town and its environs should develop over the plan period. The Draft Arklow LPF will provide the overall strategy for the proposed planning and sustainable development within the Draft LPF in the context of the WCDP.

The Draft LPF will contain the main public statements of planning policies and objectives for the Draft LPF area. The policies and objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development as the Draft LPF is the primary statutory land use policy framework against which planning applications are assessed.

Of equal importance is the recently developed Arklow Decarbonisation Zone Implementation Plan of which objectives should be considered during the development of the Draft LPF. This implementation plan is focussed on decarbonisation within the town and its environs and will inform the type of development that may be supported by the Draft LPF.



2.3 Contents of the Arklow Local Planning Framework

The purpose of the Draft LPF is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development in the settlement of Arklow. The Draft LPF, in conjunction with the WCDP, will guide the development of the Draft LPF area. The Draft LPF must, therefore, be consistent with the objectives of the WCDP and its Core Strategy.

Healthy placemaking, climate change and economic opportunity are the three overarching cross-cutting themes of the WCDP that have formed the three strategic objectives of this LPF. There is overlap between the three themes:

- Placemaking integrates with the creation of sustainable communities which includes housing, sustainable mobility, healthy town centres and economic development.
- Climate change has implications for sustainable mobility, economic development and heritage and biodiversity⁴.
- Economic development is increasingly integrated with our response to climate change and to the delivery of healthy placemaking.

Arklow is a Level 3 Settlement ('Self-Sustaining Town') within the County Settlement Hierarchy. The following key elements comprise the Core Strategy of the WCDP in relation to Level 3 settlements:

Settlement, Population and Housing Strategies: Level 3 settlements are designated 'Self Sustaining Growth Towns' described as 'Towns with a moderate level of jobs and services – includes sub-county market towns and commuter towns with good transport links and capacity for continued commensurate growth to become more self-sustaining'. These towns range in size (as per the Census of population in 2022) from c. 6,000 to 22,000 persons. Population growth in Level 3 towns is targeted to be in the 25%-30% range between 2016 and 2031.

- **Economic Development Strategy:** Self-Sustaining Growth Towns are identified as 'Level 3' in the County Economic Development Hierarchy
- **Retail Strategy:** Arklow is identified as 'Level 3' in the County Retail Hierarchy.
- **Community Development Strategy:** Arklow falls into the 15,000 -30,000 population range and should be ideally serviced by the following community infrastructure: Multi-purpose Community Resource Centre, Regional and Local Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities, Swimming Pool/Leisure Centre, Youth Centre, Athletics Track and Field Facilities, Arts and Cultural Centre, Local Multi-Purpose Community Space/Meeting Rooms, Outdoor Water Sports Facilities (where applicable), Neighbourhood Parks and Local Parks, Outdoor (full size) Multi-Use Games Areas – Synthetic / Hardcourt, Playground(s), Playing Pitches, Alternative/Minority Sports Facilities, Open Space/Urban Woodlands/ Nature Areas, Library.
- **Infrastructure Strategy:** In accordance with the County Development Plan:
 - Measures will be required to facilitate a modal shift to more sustainable transport options including promotion of development patterns, and the development of enhanced infrastructure, to facilitate walking, cycling and increased use of public transport;
 - Only locations that are already served, or are serviceable with water and wastewater infrastructure shall be identified for new development.

⁴ The provisions of this LPF aim to support Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.



- **Environmental Strategy:** To ensure the objectives of the plan are consistent with the conservation and protection of the environment.

The Draft Arklow LPF comprises of two parts:

- Part A, comprising a written statement that includes introductory text and context for the Draft LPF.
- Part B, containing Arklow-specific objectives for land use planning, encompassing Town Centre Regeneration and Retail, Arklow Waterfront Zone, Residential Development, Economic Development, Tourism, Community Development, Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure, Physical Infrastructure and Zoning and Specific Local Objectives



3. REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Proposed Variation is likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. It is used to inform the competent authority's AA Screening Determination. The following is considered during this assessment:

- Whether the Proposed Variation introduces any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether the Proposed Variation can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether Proposed Variation will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential likely significant effects.

Plans (or a Proposed Variation in this case) are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that likely significant effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential likely significant effects that may arise from a plan or project.

3.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Variation on the receiving environment

An assessment of potential sources of environmental impact associated with objectives defined in the Draft Arklow LPF - that may lead to likely significant effects on European sites - has been carried out. This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the following source of impact criteria defined in the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note.

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Development related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Development related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species



This assessment is presented in Appendix 1. The assessment considers the absence of environmental mitigation measures. All objectives in the Draft LPF that have the potential to generate environmental impacts that may result in likely significant effects on European sites have been identified. An overview of the potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Draft LPF – in the absence of any mitigation - is presented in the bullet points below:

- Environmental effects due both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure.
- Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.
- Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.
- Potential interactions of effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.
- Adverse effects from amenity and recreation.
- Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Emissions to air including dust and other emissions.

These impacts are further examined in defining the Zol of the Draft LPF to identify likely significant effects through a SPR assessment.

All objectives defined in the Draft LPF are considered in this assessment with respect to the integrity of all relevant European sites identified - considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3 European Sites within the Zone of Influence

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the Zol must be established on a case-by-case basis using the SPR model. The SPR model has been used to identify the Zol to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The SPR model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on buffer zones (e.g. 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

“For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”

In order for a likely significant effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the significant effect to occur. Draft LPF impacts are essentially the ‘source’ in the SPR model.

These impacts may be very localised and confined to defined area with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for likely significant effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists they may give rise to a potential likely significant effect to a Qualifying Interest of a European site.



The potential sources of impact associated with Draft LPF objectives have been considered when defining the ZoI of the Draft LPF (as identified in Appendix 1).

The dominant ecological pathways that have been considered are presented below:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions etc.);
- hydrological interactions; and,
- dispersal patterns of mobile species.

Having regard to the above, and considering the Precautionary Principle, the ZoI of the Draft LPF has been defined as:

- All European sites hydrologically connected to the Draft LPF area
- All European sites with Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems within 250 m of the Draft LPF area
- All European sites with mobile SCIs that may be present in the Draft LPF area.
- All European sites geographically overlapping with the Draft LPF area or within 2 km.

Further detail on criteria used to define the ZoI of the Draft LPF can be found in Appendix 2.

For illustrative purposes - European sites in and surrounding the Arklow area are mapped in Figure 3-1 and a map showing hydrological connectivity between the area and European sites immediately surrounding the area is provided in Figure 3-2.

European sites within the defined ZoI have been considered when assessing whether the Arklow LPF may have potential likely significant effects on European sites.

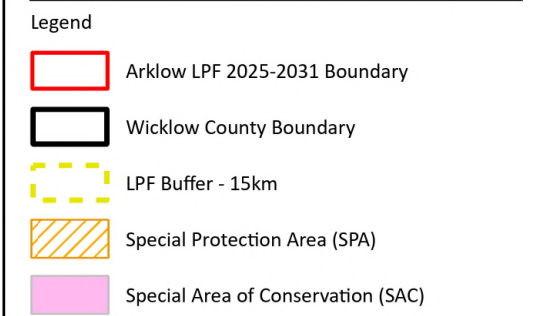
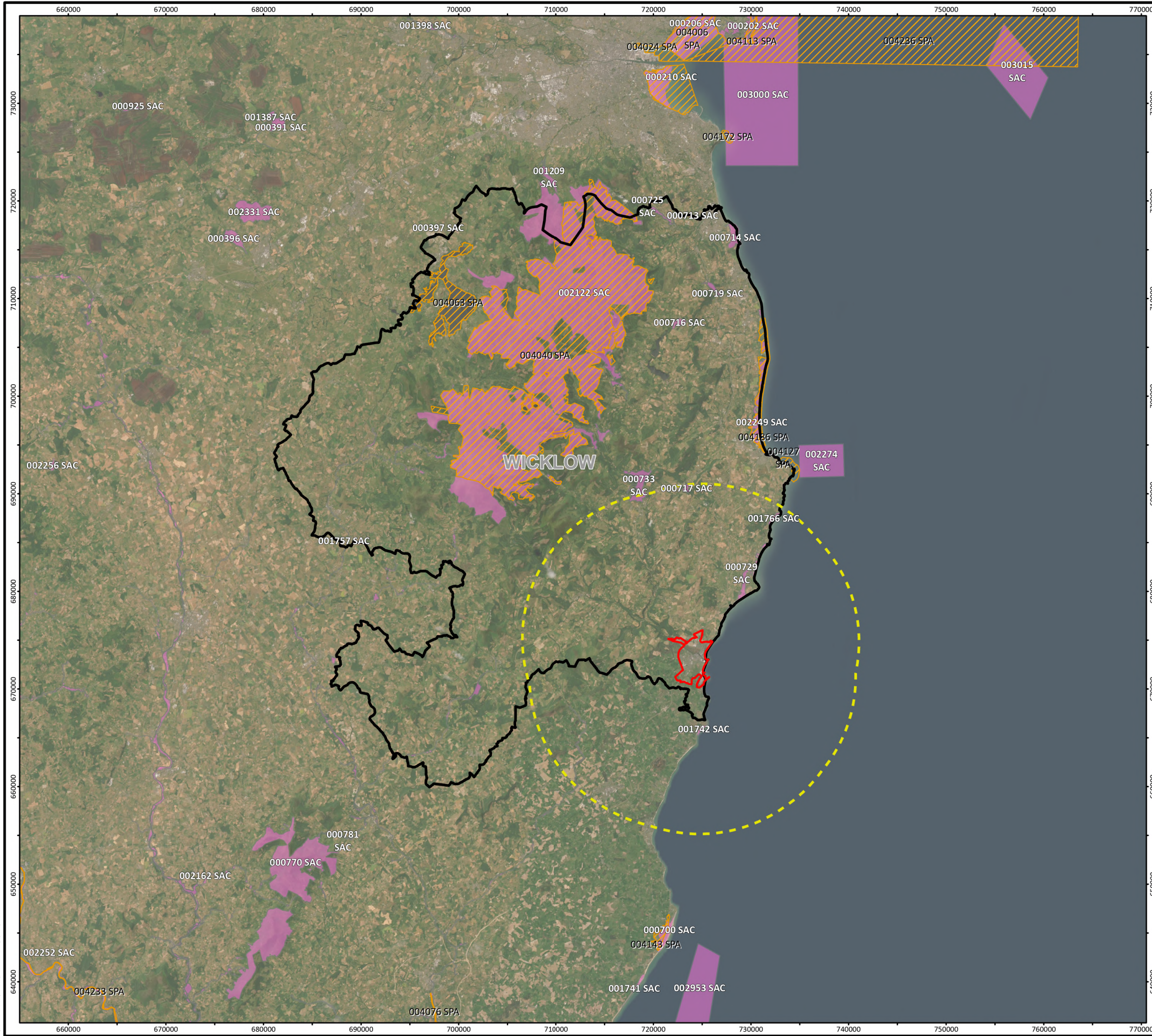
Background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered during the assessment, as necessary.

Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Head SPA 004127. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: The Murrough SPA 004186. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Cahore Marshes SPA 004143. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

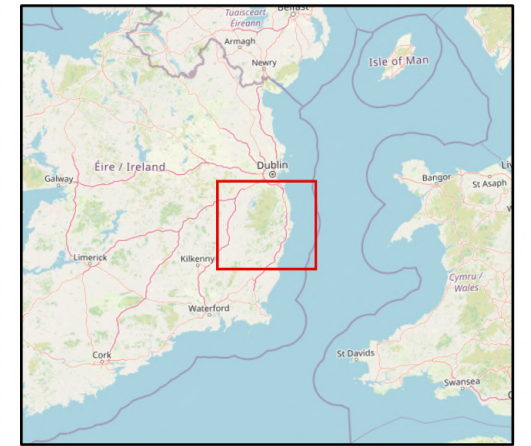
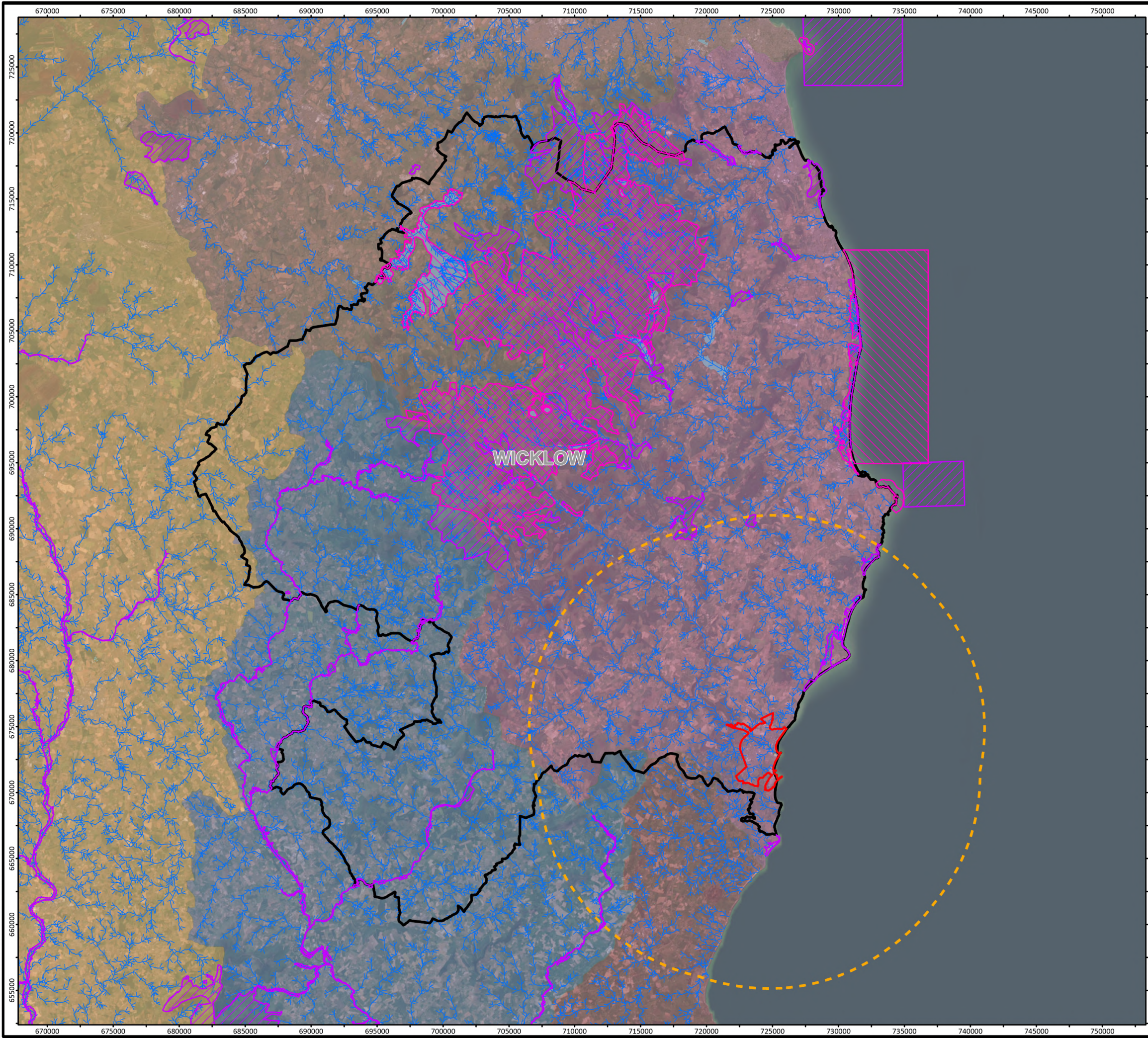


The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential likely significant effects of the Proposed Variation against the QIs/SCIs of each site (having regard to identified potential sources of impact associated with Draft LPF objectives). The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.



 **FEHILY
TIMONEY** Cork | Dublin | Carlow
www.fehilytimoney.ie

Mapping Reproduced Under Licence from the Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. CIVALS0221678 © Government of Ireland Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.
World Imagery: © Bing, © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA



- Legend**
- Wicklow County Boundary
 - Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary
 - LPF Buffer - 15km
 - WFD Catchments
 - Catchment Name
 - Barrow
 - Liffey and Dublin Bay
 - Ovoca-Vartry
 - Owenavorrhagh
 - Slaney & Wexford Harbour
 - Rivers
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Special Area of Conservation

Hydrology	
Arklow LPF (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)	
FIGURE NO:	3.2
CLIENT:	Wicklow County Council
DATE: 12/09/2025	SCALE: 1:285,000 @ A3
0 2 4 8 km	



3.4 In-Combination Effects With Other Plans And Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project (Proposed Variation in this case) to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites. All plans, programmes and legislation that has the potential to interact with the Proposed Variation and cause such likely significant in-combination effects to European sites have been identified and are presented in Appendix 3. The environmental effects of these plans, programmes and legislation were considered throughout the assessment.

The WCDP sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, recreation, environmental protection and environmental management, which have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The Proposed Variation must therefore comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier County Development 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 Proposed Variation. As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Proposed Variation is consistent with the objectives of the WCDP, the RSE and the NPF.

In order to be realised, projects supported by the Proposed Variation/Arklow LPF (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 AA, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Proposed Variation/Arklow LPF, it is recognised that the identification of likely significant in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of likely significant in-combination effects will need to be undertaken at project-level.



3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Table 3-1 examines whether there is potential for Likely Significant Effects on identified European sites within the ZOI considering the information provided above and the background information on the relevant European sites. This assessment considers the absence of environmental mitigation measures.

Table 3-1: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects to European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Draft LPF

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	17.8	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	The hydrologically sensitive species of this SPA are highly sensitive to pollutants, water levels and anthropogenic disturbance. This SPA is outside the Draft LPF area but within the foraging range of Kittiwake and there is a likelihood these species could forage in the Draft LPF area, therefore further consideration is required. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Draft LPF has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.	Y	Y	Y
004186	The Murrough SPA	19.2	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The hydrologically sensitive species of this SPA are highly sensitive to pollutants, water levels and anthropogenic disturbance. This SPA is outside the Draft LPF area but within the foraging range of Greylag Goose and the Herring Gull, and there is a likelihood these species could forage in the Draft LPF area, therefore further consideration is required. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Draft LPF has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	19.2	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]	The SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. The Draft LPF area is a significant distance away from this European Site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the Draft LPF area and the SPA. As per Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), 2016, the core foraging ranges for the QIs Merlin and Peregrine are 5 km and 2 km respectively. This SPA is > 5 km away from the Draft LPF area. The Draft LPF does not support carrying out development that may result in environmental impacts, such as habitat deterioration or disturbance to species, that may extend beyond the Draft LPF area and to within 5 km of this SPA.	N	N	N
004143	Cahore Marshes	23.5	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The hydrologically sensitive species of this SPA are highly sensitive to pollutants, water levels and anthropogenic disturbance. The Draft LPF area is a significant distance away from this European Site. There is no hydrological connectivity between the Draft LPF area and the SPA. The foraging ranges for the SCIs are a maximum of 15 km taking a conservative and precautionary approach. The Draft LPF does not support carrying out development that may result in environmental impacts, such as habitat deterioration or disturbance to species, that may extend beyond the Draft LPF area and to within 15 km of this SPA.	N	N	N
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	24.9	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]	The hydrologically sensitive species of this SPA are highly sensitive to pollutants, water levels and anthropogenic disturbance.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]	This SPA is outside within the Draft LPF area but within the foraging range of various SCIs for this SPA and there is a likelihood these species could forage in the Draft LPF area, therefore further consideration is required. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Draft LPF has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			



3.6 AA Screening Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the AA Screening exercises, it is concluded that the Proposed Variation:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.
- Individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on 3 no. European sites, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge.

Therefore, an NIR must be prepared for the Proposed Variation.



4. NATURA IMPACT REPORT

4.1 Introduction

The NIR assesses whether the Proposed Variation alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites brought forward from screening (those considered in Section 3 for which there is potential for 'Likely Significant Effects,' with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives).

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Appendix 4 provides background information on all European sites brought forward from screening in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website.

4.3 Characterisation Potential Effects

A characterisation of potential effects on the relevant European sites is presented in Table 4-1. This assessment considers the absence of environmental mitigation.

Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Adverse Effects arising from the subject land area

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	The Draft LPF provides for future land use development. This development may result in habitat loss/deterioration, impacts on water quality and hydrology, and species disturbance (e.g., due to construction activity), which may result in adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. Mitigation measures are required to ensure the Draft LPF does not result in adverse effects on the integrity of this European site.
004186	The Murrough SPA	The Draft LPF provides for future land use development. This development may result in habitat loss/deterioration, impacts on water quality and hydrology, and species disturbance (e.g., due to construction activity), which may result in adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. Mitigation measures are required to ensure the Draft LPF does not result in adverse effects on the integrity of this European site.
004237	Seas Off Wexford	The Draft LPF provides for future land use development. This development may result in habitat loss/deterioration, impacts on water quality and hydrology, and species disturbance (e.g., due to construction activity), which may result in adverse effects on the integrity of this European site. Mitigation measures are required to ensure the Draft LPF does not result in adverse effects on the integrity of this European site.



Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising the SPR model. The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site. These include: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. The Proposed Variation/Arklow LPF may result in such changes and adverse effects on the above European sites. More detail on potential adverse effects of the Draft Variation/LPF on the integrity of European sites (in the absence of environmental mitigation) is provided in the sections below.

4.3.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Draft LPF provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors for the Draft LPF area. Potential adverse effects arising from developments and activities include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise.

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected from the implementation of the Draft LPF. Various measures have been integrated into the Draft LPF with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the integrity of European Sites. Similar measures are defined in the WCDP, which applies to the Draft Arklow LPF area in this case.

4.3.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

The Draft LPF provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors. Potential adverse effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat and or species through, for example, light pollution, habitat loss or removal of 'stepping stone' habitats.

The Draft LPF includes measures to avoid, prevent and minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, planting of native tree species, management of habitats such as woodlands and minimising inappropriate lighting.

4.3.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The Draft LPF provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors. Disturbance effects are caused by any activity or development that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of human activity/movement or noise pollution.

4.3.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Draft LPF introduces potential sources for adverse effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment and trampling.



4.3.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. Land use development supported by the Draft LPF could result in negative effects on these indicators (e.g., through construction run-off, construction dust, development related noise and emissions etc.) Emissions to air also have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European Sites.

4.3.6 Climate Change

The Draft LPF includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the development supported by the Draft LPF will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

A variety of objectives defined in both the Draft LPF and policies/objective in the preceding WCDP will serve to minimize the carbon impact of settlement in the area and improve climate resilience, indirectly benefiting biodiversity components.



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section compiles the most relevant mitigation measures that have been embedded/incorporated into the Draft Arklow LPF in order to mitigate against potential adverse effects to European sites as identified above. The Draft LPF has been prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Draft LPF and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no adverse effects to the integrity of any European site from implementation of the Draft LPF.

The Proposed Variation development process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment teams and the competent authority. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the competent authority.

A strong level of 'embedded' environmental mitigation was present in the Draft LPF to mitigate potential adverse effects on European sites. Environmental mitigation measures applicable to the Draft LPF area were also already defined in the preceding WCDP. The embedded mitigation in the Draft LPF, and the relevant mitigatory policy/objectives defined in the WCDP, serve to prevent and minimize potential adverse effects to European sites that may occur during the implementation of the Proposed Variation.

Where necessary, additional environmental mitigation, in the form of objective/text additions, were integrated into the Draft LPF to further mitigate potential adverse effects on European sites. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure the best environmental outcomes.

Additional text clarifying the approaches to protecting European sites from adverse effects due to the Draft LPF implementation has been attached to a number of Draft LPF objectives.

Due to the inter-relationship between various environmental components, environmental mitigation measures defined for one component can also serve to benefit other environmental components.

Mitigation measures for avoiding and preventing adverse effects on the integrity of European sites which were embedded in early iterations of the Draft LPF are presented in Table 5-1.

Various mitigation measures which are applicable to the Arklow area have also been defined WCPD generally. These are presented in Table 5-2.

Additional text clarifying European site protection-related obligations and environmental/ecological enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined objectives in the Draft LPF. These text additions are itemised and presented in Table 5-3 This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during implementation.

Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures (additional objectives) integrated into the Draft LPF, as a result of the AA, to augment European site protection and environmental/ecological enhancement in the Draft LPF are presented in Table 5-4.



Table 5-1: Objectives Embedded in the Draft LPF for mitigating adverse effects on European Sites

Ref.	Policy/Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 14	To require any new developments to be suitably set back from the water's edge and to provide public routes and places along waterfronts, to ensure that access to the water, such as steps / slipways / river/ beaches etc. are maintained and improved and to facilitate the development of new opportunities for pedestrian and cycle links from the Waterfront to the town centre.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
ARK 23	To facilitate and support all forms of employment creation on appropriately zoned land in Arklow and to promote the intensification of activities at existing suitable employment locations especially where this can mitigate long distance commuting, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and compliance with all other objectives of the County Development Plan and this LPF.	• Climate Change
ARK 26	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the Draft LPF and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.	• Climate Change
ARK 54	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 55	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 LPF.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Ref.	Policy/Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 56	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Draft LPF 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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 59	To protect non-designated sites including identified GI corridors, 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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 60	Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 61	To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with ancient woodlands, whether subject to TPO or not, where considered to be viable, safe and in line with sound arboricultural management principles. 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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
ARK 62	To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the Draft LPF area. 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).	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Ref.	Policy/Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 65	To require that development within or adjacent to Arklow Town Marsh should be informed by: a) A detailed Ecological Impact Assessment and EIA Screening or EIAR as appropriate. The Ecological Impact Assessment should be informed by detailed desktop study and detailed ecological surveys of the development lands and Arklow Marsh pHNA and provide for the ecological enhancement of the developed lands and the ecological corridors. b) A detailed hydrological impact assessment to assess the potential impacts to groundwater both in terms of groundwater quality and quantity and groundwater flow pathways to protect the hydrological regime of the marsh. The hydrological Impact assessment accompanying such developments shall include an assessment of the in-combination assessment of any hydrological impacts in terms of quantity and quality of water with other pressures on the water quantity and quality supporting the marsh e.g. an in-combination assessment with the impact of the Arklow Flood Protection Scheme is required.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
ARK 85	Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area identified as at risk of flooding (Flood Zones A and B) as set out in the SFRA and flood maps appended to this LPF OR in Flood Zone C but within an area: - that is deemed by the Local Authority at any time to be at possible risk of flooding having regard to new information with respect to flood risk in the area that has come to light; or - that is identified as at possible future risk of flooding having regard to climate change scenarios either on Map 4C attached to this LPF or on any future maps prepared by the OPW during the lifetime of the Draft LPF; - shall comply with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines 2009 (as may be amended, supplemented or replaced during the lifetime of this LPF) and shall be accompanied by a site specific Flood Risk Assessment. Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and the Draft LPF SFRA.	• Climate Change
ARK 90	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system;	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Table 5-2: Policies and objectives in the WCDP for mitigating adverse effects on European Sites

Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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 locations) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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 (see Map 17.06 Groundwater Vulnerability).	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
CPO 13.20	Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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: § 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;	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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'.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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).	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
CPO 15.13	To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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).	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Disturbance to key species • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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.	- Disturbance to key species - Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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	- Disturbance to key species - Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 17.4	To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents: - EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)⁶, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)⁷, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)⁸, 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)¹⁰ 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.	- Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area - Habitat or species fragmentation - Disturbance to key species - Reduction in species density - Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value - Climate Change



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
CPO 17.14	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Draft LPF 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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 17.16	Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 17.24	To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
CPO 17.26	Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban locations) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
CPO18.8	To require the integration of Green Infrastructure principles and inclusion of native planting schemes in all development proposals in landscaped areas, open spaces and areas of public space.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 19.8	To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 19.11	To protect both public and private investment by prohibiting any new building or development (including caravans and temporary dwellings) within 100m of 'soft shorelines' i.e. shorelines that are prone to erosion, unless it can be objectively established based on the best scientific information at the time of the application, that the likelihood of erosion at a specific location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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 plan ⁵ . 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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
CPO 19.14	To ensure that there is no removal of sand dunes, beach sands or gravels through application of the provisions of the Foreshore (Amendment) Act (1992), in close co-operation with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 16.24	Proposals for the undergrounding of cables should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised: § Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows by topsoil stripping; § Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered; § Impacts on underground archaeology; § Impacts on soil structure and drainage; and § Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 11.50	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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
CPO 11.51	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.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
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 defenses and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change



Table 5-3: Amendments to Objectives integrated into the Draft LPF

Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 8	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2. Applications for the development of such lands shall include a detailed survey of the existing site conditions, proposals for demolition and remediation of previous site activities and a management plan for the disposal of such materials.	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront Zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2, <i>having appropriate regard to environmental and ecological sensitivities associated with this coastal location.</i> Applications for the development of such lands <i>(including in particular any development that entails demolition and / or site excavation) shall include appropriate site and ground surveys / investigations / remediation measures / waste management plans as required taking in account current and previous/historic land uses / site activities</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 29	To support and facilitate the development of spin off employment and support infrastructure from the renewable energy sector, including the development of long duration electricity storage, distribution and transmission and/or projects which would further result in the decarbonisation of the energy sector.	To support and facilitate the development of spin off employment and support infrastructure from the renewable energy sector, including the development of long duration electricity storage, distribution and transmission and/or projects which would further result in the decarbonisation of the energy sector. <i>Ensure such facilities are appropriately located and designed, informed by appropriate environmental/ecological assessment processes and do not result in significant adverse noise or landscape/visual impacts.</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 47	To facilitate and encourage the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview as funding becomes available.	To facilitate and encourage the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview as funding becomes available, <i>whilst ensuring proposals to re-develop the park are appropriately informed by ecological surveying and impact assessment, and do not result in habitat fragmentation or net loss of biodiversity.</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
ARK 48	To facilitate and encourage the development and/or improvement of public sports facilities on the AOS lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas as funding becomes available.	To facilitate and encourage the development and/or improvement of public sports facilities on the AOS lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas as funding becomes available, <i>whilst ensuring proposals to develop lands are appropriately informed by ecological surveying and impact assessment, and do not result in habitat fragmentation or net loss of biodiversity.</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value • Climate Change
ARK 60	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the Draft LPF area, except where absolutely necessary and justified. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan.	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the Draft LPF area, except where absolutely necessary and justified. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan. <i>Any proposal to culvert a watercourse in the Draft LPF area shall be informed by appropriate ecological surveying and ecological impacts, and shall be in line science based good practice relating to the protection of ecology and the environment, including guidance from Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 68	To overcome overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the river, by promoting and supporting the development of; - The Kilbride Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between the Avoca River Walk and Arklow Town Marsh/Ferrybank, including associated east-west pedestrian links connecting this crossing with Ferrybank / Dublin Road (short/medium term), the River Avoca Industrial Park (long term) and Arklow to Laragh Greenway(long term). - A second pedestrian and cycling bridge between South Quay and North Quay with upgrades to Doyle's lane, serving to connect Arklow Main Street with the Bridgewater Shopping Centre.	To overcome overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the river, by promoting and supporting the development of; - The Kilbride Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between the Avoca River Walk and Arklow Town Marsh/Ferrybank, including associated east-west pedestrian links connecting this crossing with Ferrybank / Dublin Road (short/medium term), the River Avoca Industrial Park (long term) and Arklow to Laragh Greenway(long term). - A second pedestrian and cycling bridge between South Quay and North Quay with upgrades to Doyle's lane, serving to connect Arklow Main Street with the Bridgewater Shopping Centre. <i>Such development shall be suitably informed by ecological surveying, ecological impact assessment, AA Screening/AA and EIA Screening/EIA, as the case may be, with a view toward avoiding and preventing significant adverse effects on receiving environmental sensitivities. Such development shall be appropriately shaped and guided by environmental and ecological constraints in the receiving environments.</i>	- Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area - Habitat or species fragmentation - Disturbance to key species - Reduction in species density - Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 80	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. To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the ECRIPP and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the Draft LPF. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.	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. To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the ECRIPP and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the Draft LPF. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible. <i>The Council will aim to facilitate and promote the carrying out of coastal defence and protection works in accordance with best environmental practice and in manner that only considers alteration of the natural sediment flow and/or increased erosion if there is an overall benefit to habitats as a result of the proposals.</i>	- Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area - Habitat or species fragmentation - Disturbance to key species - Reduction in species density - Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 90	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system;	- Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system; <i>these systems shall be maintained properly in accordance with relevant standards to ensure their continue efficacy.</i> - Developments, including new/expanded developments and any planned improvements to existing urban spaces, shall be designed in accordance with the guidance document "Implementation of Urban Nature-based Solutions: Guidance Document for Planners, Developers and Developer Agents" LAWPRO 2024.	- Disturbance to key species - Reduction in species density - Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



Table 5-4: New Objectives for the Draft LPF

Reference	Objective	Type of Potential Adverse Effect Mitigated
ARK 57	<i>To ensure development is planned in a manner that has appropriate regard to specific ecological sensitivities associated with the Arklow area, including those associated with the Arklow pNHA, the Avoca River, coastal habitats and species, and sites suitable for wintering birds.</i> <i>In particular, to ensure the protection and where possible the restoration of the biodiversity associated with Avoca River and its riparian (bankside) habitats. Proposals for development at or in the vicinity of the Avoca River should be informed by ecological surveying and ecological impact assessment.</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value
ARK 58	<i>Where necessary, development shall integrate appropriate measures to prevent disturbance and displacement of sensitive bird species (such as Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may utilise grassland, estuarine, coastal and marine habitats in the Draft LPF area.</i> <i>In particular, proposed developments located within or adjacent to I-Webs (wintering bird survey) sites located at the lower reaches of the Avoca River (Site Name: Avoca River/Arklow, Site Code: OT399), Seaview Avenue (Site Name Arklow Main Pond, Site Code: OT099) and Sea Road (Site Name: Caravan Site Pond, Site Code: OT098) shall be suitably informed by:</i> • <i>Ecological surveying, AA Screening/AA and EIA Screening/EIA, as the case may be, with a view toward avoiding and preventing significant adverse effects on receiving environmental sensitivities such as the existing wetland habitat and avian species which forage and roost during the wintering season. Such development shall be appropriately shaped and guided by environmental and ecological constraints in the receiving environments.</i> • <i>Detailed hydrological impact assessment to assess the potential impacts in terms of water quality and quantity and flow pathways to protect the hydrological regime of the wetland habitats. The hydrological impact assessment accompanying such developments shall include an assessment of the in-combination assessment of any hydrological impacts in terms of quantity and quality of water with other pressures on the water quantity and quality supporting these wetlands.</i>	• Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area • Habitat or species fragmentation • Disturbance to key species • Reduction in species density • Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value



6. CONCLUSIONS

An AA Screening and NIR has been carried out for the Proposed Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). In the absence of mitigation, the implementation of the Proposed Variation was found to have the potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the following European Sites:

- Wicklow Head SPA (004127)
- The Murrough SPA (004186)
- Seas off Wexford SPA (004237)

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of adverse effects in the first place and mitigate adverse effects where these cannot be avoided. Furthermore, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Proposed Variation and Draft Arklow LPF will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

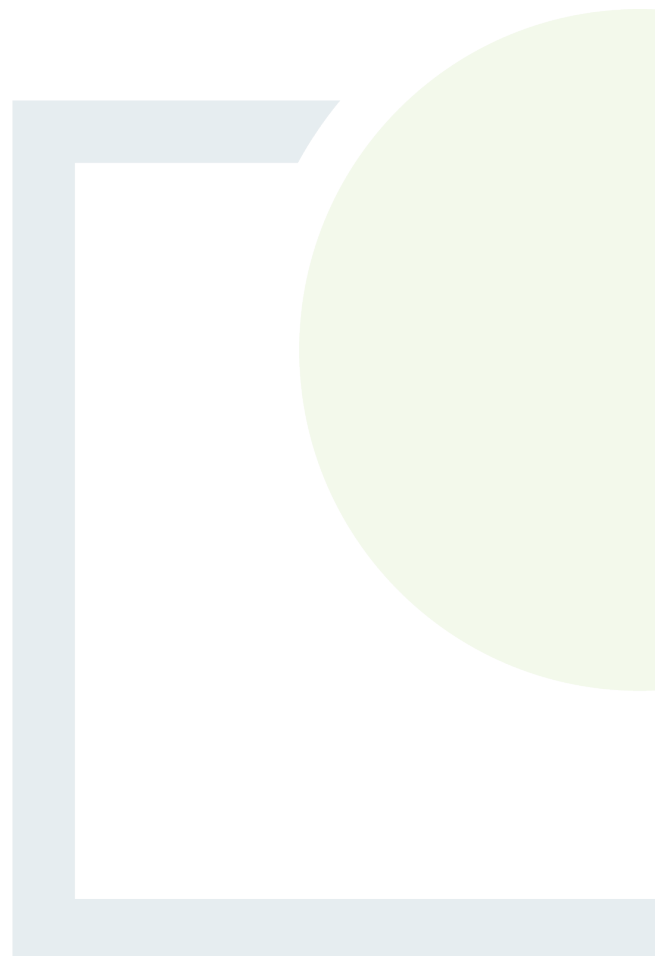
Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Proposed Variation, will not give rise to any adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 1

Assessment of Potential
Sources of Impact



Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact

An assessment of potential sources of environmental impact that may lead to likely significant effects on receiving European Sites, associated with policy and objectives defined in the Proposed Variation and constituting Arklow Local Planning Framework, has been carried out. This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the following sources of impact criteria defined in the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) Practice Note.

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- LPF related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- LPF related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species

Table 1 presents the codes associated with the potential source of impact criteria. Assessment of the various sections of the Proposed Variation can be found overleaf.

Table 1: *Potential Sources of Impact Criteria and Associated Codes*

Source of Impact	Code	Source of Impact	Code
Habitat destruction /fragmentation /deterioration	HAB	LPF related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density	RED
Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses	SWR	Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and	AP
Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project	GWQ	Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species	IS
LPF related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species	DDS		

Proposed Variation No. 5 Part 1 and 2

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Proposed Variation 5: Part 1:1	Volume 1, Chapter 1 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Vary Section 1.2 as follows: 1.2 Structure of the Plan <i>The plan consists of a written statement and plans that indicate the development objectives for County Wicklow.</i> <i>Volume 1 of the plan contains the primary written statement.</i> Volume 2 contains <i>a) a set of 'town plans' for the following settlements: Ashford, Aughrim, Avoca, Baltinglass, Carnew, Donard, Dunlavin, Laragh-Glendalough, Newcastle, Newtownmountkenedy, Rathdrum, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Tinahely.</i> <i>b) the land use zoning and key development objectives maps for the Local Area Plan settlements / areas of Wicklow Town – Rathnew and Blessington which have separate Local Area Plans (the written statement is published in a separate Local Area Plan)</i> <i>c) Local Planning Frameworks for the settlements / areas of Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Arklow & Environs and Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry & Kilmacanogue)</i> Volume 3 contains the appendices to the plan that inform and clarify the broader strategic context of the written statement. <i>At the time of the adoption of this County Development Plan in 2022, separate Local Area Plans are in place, which will be reviewed after the adoption of this plan, for the following towns / areas: Bray Municipal District, Wicklow Town - Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole and Blessington. These plans will be reviewed during the lifetime of this County Development Plan.</i>	These changes do not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	These Local Area Plans are reviewed and made under Sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Planning and Development Act, and as such do not form part of the County Development Plan and are subsidiary plans to the County Development Plan. However The CDP does provide the key parameters for these Local Area Plans such as the future population and housing targets and sets out the broad strategy for the future economic and social development of these towns. To ensure that the zoning and key development objectives of LAPs clearly form part of the County Development Plan, the land use zoning and key development objectives maps are adopted by way of variation into the County Development Plan during the making of each LAP.								
Proposed Variation 5: Part 1:2	Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Vary Section 3.5 as follows: 3.5 Zoning This development plan provides the population and housing targets for all 21 settlements in the County up to 2031. However, Upon adoption in 2022, it only provides provided plans for 13 settlements, the remainder of the settlements having their own stand-alone 'Local Area Plans' at that time. , which will be reviewed after the adoption of this County Development Plan.	These changes do not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	<i>As part of the LAP adoption process for the settlements of Wicklow Town – Rathnew and Blessington, the land use zoning and key development objectives maps for these LAP settlements / areas are integrated into Volume 2 of this County Development Plan by way of variation.</i> <i>For the remaining settlements (Bray, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Greystones – Delgany, Kilcoole and Arklow), ‘Local Planning Frameworks’ (which will replace their previous LAPs) which set out settlement specific objectives including land use zoning and key development objectives maps are to be integrated into Volume 2 of this County Development Plan by way of variation.</i> Local Area Plans (LAPs) & Local Planning Frameworks New Local Area Plans or Local Planning Frameworks will be made for the following settlements in the period 2022-20245 in the following order of priority: 1. Wicklow Town – Rathnew 2. Blessington 3. Greystones - Delgany – Kilcoole 4. Arklow and Environs 5. Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue) While each LAP will cover a period of 6 years, zoning will be provided on the basis of the land needed to meet the 2031 population target, with clear objectives to ensure 2026 targets can be reached. The Core Strategy Tables to follow shows the housing unit requirements for the LAP / LPF towns, up to the year 2031 and the housing unit capacity of lands zoned in current LAPs in effect at the time of the adoption of the County Development Plan in 2022.								

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	This table shows that the majority of current LAPs have a surplus of zoned land having regard to the revised 2031 targets set out in the NPF Roadmap and the RSES for the EMRA. Upon adoption of this County Development Plan in 2022, the amount of zoned land in pre-existing LAPs exceeded the amount of land needed to meet the Core Strategy 2031 housing targets for each of the towns set out in this County Development Plan (as detailed in Table A of the Core Strategy). In the preparation of the updated LAPs/LPFs during the lifetime of this County Development Plan, development and growth objectives, including the amount of zoned housing land and phasing / prioritising objectives, shall take into account the zoning principles set out hereunder as well as the guidance set out in 'Development Plans – Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoHLGH 2022) and any further Government or Ministerial policies / guidance in place at the time of the adoption of the LAP/LPF. In particular, residential development objectives including land zoning provisions will be made on the basis of providing enough housing land to meet the prevailing Core Strategy population and housing targets set out in the County Development Plan at the time of adoption of the LAP/ LPF, with flexibility in the zoning provisions to ensure that (a) the targets can be achieved in the event that unforeseen impediments to the development of certain lands arise and (b) the LAPs/ LPFs do not have to be formally amended to reflect any changes in the Core Strategy or population / housing targets that may arise during the lifetime of the County Development Plan due to changes to the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or planning legislation. Prior to the adoption of new LAPs / LPFs reflecting the targets set out in this plan, in the assessment of applications for new housing development (or mixed use development of which housing forms a significant component) the Council will strictly adhere to the compact growth, sequential development and phasing principles set out in this plan.								

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Proposed Variation 5: Part 1:3	Volume 1, Chapter 17 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Amend Map 17.09 Wicklow Landscape category map to reflect boundary of Arklow LPF.	This change does not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Proposed Variation 5: Part 1:4	Volume 1, Chapter 19 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Amend Map 19.01a Wicklow North Coastal Cells map to reflect boundary of Arklow LPF	This change does not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Proposed Variation 5: Part 2:1	Volume 2 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Volume 2, Table of Contents Variation proposed: Insert new headings and Parts in Volume 2 as follows: VOLUME 2 – TOWN PLANS TABLE OF CONTENTS Part 1 LEVEL 4 SELF SUSTAINING TOWN PLANS Level 4 Self Sustaining Town Plans Introduction Baltinglass Newtownmountkennedy Rathdrum Part 2 LEVEL 5 SMALL TOWN PLANS (TYPE 1) Level 5 Small Town Plans Introduction Ashford Aghrim Carnew Dunlavin Tinahely Part 3 LEVEL 6 SMALL TOWN PLANS (TYPE 2) Level 6 Small Town Plans Introduction Avoca Donard Newcastle Roundwood Shillelagh Part 4 LEVEL 7 PLAN Laragh-Glendalough Settlement and Tourism Plan Part 5 Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington - Local Area Plan (LAP) Maps	These changes do not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.							
			x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	Part 6 Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Planning Framework Arklow Local Planning Framework								

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Proposed Variation 5: Part 2:2	Volume 2 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Variation Proposed: Add new text ‘ Part 6: Introduction to Local Planning Frameworks ’ PART 6: INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS 6.1 Preamble Local Planning Frameworks (LPF) form part of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and are adopted into the County Development Plan via the variation procedure set out under Section 13 of the the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and / or any future processes for the making of variations to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 that may come into effect during its lifetime. The purpose of an LPF is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of a settlement; the LPF, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the LPF area. Local Planning Frameworks will replace previous Local Area Plans; LPFs will build upon the successful strategies and objectives developed in previous Local Area Plans for each settlement but will adapt where necessary to reflect updated national and regional planning policy and guidance and general emerging planning issues. The majority of policies, objectives and development standards that will apply in the LPF areas are already determined in the Wicklow County Development Plan and all efforts shall be made to minimise repetition of County Development Plan objectives in LPF other than a summary tailored to each settlement, unless it is considered necessary to emphasise assets or restate objectives that have particular relevance and importance to the LPF area.								
		These changes do not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	While this will facilitate the streamlining of each LPF to just those issues that are relevant to this area, and an overall reduction in the content of the LPF compared to the previous Local Area Plan, this should not be seen a diminution of the level of importance or indeed protection afforded to each area. In particular, development standards, retail strategies, housing strategies etc that are included in the County Development Plan shall not be repeated. Any specific policies / objectives or development standards required for each LPF area will be stated as precisely that, and in all cases will be consistent with the County Development Plan. Thus development standards will therefore be the same across the entire County, and any differences for specific settlements would be clear and transparent, to both those adopting the LPF, and the general public alike. Furthermore, LPFs shall only include objectives that are area specific and achievable, and avoid those that are aspirational or are best dealt with in the annual budget, road works programme, etc. The role of a land use plan or framework is to put in place a policy framework within which development can occur, but does not decide what works actually get done by either private individuals or public bodies. The delivery of objectives will be determined by the initiation of private development or by the allocation of public funding through the annual budgetary process, which is a separate process to any land use plan or framework. LPFs are framed in accordance with the development horizon set out in the 2022 County Development Plan. In particular, residential development objectives including land zoning provisions have been made on the basis of providing enough housing land to meet the prevailing Core Strategy population and housing targets set out in the County Development Plan at the time of adoption of each LPF with flexibility in the zoning provisions to ensure that (a) the targets can be achieved in the event that unforeseen impediments to the development of certain lands arise, and (b) each LPF does not have to be formally altered to reflect any changes in the Core Strategy or population / housing targets that may arise during the lifetime of the County Development Plan due to changes to the National Planning Framework , Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy or changes to planning legislation.								

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	6.2 Local Planning Framework format Each LPF comprises a written statement and a series of maps that provide a graphic representation of the content of the written text. Where there is any discrepancy between the text and maps, the text shall take precedence. Each LPF is accompanied by a number of studies and appendices, including: - Strategic Environmental Assessment, - Natura Impact Assessment (Appropriate Assessment), - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, - Social Infrastructure Audit, - Green Infrastructure Study. All of these assessments inform the crafting of each LPF. A key aim a LPF is to set out development strategy for the future development of the area and from this strategy, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this strategy. The development strategy must be consistent with the 'Core Strategy' of the County Development Plan and reflect the history, physical characteristics and environmental constraints, as well as the opportunities of the area. The factors influencing the development strategy are set in Sections A.2 and A.3 of each LPF, with the strategy described in Section A.4. Thereafter each LPF will set out the settlement specific development objectives under a number of headings. Where there is any doubt as to whether a specific development proposal accords with these development objectives and / or those of the County Development Plan, the overall settlement development strategy and the principles set out therein shall be taken as the guide to that assessment.								

Reference	Text	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	6.3 Maps The maps provide a graphic representation of the written statement of each LPF. They indicate land use and other development standards together with various objectives of the Council. The maps do not purport to be accurate survey maps from which site dimensions or other survey data can be measured. The LPF relates to the lands within the identified LPF boundary as shown on Map 1 of each LPF. 1.4 Public Consultation Pre-draft consultation with the public, local community groups and commercial / business interest in each LPF area, as well as public sector agencies, non-governmental agencies and infrastructure providers was carried out during the course of 2024. This consultation was carried out in accordance with the provisions set out under Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) on the basis at that time it was intended to prepare Local Area Plans under Part II, Chapter II of the 2000 Act for the LPF areas. Having regard however to the passing of the Planning & Development Act 2024, it has been decided to adopt a plan / framework for these areas via the making of a variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan. All of these consultations, including submissions made, have been considered in the crafting of each LPF.								
Proposed Variation 5: Part 2:3	Volume 2 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Variation Proposed: Add the following Local Planning Framework to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Arklow Local Planning Framework	This change does not introduce sources of environmental impact that may result in likely, significant effects on European site.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Town Centre Regeneration and Retail

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 1	To promote Arklow town centre in the first instance as the priority location within the settlement for new residential, retail / retail services and employment through the development of vacant or underutilised sites and via the reconfiguration / redevelopment of existing low density development, while at all times respecting the character and heritage of the town centre. In particular, to support the development of opportunity sites in accordance with the specific criteria set out for each identified area within this LPF and to support and facilitate activities and developments that will improve the vitality, connectivity and vibrancy of Arklow Town Centre.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 2	To support and facilitate improvements to the public realm in Arklow Town Centre to provide an attractive, comfortable environment for pedestrians of all mobility levels, cyclists and users of public transport. Such improvements may include the following: • Improvements in the 'walkability' and 'legibility' of the town centre via improved wayfinding signage, enhancement of pedestrian facilities along public roads and local laneways and improving connections from the town centre to the waterfront, Arklow Train Station and edge of centre residential areas; • Reduction in the dominance of private vehicles and space dedicated to private vehicles in the public realm, thereby facilitating the enhancement of space for social interaction and potential use for community and business uses; • By improving the appearance of junctions and gateway areas into the Main Street, particularly the Main Street – Bridge Street junction and on approach from Back Street and Tinahask/Harbour Road. • To seek as part of the redevelopment/refurbishment of properties along Main Street and Lower Main Street the reinstatement of former archways/vehicular/carriage entrances to provide pedestrian and cyclist routes between the Main Street/Lower Main Street, South Quay and Castle Park and open up backland and infill sites for redevelopment with vehicular traffic accessing plots from alternative locations if practical; • In conjunction with the National Transport Authority, to carry out a feasibility study and support the development of an active travel bridge to the east of the 19 Arches Bridge improving the visual and physical connection between Arklow town centre, the waterfront and Bridgewater Shopping Centre; • In conjunction with the National Transport Authority to carry out a feasibility study and support the development of a second active travel bridge to the west of the 19 Arches Bridge connecting Arklow Main town centre, the river walk with Ferrybank and SLO5 Kilbride. • Improvement of quality and consistency of the public realm including more consistency in road surface treatments, paving materials, signage and street furniture; • The implementation of a comprehensive public realm scheme along the south and north bank of the River Avoca and adjacent areas of Arklow Town Centre as part of the Arklow Town Flood Relief Scheme works. • Improvement to overall enjoyment of the experience of being in Arklow town centre through reductions in traffic, street clutter, overhead cabling and incongruous public realm elements.	Proposed development in the area of the Avoca River and surrounding grasslands has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 3	To protect and enhance the streetscape of Arklow Main Street through the following: • a reduction in visual/street clutter; • managing the level of signage on shopfronts; • supporting the reinstatement of original building features and traditional style shop fronts in a sympathetic manner and; • the appropriate control of alterations to existing buildings and the development of new structures; in particular building and roof lines and heights which diverge from the established form will require to be justified.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Objectives OP1	- Where possible this site should be the subject of a comprehensive (not piecemeal) integrated scheme of development encompassing the entire lands. Individual site redevelopment proposals may be considered if they can demonstrate how they comply with the objectives of this opportunity site. - Proposals shall provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating retail, commercial, residential, tourism, community and cultural development, all contained within a high quality architectural, landscaped, streetscape and high quality public realm environment. - The topographical challenges of this site area recognised. Proposals shall carefully balance the challenges of this site with its highly accessible town centre location whilst been sensitive to its immediate built and natural context. Proposals shall demonstrate how they accord with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities. - A maximum height of 4 storeys fronting onto Upper Main Street / Parade Ground shall be permitted. - Buildings along the river walkway shall be a minimum height of 3 storeys. - Any development shall comprise of a series of new streets/laneways, opening up walking and cycle linkages between the Vale Road and the river and Upper Main Street / Parade Ground to the river. - To ensure, where possible, there are active ground floor uses in the buildings along public spaces, walkways and streets and that all new structures present an appropriate façade to the river, walkways and roadside with strong passive surveillance, a continuous streetscape and building frontage where appropriate. - To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the river bank.	This objective supports the development of buildings along the Avoca River and the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the Avoca River. There is potential for the generation of environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Objectives OP2	- Where possible this site should be the subject of a comprehensive integrated scheme of development encompassing the entire lands. Individual site redevelopment proposals may be considered if they can demonstrate how they comply with the objectives of this opportunity site. - Any new scheme should seek to protect the character and appearance of the traditional shop fronts including the Morgan Doyle facade and canopy and any architectural details on buildings of high architectural value wherever possible. - Proposal shall provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating retail, commercial, residential, tourism, community and cultural development, all contained within a high quality architectural, landscaped, streetscape and high quality public realm environment. - A high density development will be required to be achieved across the site that is sensitive and appropriate to its immediate built and natural context and accords with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities. - A maximum height of 3 storeys fronting onto Main Street shall be permitted. - Primary facades with a continuous streetscape, active frontage and passive surveillance shall address the river, Kinsella's Lane, St, Mary's Park and Main Street. In particular buildings along the River Walkway to the north shall be a minimum height of 3 storeys with active uses/windows/balconies directly overlooking this walking route. - To ensure, where possible, there are active ground floor uses in the buildings along public spaces, walkways and streets and that all new structures present an appropriate façade to the river, walkways and roadside with strong passive surveillance, a continuous streetscape and building frontage where appropriate. - Additional links from the Main Street to the river should be incorporated through the site where feasible with active ground floor uses fronting public spaces, walkways and streets. In this regard proposals shall retain and reopen the existing archway addressing the Main Street. Where feasible this archway shall serve as the entrance to a new pedestrianised link between the Main Street and the river and/or provide access to a new internal courtyard to the rear of these properties with active uses at ground level. - To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the river bank.	This objective supports the development of buildings along the Avoca River. There is potential for the generation of environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 4	To permit the nature and scale of retail development appropriate to enable Arklow Town Centre to perform its role and function as defined within the County Retail Strategy.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 5	To vigorously protect and promote the vitality and viability of the town centre. Development proposals not according with the fundamental objective to support the vitality and viability of the town centre must demonstrate compliance with the 'sequential approach' before they can be approved. The 'sequential approach' shall be applied and assessed in accordance with the 'Retail Planning Guidelines, (DoECLG, 2012)'. The Planning Authority will discourage new retail developments if they would either by themselves or cumulatively in conjunction with other developments seriously damage the vitality and viability of existing retail centres within the County.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 6	Sites identified for Local Shops and Services shall facilitate the limited development of small scale local neighbourhood shops and retail services and other local service uses that meet only the retail or service needs of residents in the immediate catchment and are not of such a scale or type that would detract or draw trade from the town centre.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 7	To support and facilitate the development of retail use and café/restaurant uses, of a type and format appropriate to the needs of the immediate area and the needs of visitors to the Arklow South Beach at a scale that does not undermine the role of the existing Town Centre as part of the redevelopment of the former Arklow Pottery Site under SLO2.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Arklow Waterfront Zone

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 8	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2. Applications for the development of such lands shall include a detailed survey of the existing site conditions, proposals for demolition and remediation of previous site activities and a management plan for the disposal of such materials.	This objective supports the development of Arklow's waterfront zone. The construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×
		The operation phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 9	In the Waterfront Zone to allow for high-density and high rise development in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	This objective supports the development of Arklow's waterfront zone. The construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
		The operation phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 10	To support and facilitate existing and future commercial harbour / maritime activities in the Waterfront Zone including sailing, fishing, other water sports and commercial shipping activities, to support the development of new infrastructure necessary for the continued operation and development of the harbour and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial function of the harbour/port area. Sites directly adjoining the water edge of the South Harbour and Arklow Marina shall be retained for commercial harbour activities or uses directly reliant on access to the water edge.	This objective supports the existing and future commercial and maritime activities and development of recreational facilities. Increased maritime use of the waterfront for by boats and for water sports has the potential to generate environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCIs which may forage in coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. Increased fishing activities also have the potential to reduce fish availability for avian SCIs foraging in coastal waters leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. The operation phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 11	To encourage new developments that provide for an improved mix of uses including commercial, retail and residential uses and to particularly encourage tourism and leisure related developments along the eastern edge of the southern waterfront zone with improved access to Arklow South Beach.	This objective supports the development of Arklow's waterfront zone. The construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×
		The operation phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 12	To require any new developments in the Waterfront Zone to meet a high standard of architectural and landscape design and finish noting this exposed location and which respects the unique historical, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area.	This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the LPF area. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
ARK 13	Further retail development in the Waterfront Zone shall be restricted to that required to meet the everyday convenience needs of future residents or niche comparison uses such as those related to tourism and the maritime function of the area.	This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the LPF area. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 14	To require any new developments to be suitably set back from the water's edge and to provide public routes and places along waterfronts, to ensure that access to the water, such as steps / slipways / river/ beaches etc are maintained and improved and to facilitate the development of new opportunities for pedestrian and cycle links from the Waterfront to the town centre.	This objective supports the development of Arklow's waterfront zone. The construction and phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. The operation phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 15	To encourage and facilitate tourism and leisure related uses at appropriate locations in the Waterfront Zone including hotel / accommodation facilities and leisure uses to complement this maritime location.	This objective supports the development of Arklow's waterfront zone. The construction and phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
		The operation phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 16	To ensure that any development projects in and around the Arklow quays preserve and enhance any valuable structures or items of Arklow's maritime heritage.	This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the LPF area. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Residential Development

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 17	The priority for housing growth shall be the existing built up area of the settlement, on lands zoned 'town centre', 'waterfront' and 'existing residential'. Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Arklow with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted. In cognisance that the potential of such regeneration / infill / brownfield sites is difficult to predict, there shall be no quantitative restriction inferred from this LPF or the associated tables on the number of units that may be delivered within the built up envelope of the town.	This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the LPF area. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 18	Notwithstanding the zoning/designation of land for new 'greenfield' residential development (RN), permission will not be considered for RN2 Priority 2 lands unless the following conditions are satisfied: • At least 75% of Priority 1 new residential lands (RN1) lands have been activated (i.e. consent obtained and development initiated); • It can be shown that the housing / population generated by the proposed development would not result in the prevailing Core Strategy targets at the time of the application being significantly breached.	This objective supports residential development on greenfield sites. Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		The operation phase of proposed developments situated in sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 19	To require that new residential development represents an efficient use of land and achieves the highest densities suitable to that site subject to the reasonable protection of existing residential amenities and the established character of existing settlements. In promoting higher densities and more compact development, new development should demonstrate compliance with: • Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoHLGH 2024); • Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoHLGH 2023); • Urban Development and Building height Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoHLGH 2018); • Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS); • any subsequent / replacement Ministerial / Government guidelines.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 20	To promote and facilitate the development of a range of residential development types, tenures and sizes, including affordable and cost-rental properties, in order to cater for the varying housing needs and economic circumstances of the town's population. In particular, Wicklow County Council shall work with the Land Development Agency, and other relevant stakeholders, to deliver a range of residential tenures to meet the requirements of the population including (but not limited to) affordable and cost-rental housing types on appropriate lands, subject to compliance with the policies and objectives of the LPF, the Development Plan and other relevant national and regional policies and guidelines.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 21	Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure is adequate or is being provided to match the needs of new residents. New significant residential or mixed use development proposals (of which residential development forms a component) , shall be required to be accompanied by a Social Infrastructure Audit, to determine if social and community facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services.	This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the LPF area. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 22	In areas zoned 'Existing Residential' house improvements, alterations and extensions and appropriate infill residential development (including that which comprises the replacement of existing lower density development with higher density development) in accordance with principles of good design and protection of existing residential amenity will normally be permitted (other than on lands permitted or designated as open space, see CPO 6.25 of the Wicklow County Development Plan). While new developments shall have regard to the protection of the residential and architectural amenities of houses in the immediate environs, alternative and contemporary designs shall be encouraged (including alternative materials, heights and building forms), to provide for visual diversity.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Economic Development

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 23	To facilitate and support all forms of employment creation on appropriately zoned land in Arklow and to promote the intensification of activities at existing suitable employment locations especially where this can mitigate long distance commuting, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and compliance with all other objectives of the County Development Plan and this LPF.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 24	To facilitate and support Arklow town centre as the priority for new employment, particularly 'people'-based employment development.	This objective supports the development of Arklow town centre. Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments taking place at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		The operation phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
ARK 25	To protect employment zoned land from inappropriate development that would undermine future economic activity or the sustainable development of such areas.	This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the LPF area. It serves to protect employment zoned land and does not drive new development in and off itself. No significant effects on European sites are predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 26	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the LPF area and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 27	To support the further development of commercial and tourism related maritime / marine services sector and facilitate existing and future commercial port activities, including support services for offshore wind farms, and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial potential of the port area.	This objective supports the development of Arklow's commercial and tourism related maritime / marine services sector. Increased maritime use of the waterfront by boats has the potential to generate environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCIs which may forage in coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 28	To promote and facilitate the development of large-scale employment generating developments, including industrial, knowledge, high-technology, office and service based and science based developments, at appropriate locations.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 29	To support and facilitate the development of spin off employment and support infrastructure from the renewable energy sector, including the development of long duration electricity storage, distribution and transmission and/or projects which would further result in the decarbonisation of the energy sector.	This objective supports the carrying out of renewable energy-related development in the LPF area, including, potentially, at locations where sensitive ecological receptors could be present. Construction works associated with such development may generate sources of environmental impact that could result in likely, significant effects on European sites. The operational phases of such projects may also result in likely, significant effects on European sites.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 30	To facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of aggregates and minerals, in a manner which is consistent with the principle of sustainability, the protection of residential, environmental and tourism amenities within the LPF area and the objectives relating to the Extractive Industry in Chapter 9 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.	The facilitation and encouragement of the exploitation of aggregates and minerals has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance, alteration/loss of supporting habitat and release of sediment and pollutants) during the operation phase that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 31	To require that all employment zoned lands are developed as follows: • At the highest standard of architectural design and finish, in particular where development sites adjoin or are visible from the Dublin Road on approach to Arklow Town from Junction 20, and along the Wexford Road, on approach to Arklow Town from Junction 21. • That the layout makes provision for well supervised, public green routes (including foot and cycleways) through any employment lands and that such roads connect with the cycle lanes/tracks along the Dublin and Wexford Road via the most direct route possible shorted commute times by foot and cycle.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 32	In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to: • 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.	This objective supports risk reduction, public safety and environmental health and safety in accordance with higher-order legislation and guidance. No significant effects on European sites are predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Tourism

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 33	To support opportunities to improve the tourism product in Arklow and to maximise the town's coastal location and as a gateway to tourism assets within Co. Wicklow.	No significant effects on European sites predicted. This objective serves to provide underpinning support to the tourism product in Arklow. In and off itself, it does not expressly support or drive development.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 34	To support and facilitate the provision of tourist information services and tourist signage at appropriate locations in the LPF area, with particular emphasis on locations close to existing public transport nodes and existing tourism/recreation facilities/assets. To cooperate with Wicklow County Tourism, Fáilte Ireland and other appropriate bodies in facilitating the development and erection of standardised and branded signage for tourism facilities and tourist attractions.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 35	To support and facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of additional recreational infrastructure at beaches, harbours and coastlines in the LPF area, including (but not limited to): • improvements to coastal access, including for those with disabilities, in particular Improvements to the visual and physical connectivity between the town centre and Arklow South Beach,; • improvement of existing or development of new toilets, changing facilities, waste disposal facilities etc; • improvement of existing or development of new appropriately scaled and located car parking; • infrastructure supporting swimming, sailing, rowing and other water sports, and shore fishing subject to ensuring no adverse environmental or visual impacts.	This objective supports the development of additional recreational infrastructure at beaches, harbours and coastlines and will increase and introduce visitors to coastal habitats. Increased use of the waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCIs which may forage in coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 36	To protect and enhance existing, and support the development of new walking, cycling routes / trails, including facilities ancillary to trails (such as sign posting and car parks) and the development of linkages between existing trails in the area. In particular, to encourage and facilitate the maintenance and improvement of: • The Avoca River Walk and linkages to Vale Road and Arklow Main Street; • Lamberton Avenue/Woodlands Park leading to Glenart Woods; • Walking infrastructure along North Quay linking to the coastal walk and Kynoch Park; • Walking infrastructure along South Quay linking to Arklow South Beach via Arklow Port and the former Arklow Pottery site.	This objective will increase foot traffic along the Avoca River, coast and grassland habitats. There is potential during the construction and operation phase for the generation of environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCIs which may forage in coastal waters, estuarine, and/or grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 37	To facilitate and support the proposed Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway as an expansion to the existing Avoca River Walk.	This objective supports the development of Shillelagh Greenway as an expansion to the existing Avoca River Walk. This objective will increase foot traffic along the Avoca River. There is potential during the construction and operation phase for the generation of environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCI Greylag goose, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI population.	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 38	To positively consider the development of: a) New hotels, apart-hotels, boutique hotels and hostels within in the LPF area subject to compliance with normal planning and design criteria. b) Hotels, apart-hotels and boutique hotels may be considered in the AOS zoned area where such land is in active golf course use and the accommodation is held in single ownership and managed in conjunction with the golf course.	This objective supports development . Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		The operational phases of any proposed developments at sensitive areas have the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 39	To support: a) the development of a touring caravan (Aires park) and camping/glamping sites (not static mobile home parks) in any land use zone in this LPF other than OS1 and OS2, subject to it being demonstrated that such use would not undermine the vision / objective of that zone to any material degree, or interfere with the compact growth and densification goals for the settlements in the LPF area having due regard to surrounding land uses and proper planning and development of the area and; b) The improvement of existing tourist accommodation related developments, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	This objective supports development. Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		The operation phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 40	To support the enhancement of the tourism offer at existing public houses / eating establishments by the conversion of upper floors or via extension to provide for guest accommodation.	This objective supports the intensification of use of existing public houses / eating establishments. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 41	To support the change of use of dwellings to owner occupied guest houses and to support the use of existing residences for occasional short term letting use; however, permission will not be considered for conversion of non owner occupied entire dwelling units for full time short term letting use to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of rental properties available for longer terms rental in the area.	This objective supports the change of use of use of existing dwellings. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Ref	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 42	To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos. To facilitate and promote the development of small-scale tourist enterprises that are developed in conjunction with established rural activities such as agriculture. Such enterprises may include open farms, health farms, heritage and nature trails, pony trekking etc.	This objective promotes the development of small-scale tourist enterprises that are developed in conjunction with established rural activities such as agriculture. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Social and Community Development

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 43	Having regard to the potential longer term education needs in the Arklow area which have not been determined at this time but may arise; the physical and environmental constraints present in the area; and the space required particularly for new secondary schools, the development of new schools shall be permissible in principle in all land use zones in this LPF, other than OS1 and OS2, subject to the following criteria (in addition to all normal planning considerations) being fulfilled: • In order to ensure an appropriate spatial distribution of schools throughout the LPF area and to ensure maximum accessibility of all residential areas to schools, no new primary school shall be located within a 10-minute walking time of any existing primary schools or no new secondary school shall be located within a 20-minute walking time of any existing secondary schools; • The site has excellent public transport and active travel infrastructure in situ, or planned and committed to coincide with a new school opening at the site; • No such development will be considered on lands in existing community use where the loss in the use / facility is not being made up for elsewhere within the settlement.	This objective supports development. Any such development close to the Avoca River or grasslands has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		Additionally the construction phase of any proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. The operational phase of any proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 44	The Planning Authority will resist developments that entail the loss of existing community, education and open space/recreation lands or buildings unless it can be demonstrated that (a) adequate community, education and open space/recreation lands and buildings would be retained in the settlement having regard to the planned future population of the settlement or (b) the particular lands or buildings are not suitable or needed for current or future educational, community or open space / recreational usage. In particular, developments that would unduly constrain the ability of existing schools to expand will not be permitted.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 45	Without exception, to require the provision of childcare facilities in all new residential developments comprising 75 houses or more (including local authority and social housing schemes). In accordance with Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government guidelines, childcare places shall be provided at a ratio of 20 places per 75 residential units, having regard to cumulative effects of permitted development. Where such childcare facilities are required as part of new developments, they shall be; • designed from the outset as childcare facilities, with internal and external spaces meeting national standards for childcare use, • of such a location, design and scale to ensure childcare use is viable, and • shall be provided ready for occupation upon the occupation of the 75th house in the development. Without substantial cause, it is the policy of the Planning Authority not to allow a change of use of these premises within five years of first occupation of the development.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 46	To facilitate and encourage the co-location of childcare facilities with other educational facilities such as schools. Applications for the development of new educational facilities, or the significant redevelopment or extensions of existing facilities, should consider the provision of co-located childcare facilities within the development.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 47	To support and facilitate the development of new health / medical facilities and community facilities in principle in all land use zones in this LPF, other than OS1 and OS2, subject to the following criteria (in addition to all normal planning considerations) being fulfilled: - The site has public transport and active travel infrastructure in situ, or planned and committed to coincide with a new health / medical facility opening at the site; - No such development will be considered on lands in existing community uses where the loss in the use/facility is not being made up for elsewhere within the settlement.	This objective supports development. Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. The operation phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 48	To facilitate and encourage the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview as funding becomes available.	The development of Kynock Park has the potential to reduce/fragment suitable foraging habitat for wintering SCI Greylag Goose and Gull species. Construction works and the increased foot fall following construction will also generate noise and visual disturbance of avian SCIs using the area. The increased foot fall may also impact SCIs foraging in adjacent coastal waters. This may lead to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 49	To facilitate and encourage the development and/or improvement of public sports facilities on the AOS lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas as funding becomes available.	The development of lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue has the potential to reduce/fragment suitable foraging habitat for wintering SCI Greylag Goose and Gull species. Construction works and the increased foot fall following construction will also generate noise and visual disturbance of avian SCIs using the area. The increased foot fall may also impact SCIs foraging in adjacent coastal waters. This may lead to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 50	To require the development of new sports facilities, parks and equipped play spaces in tandem with residential development as detailed in the phasing requirements of SLOs 3, 4 and 5.	This objective supports development. Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations. The operation phase of proposed developments at sensitive areas has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., increased noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations."							

Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 51	To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures. 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.	This objective relates to the protection of features contained in the Record of Protected Structures. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
ARK 52	To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and sustainable uses/re-use of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, sash windows, archways, historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.	This objective relates to the protection of vernacular buildings and features. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 53	To protect the historic, traditional and maritime character of Arklow Town Centre through the implementation of the following requirements: • All new developments shall provide a high standard of urban design that is reflective of and is influenced by Arklow's historical maritime and traditional character. • In the consideration of new development, particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that the character and setting of both protected structures and non-protected but vernacular buildings are maintained and enhanced.	This objective relates to the protection of historic, traditional and maritime character of Arklow Town Centre. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 54	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 55	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 LPF.	This objective seeks to protect European sites.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 56	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the LPF 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.	This objective seeks to protect European sites.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 59	To protect non-designated sites including identified GI corridors, 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.	This objective seeks to protect local fauna and flora which fall outside of the protection of the Habitats Directive. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
ARK 60	Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.	This objective seeks to adhere to the Water Framework Directive. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 61	To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with ancient woodlands, whether subject to TPO or not, where considered to be viable, safe and in line with sound arboricultural management principles. 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.	This objective seeks to protect and support trees and woodland and extend semi-natural woodland. There is potential for significant effects where the planting of woodland occurs at grassland habitat which supports SCIs Greylag Goose and Gull species. This could lead to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 62	To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the LPF area. 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).	This objective seeks to protect hedgerow habitat. No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 63	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the LPF area, except where absolutely necessary and justified. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan.	The culverting of watercourses may reduce the value of supporting foraging habitat for avian SCIs, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 64	To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links: • The Avoca River Walk and Shillelagh to Arklow Greenway Route. • Glenart Woods Forest. • Arklow Seafront and Waterfront Zones. • Arklow Rock Cliff Walk • Arklow North and South Quays.	This objective supports the development of Greenways. This objective will increase foot traffic along areas which provide foraging habitats for SCIs Greylag Goose and Gull species. There is potential during the construction and operation phase for the generation of environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCI Greylag goose, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI population.	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 65	To require that development within or adjacent to Arklow Town Marsh should be informed by: a) A detailed Ecological Impact Assessment and EIA Screening or EIAR as appropriate. The Ecological Impact Assessment should be informed by detailed desktop study and detailed ecological surveys of the development lands and Arklow Marsh pHNA and provide for the ecological enhancement of the developed lands and the ecological corridors. b) A detailed hydrological impact assessment to assess the potential impacts to groundwater both in terms of groundwater quality and quantity and groundwater flow pathways to protect the hydrological regime of the marsh. The hydrological Impact assessment accompanying such developments shall include an assessment of the in-combination assessment of any hydrological impacts in terms of quantity and quality of water with other pressures on the water quantity and quality supporting the marsh e.g. an in-combination assessment with the impact of the Arklow Flood Protection Scheme is required.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 66	To promote and facilitate the restoration of the quarry lands at Arklow Rock-Askintinny proposed NHA in an environmentally sustainable way in the event that the existing quarrying use on site ceases.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Physical Infrastructure

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 68	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Local Transport Plan with regard to the delivery of proposed road safety measures and safe active travel routes along the existing road network and along new off-road routes having regard to the following: • The delivery of the National Cycle Network, as it relates to the LPF area. • The delivery of the Greater Dublin Area cycle network, as it relates to the LPF area; • To continue to promote and encourage the “Safer Routes to School” and the Green Schools Programme within Arklow and to liaise with all relevant Departments/agencies involved in the operation of the programme.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 69	To improve the safety, accessibility, and attractiveness of the pedestrian environment and support the delivery of improved cycle and pedestrian infrastructure as funding allows along Arklow's Central Spine route as identified in the draft LTP and feeders routes in particular the following : • Dublin Road and Ferrybank: Continuation of footpath provision and segregated cycle infrastructure from the bridge north of Beech Road to the town centre via Ferrybank, where carriageway width permits (AT 5 – AT 6) • Wexford Road: Continuation of footpath provision and segregated cycle infrastructure from Northwood / Knockmore roundabout to the Coolgreaney Road / Upper Main Street junction (AT 3) • Delivery of the Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme in the short term (AT 9) • Local junction improvements to DMURS standards (CY 2) • Improve existing pedestrian crossings and provision of new crossings at desire lines (WK 1) • Improve existing footpath provision, including resurfacing and widen where necessary (WK 1) • Major junction improvements to DMURS standards (CY 2) • Provide gateway and transition zone treatments on the approach to the built-up area of Arklow (CY 2) • Provide gateway treatment on Sea Road and Vale Road to signal the approach into a low-speed town centre (CY 3) • Creation of a Quietway on Fernhill between Wexford Road and Coolgreaney Road, parallel to Emoclew Road (PY 16) • To identify a network of other quietways where appropriate, in consultation with relative stakeholders (CY 4) • In the long term to assess feasibility of dedicated cycling facilities on Coolgreaney Road to build on the Vale Road Pedestrian Improvement Scheme (AT 10) • Design all transport and public realm projects in line with the DMURS User Hierarchy and design standards, and with the principles set out in the LPF (WK 1)	The construction and operation phases of cycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the area of grasslands/wetlands has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species), leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 70	To support the enhancement of the town's existing laneways network and to progress as funding allows, the development of new and improved permeability linkages through the LPF area and identify other suitable permeability routes/ improvements within the settlement (PY 1-30)	The construction and operation phases of new and improved permeability linkages in the area of grasslands/wetlands has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species), leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 71	- To seek the delivery of new or enhanced pedestrian and cyclist through routes through OS1 lands and existing residential open spaces. - To require that all new developments identify and deliver direct and safe new pedestrian and cyclist permeability routes to existing and proposed public transport nodes, active travel routes and where practical into the existing adjoining built up areas. (PY 1)	The construction and operation phases of new and improved permeability linkages in the area of grasslands/wetlands has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species), leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 72	To overcome overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the river, by promoting and supporting the development of; • The Kilbride Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between the Avoca River Walk and Arklow Town Marsh/Ferrybank, including associated east-west pedestrian links connecting this crossing with Ferrybank / Dublin Road (short/medium term), the River Avoca Industrial Park (long term) and Arklow to Laragh Greenway(long term) (AT 1, AT 15, AT 19, CY 2) • Improved active travel infrastructure linking the Bridgewater Shopping Centre to Main St. which could be in the form of additional capacity added to the existing Nineteen Arches Bridge or the provision of a new active travel bridge to the east of same (AT 2)	The construction and operation phases of new and improved permeability linkages in the area of grasslands/wetlands and the Avoca River has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 73	To improve the existing Avoca River Walk by promoting and supporting the following improvements: • Widening the existing path and entrances according to standards set out in national policy and guidance; • Improved lighting and wayfinding, in particular at access points; • The provision of age-friendly seating along the route; • Improved accessibility for people with additional mobility needs from St Marys carpark; • Ensuring a seamless transition between existing active travel facilities on Vale Road and Ballyraine Lane with the Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway and; • In the long-term: Providing a new walking and cycling link to Vale Road utilising the old railway bridge north of Glendale. (AT 17-18, CY 5)	This objective supports the development of the existing Avoca River Walk and its expansion. This objective will increase foot traffic along the Avoca River. There is potential during the construction and operation phase for the generation of environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCI Greylag goose, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI population.	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 74	Within the Town Centre to support and promote the enhancement of the public realm by: - Supporting the development of the Southern Port Access Route to facilitate the reduction of HGV traffic from the town centre. - Reallocate road space to widened footpaths, buildouts, pedestrian crossings, street trees, public seating and spill out areas for local businesses; - Create safer and more legible connections for pedestrians and cyclist via the existing network of laneway to the quays with improved lighting and wayfinding. (AT 4, AT 23, WK 2, WK 4)	The construction phase and operation phase of the Southern Port Access Route along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 75	With regard to accessibility and the public realm, it is an objective to: • Address Street Clutter in particular in the town centre and to implement a programme to remove unnecessary signage, guardrails advertising, poles and other obstacles which clutter the public realm and impede pedestrian movement. • Ensure that future improvements to the public realm and active travel network are accessible to all. • Ensure that all streetscape and public realm improvements follow the principles of Universal Design and consider the safety and perception of public spaces so that all members of the community feel welcome and safe. (WK 2, 5-8)	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 76	To promote and support the delivery of a suite of active travel and place making measures on the North and South Quays including but not limited to the following: • The provision of active travel facilities on both quays; • Enhanced connectivity and permeability onto the quays from side streets. (AT 13-14)	This objective supports the development of active travel along the Avoca River. This objective will increase foot traffic along the Avoca River. There is potential during the construction and operation phase for the generation of environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCI Greylag goose, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI population.	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 77	To promote and support the delivery of connections which would significantly reduce walking times to Arklow Train Station including but not limited to the following: • The provision of a new link/bridge over the railway line between Arklow Train Station and Tesco; • A new pedestrian/cycle link between Yellow Lane and Arklow Train Station; • Improvements to existing pedestrian links between the Main Street and the Train Station in particular Ditch Lane and Tom's Lane. (PT4)	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 78	To cooperate with NTA, Iarnród Éireann and other relevant transport planning bodies in the delivery of a high quality, integrated and accessible transport system in the LPF area. In particular to support and facilitate the following schemes / programmes: a) The improvement of mainline train services as set out in the Government's AISRR, including (but not limited to) - The introduction of an hourly shuttle service between Wexford-Greystones-Arklow; - The delivery dual tracks between Dublin and Wexford on a phased basis, serving Arklow in the long term. b) To support and facilitate improvements to Arklow Train Station as funding allows including the provision of a new footbridge with lifts to improve accessibility to both north and southbound services. c) The improvement of existing and provision of new bus services within the LPF area and linking the LPF area to the wider region (but not limited to): - Supporting the development and delivery of bus service enhancement projects, and measures to improve bus priority such as additional bus lanes and priority signalling etc. as may be deemed appropriate; - Facilitating the needs of existing or new bus providers with regard to bus stops and garaging facilities (although unnecessary duplication of bus stops on the same routes / roads will not be permitted). - To support the development of a future dedicated town bus service for Arklow and Environs to support Arklow's long term planned growth. (PT 1 – 3)	The construction phases and operation phases of Arklow Town's train station tracks and the increased services has the potential to generate environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance and habitat fragmentation that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCI Greylag goose, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI population.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		The construction phases and operation phases related to improving bus services has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 79	To support and promote the delivery of Templeraíney Park and Ride at Junction 20 of the M11. (PK 1_	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 80	To support the development of Mobility Points at appropriate highly visible and publicly accessible locations to encourage sustainable mobility and multimodal trips as the following locations: • Castle Park Car Park. • St Mary's Car Park. • Inbhear Mór Square, Dublin Road. (PK 5)	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 81	To protect the strategic function of the N11/M11 in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (DoHLGH 2012) and in compliance with TII Publications.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 82	Support and promote the development of the following new regional/distributor roads and road improvements : • The Southern Port Access Road (SPAR) to (a) facilitate development in SLO4 (Tinahask-Money Big) and (b) provide a more suitable road network for larger vehicles and reduce reliance on the South Quays and Nineteen Arches Bridge for HGV movement and (c) ensuring safer conditions are provided for active travel improvements in Arklow Town Centre, the Nineteen Arches Bridge and along South Quay. The design of the road including its final alignment and boundary treatments shall be take into account its proximity to the coastline whilst ensuring minimal impact on Arklow Golf Club and the Roadstone Quarry. (RN 3, 6) • To require as part of the development of SLO4 (Tinahask-Money Big) the development of distributor road access to SLO3 (Abbeylands-Tinahask) to the north and to the employment zoned lands to the south. • To require as part of a possible Western Distributor Road, the development of a distributor road through SLO5 from the L-6179 to the northern boundary of Arklow Town Marsh at a location to be agreed with Wicklow County Council (RN 4). • To improve, as funding allows, the principal access routes into the town centre from surrounding tourism locations, particular the Coast Road north of the town, the Clogga Road, the Vale Road, and access to potential northern waterfront zone developments.	The construction and operation phases of new regional/distributor roads and road improvements has the potential to generate environmental impacts in the form of noise and visual disturbance and habitat fragmentation that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to avian SCI Greylag goose, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI population.	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		There is also the potential for noise/visual disturbance that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine SCIs which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 83	To support the continued development and implementation of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.	This objective does not support or drive development in or near to areas containing sensitive ecological receptors. No significant effects on European sites predicted. This scheme has already been subject to appropriate project-level environmental assessment.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 84	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. To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the ECRIPP and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the LPF. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.	This objective supports the provision of new coastal reinforcements. Development of sea defence/coastal protection may once installed generate environmental impacts (e.g., alteration of the natural sediment flow and/or increased erosion) that indirectly cause effects on coastal European sites designated for sand dune habitat which could result in the changes on indicators of conservation value and loss of designated habitats.	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 85	Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area identified as at risk of flooding (Flood Zones A and B) as set out in the SFRA and flood maps appended to this LPF OR in Flood Zone C but within an area: - that is deemed by the Local Authority at any time to be at possible risk of flooding having regard to new information with respect to flood risk in the area that has come to light; or - that is identified as at possible future risk of flooding having regard to climate change scenarios either on Map 4C attached to this LPF or on any future maps prepared by the OPW during the lifetime of the LPF; shall comply with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines 2009 (as may be amended, supplemented or replaced during the lifetime of this LPF) and shall be accompanied by a site specific Flood Risk Assessment. Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and the LPF SFRA.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 86	To support and facilitate the development of spin off employment and support infrastructure for the renewable energy sector, in particular the off-shore wind, including the development of long duration electricity storage, distribution and transmission and/or projects which would further result in the decarbonisation of the energy sector. Such facilities will be permissible on lands zoned Public Utility (PU) and Employment (E) within the LPF area.	This objective supports the carrying out of renewable energy-related development in the LPF area, including, potentially, at locations where sensitive ecological receptors could be present. Construction works associated with such development may generate sources of environmental impact that could result in likely, significant effects on European sites. The operational phases of such projects may also result in likely, significant effects on European sites.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 87	To support Eirgrid with the implementation of their Powering up Wicklow programme and facilitate the expansion and upgrading of electricity supply infrastructure serving the LPF and wider area.	This objective supports the expansion and upgrading of electricity supply infrastructure. Development taking place in ecologically sensitive areas (e.g. Avoca River, grasslands supporting Avian species) has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and alteration/loss of supporting habitat) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance and displacement of SCIs (namely Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may forage in estuarine and grassland habitats, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats as well as the reduction of supporting habitat outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
		Additionally the construction phase of proposed developments along the Arklow waterfront has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., noise/visual disturbance and release of sediment and pollutants) that indirectly may cause effects on European sites via the disturbance to coastal/marine Special Conservation Interests which may forage in the coastal waters, leading to the reduction in species density in supporting habitats outside of European Sites and potentially reducing the resilience of the European Sites SCI populations.							

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 88	To require that the development of Public Utility lands on the eastern side of the Dublin to facilitate the expansion of the existing electricity substation Road comprise of high quality design and boundary treatments, include planting and landscaping proposals to mitigate their visual impact having regard to their prominent location along the northern gateway entrance to Arklow Town.	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 89	To support and facilitate Uisce Éireann in the following: • The improvement and increased resilience of the water distribution, supply and storage systems; • The provision of necessary waste water infrastructure, in a sustainable manner and; • The improvement of the combined drainage network and to ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges.	This objective supports the carrying out of development in the LPF area, including, potentially, at locations where sensitive ecological receptors could be present. Construction works associated with such development may generate sources of environmental impact that could result in likely, significant effects on European sites.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×

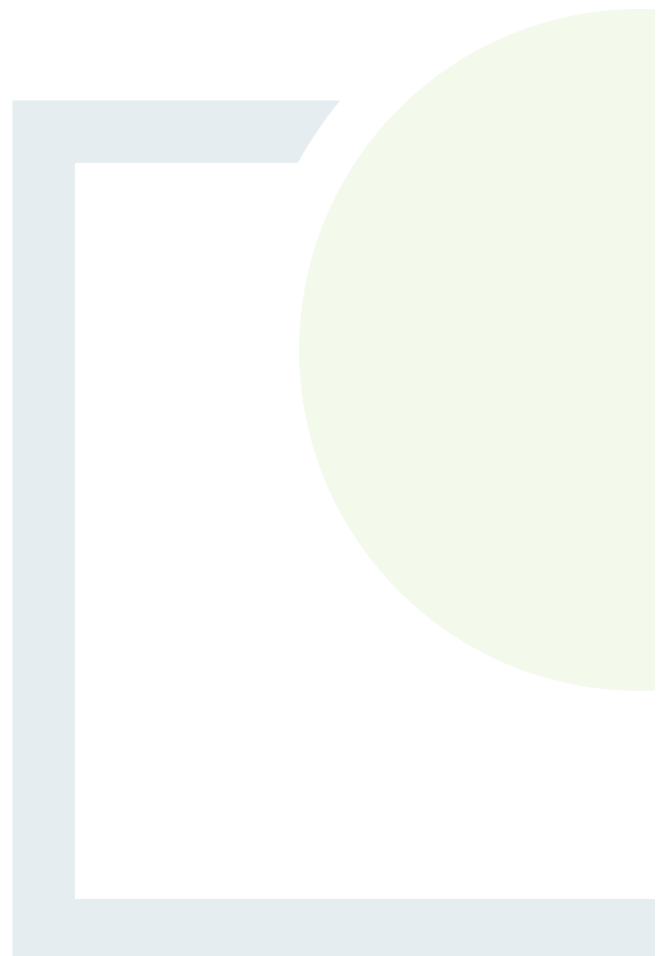
Ref.	Objective	Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact for LSEs on European Site(s) (Source-Pathway-Receptor) (Assessment Text)	Potential Sources of Impact Associated with Policy or Objective						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
ARK 90	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system;	No significant effects on European sites predicted.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 2

Defining the Zone of Influence



Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites

As a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all European sites hydrologically connected (i.e. whereby there is potential for surface water from a LPF or project to runoff directly into a watercourse or drain which flows into a European Site) to the Draft LPF area were identified during the assessment.

Potential effects to groundwater / hydrogeology

In accordance with the 'Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems, Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 31' (2017) a 250 m potential Zone of Influence (Zoi) from the Draft LPF was considered in assessing the potential for interaction with Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).

Potential effect to mobile SCI's from surrounding SPAs

The assessment has considered the potential pathways for effects on bird species based on the following principles: Generally, the core foraging range for SCI birds species is less than 15 km. However, SNH (2016)⁵ core foraging range for some bird species can be larger. Therefore, as a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all SPA's within 25 km were examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The conservation objectives of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the Draft LPF area having regard to distance to and habitats within the area.

European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the Draft LPF area

All European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the Draft LPF area were considered in the assessment. There are no European Sites overlapping with the Draft LPF boundary.

The Institute of Air Quality Management 'Guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction' (Holman et al, 2014)⁶ states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50 m from the source. Holman et al, 2014 also stipulates that trackout⁷ may occur from roads up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites. Dust from soiling (excavation works) can occur up to 25 m, 50 m and 100 m, at minor, moderate, and major construction sites respectively (NRA, 2011).

The disturbance response of birds (e.g., becoming alert or a flight response) can vary depending on season, species sensitivity, and weather. Goodship and Furness (2022)⁸ provides estimates of species-specific buffer zones to protect birds from human disturbance during breeding and non-breeding seasons. A disturbance Zoi of 1 km is usually adopted on the basis of the disturbance distances review.

Other emission sources associated with the Draft LPF area likely to be more localised than the distances stated for noise impacts and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

⁶ Holman et al (2014). IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction, Institute of Air Quality Management, London. www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction-dust-2014.pdf.

⁷ The movement of dust and dirt from a construction/demolition site onto the public road network.

⁸ Goodship, N.M. and Furness, R.W. (MacArthur Green) Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species. NatureScot Research Report 1283.

Considering the nature of the Draft LPF, a precautionary Zol of 2 km has been adopted.

Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species

Invasive species can spread to other habitats by the transportation of plant fragments or soil containing seeds / plant material. This typically can occur during excavation and vegetation clearance. Machinery, vehicles and personnel coming into contact with infected areas can spread these species outside of the site. The Zol of this potential impact requires the consideration of European sites in close proximity to the footprint of works.

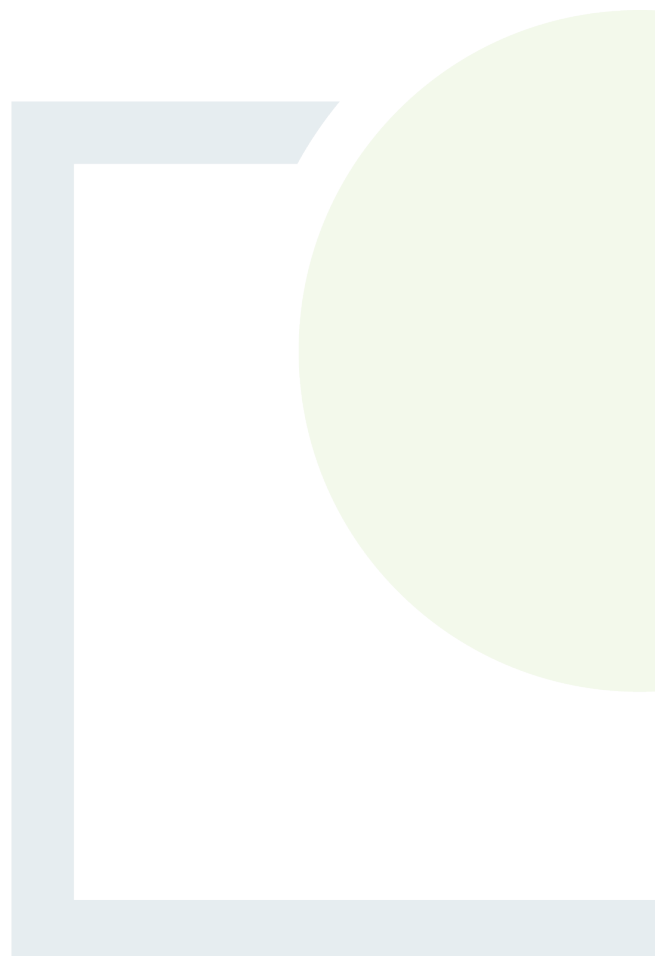
Considering the nature of the Draft LPF, a precautionary Zol of 2 km has been adopted.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 3

Relationship with other Plans
and Programmes



The purpose of this Appendix is to identify and examine the relationships the Draft Variation/LPF has with other legislation and plans/programmes. International/European, national and regional/local legislation, plans and programmes, which have an inter-relationship with the Draft Variation/LPF, are itemised in the table below. A summary of the high and lower levels objectives associated with each and a description of their particular relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF is provided. The information on legislation and plans/programmes presented below is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the relevant legislation or plan/programme to gain a full and comprehensive understanding of each, where necessary.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804)	This Directive repealed the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure directive (2014/94/EU). The Regulation sets binding national targets for the development of adequate alternative fuel infrastructure. The Regulation sets out targets to be achieved by all member states with the purpose to establish a comprehensive and complete network of alternative fuel infrastructure across the EU. The aim of this is to boost production and uptake of sustainable infrastructure in domestic, road, rail, aviation and maritime transport.	The specific objectives of the regulation are as follows: - To ensure minimum infrastructure to support the required uptake of alternative fuel vehicles across all transport modes and in all EU Member States to meet the EU's climate objectives. - To ensure full interoperability of the infrastructure. - To ensure comprehensive user information and adequate payment options at alternative fuels infrastructure.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: - 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.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: - mitigation - adaptation - technology - financing	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: • 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	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: • 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 Caucus. • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	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.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)	• 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. • 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.	• 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). • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	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: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	• 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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)	This regulation introduces faster permitting processes for projects that have the highest potential for a quick roll-out of renewable energy and the least impact on the environment.	The regulation introduces urgent and targeted measures that address specific technologies and types of projects, which have the highest potential for quick deployment and the least impact on the environment.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended, latest Act No. 12 of 2024 and S.I. No. 242 of 2024)	The Act provides a definition of a "derelict site" and imposes a general duty upon the owner or occupier of any land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land does not become or continue to be "a derelict site".	The Act provides that all local authorities shall compile and maintain a register of all derelict sites within their area. Local authorities are obliged to levy and collect a charge to be known as a "derelict sites levy" from the owner of all derelict sites within their area. The Act provides that this levy, and interest on it, shall be a charge on the land to which it relates.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions (amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785)	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	- The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. - The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: - reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations - tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics - a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach - measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups - measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption - harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water - measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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)	- 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.	- 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Directive 2013/30/EU and Regulation (EU) 2019/1010	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	• 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. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the • Guidelines. 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	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% eu actionshare of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as- usual scenario.	- To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Forestry Strategy for 2030	Sets out a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience. It aims to adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change. This is a precondition for forests to continue delivering their socio-economic functions, and to ensure vibrant rural areas with thriving populations. The commitments and actions proposed in the Strategy will contribute to achieving the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% in 2030, as set out in the European Climate Law	The measures proposed in the strategy, to be reviewed in 2025, include: • Promoting sustainable forest management (SFM), including by encouraging the sustainable use of wood-based resources. • Providing financial incentives for forest owners and managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as those linked to carbon storage and sequestration • Improving the size and biodiversity of forests, including by planting 3 billion new trees by 2030. • Promoting alternative forest industries, such as ecotourism, as well as non-wood products, such as cork, honey and medicinal plants. • Encouraging the take-up of financial support under the common agricultural policy (CAP), which can help forests and forest-based industries mitigate against climate change. • Providing education and training for people working in forest-based industries and making these industries more attractive to young people. • Establishing a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration, and a new legislative proposal on EU forest observation, reporting and collection. Protecting the EU's remaining primary and old-growth forests.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: 1. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. 2. Improved auction design. 3. Access to finance. 4. Creating a fair and competitive international environment. 5. Skills (investment in skills development). Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	• 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.	• To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' 2050	The Action Plan sets the key 2030 targets for reducing pollution at source and outlines a number of flagship initiatives. In addition, as pollution does not stop at borders and as the EU acknowledges that it is both the victim and the source of pollution, the Action Plan foresees reinforced external action. The EU in fact is committed to leading the global fight against pollution	Guided by the 9 Flagship Initiatives, the key actions include: • align the air quality standards to the latest recommendations of the World Health Organisation, • review the standards for the quality of water, including in EU rivers and seas, • reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration, • review the majority of EU waste laws to adapt them to clean and circular economy principles, • foster zero pollution from production and consumption (through the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive, EU Ecolabel and other measures), • minimize EU external pollution footprint through export restriction of harmful products and wastes, • present a Scoreboard of EU regions' green performance to promote zero pollution across regions, • showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings, • launch Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution, including by targeting the building and farming sectors, • consolidate the EU's Knowledge Centres for Zero Pollution and bringing stakeholders together in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform. • Stronger enforcement of zero pollution together with environmental and other authorities.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC] (amended by 2013/64/EU)	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2050	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principle objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Common Agricultural Policy	• 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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	- Establishing an EU legally-binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. - Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. - Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. - Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. - Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. - Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. - Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. - Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. - Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Environment Action Programme to 2030	The long-term priority objective is that, by 2050 at the latest, Europeans should live well, within planetary boundaries, in a healthy economy where nothing is wasted, growth is regenerative, climate neutrality is a reality and inequalities are significantly reduced. Building on the European Green Deal, the environmental action programme aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human well-being and prosperity depend on a healthy ecosystem.	Six priority objectives: • Attain the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. • Enhance the ability to adapt by strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. • Move towards a regenerative growth model, detaching economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, while transitioning faster to a circular economy. • Aim for zero pollution of the air, water and soil and protect the health and well-being of Europeans. • Protect, preserve and restore biodiversity by improving the state of ecosystems and of the environment, as well as by combating desertification and soil degradation. • Reduce environmental and climate pressures from production and consumption, in particular energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and food systems.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	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.	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: • an integrated approach • best available techniques, • flexibility; and • public participation	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	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: • 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Plant Protection (Products) Directive 2009/127/EC	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).	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Renewable Energy Directives (RED II & RED III)	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. The RED directive was first introduced in 2009 (2009/28/EC) and set an Eu-wide goal for 20% renewable energy use by 2020. This was replaced by RED II (2018/2001) which set a renewable energy target of 32% for the European Union for 2030. Following on from RED II, the EU adopted Red III (2023/2413) with the aim to further increase its renewable energy ambitions. sets a new binding target of c. 42.5% renewable energy in the EU's total energy consumption by 2030, with an aspirational target of 45%. The aim of RED III is to introduce sector-specific targets for transport, heating, cooling, and industry to ensure a balanced contribution from all parts of the economy and also included measures to streamline and accelerate the permitting process for renewable energy projects, addressing one of the major bottlenecks in the deployment of renewables.	• Building on the 2009 and 2018 directives, the RED III directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. • Strong policy framework to facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging. • Permitting procedures will also be easier and faster both for renewable energy projects (including through shorter approval periods and the creation of 'Renewables acceleration areas') and for the necessary infrastructure projects.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	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.	• 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: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: • 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.	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	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.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
European Landscape Convention 2000	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 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.	- Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. - Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: - Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. - Improved auction design. - Access to finance. - Creating a fair and competitive international environment. - Skills (investment in skills development). - Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	- 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	- Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	- 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.	- 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	- 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.	- 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	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.	- Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; - Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; - Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	European legislation which aims to achieve Good Environment Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities.	This was adopted on June 17th, 2008, establishing a framework for EU Community Action specifically regarding marine environmental policy. The MSFD is implemented in cycles of 6 years, with member state being obliged to report to the EU every 2 years. The third cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2023 – 2028) for Ireland is underway. The MSFD is implemented through a national Marine Strategy.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Nature Restoration Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991)	The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	The law aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to • enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature • contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives • meet international commitments	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	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.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • 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. 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy • Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC)	The objective of this Directive is to contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising under the Aarhus Convention, in particular by: (a) providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment; (b) improving the public participation and providing for provisions on access to justice within Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.	Not applicable.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
RePower EU Plan (2022)	This plan was launched as a response to global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The overarching aim of this plan is to reduce the reliance on Russian fossil fuels and enhance energy security within the EU. The plan specifies that Member States should speed up the green transition and spur massive investment in renewable energy.	The main measures introduced under this plan are concerned with the following: • Save Energy • Diversify supplies • Quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition • Smartly combine investments and reforms.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• 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.	• Carry out and 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050	According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023.	The general approach reached by the Council today aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	• Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (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 with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • 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.	• 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. • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
The EU LULUCF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/841)	The LULUCF (Land Use, Land Change and Forestry) Regulation addresses greenhouse gas emissions and carbon removals in the land use and forestry sector from the period of 2021-2030, establishing an emissions target for the sector. The regulation entered into force in 2018. It was recently updated in 2023 to	This regulation was revised in 2023 with a new set of rules introduced to address the carbon footprint of activities related to the conversion, use and management of land and forests for both human and environmental benefits. These activities can occur in areas such as grasslands, agricultural land and forests. Previous rules (the 'no debt' rule) required that EU member states ensure that emissions from land and forestry are compensated by an equivalent removal of CO₂ within the sector for the period of 2021-2030. This has been replaced by a more ambitious new rule that sets the EU-wide net target of 310 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent carbon removals in the LULUCF sector by 2030. Each member state has a specific target under this regulation which they must meet to contribute towards the EU-wide net target. The national targets are based on the recent level of removals or emissions with the member state and on the potential to further increase removals, taking into account the principles of cost-effectiveness, fairness and environmental integrity. Ireland's binding target is to achieve a reduction of 0.6 Mt CO₂ equivalent LULUCF emissions by 2030, relative to average levels in 2016-2018.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	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.	• 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 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. 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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	• 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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	- 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.	- 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	- 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: - The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive - Sampling Drinking Water Directive - Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive - Shellfish Directive - Freshwater Fish Directive - Groundwater Directive - Dangerous Substances Directive	- 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
All Island Grid Study 2008	- 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 various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: - 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. - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All-Ireland Pollinator Plans: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 (latest)	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025 is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. The AIPP 2021-2025 has 186 actions spread across six objectives. Objective 1: Making farmland pollinator friendly Objective 2: Making public land pollinator friendly Objective 3: Making private land pollinator friendly Objective 4: All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators Objective 6: Strategic coordination of the Plan	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
All-Island Strategic Rail Review	The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to: • contribute to decarbonisation; • improve All Island connectivity between major cities; • enhance regional accessibility; • stimulate economic activity; • encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025	The first national action plan for an Irish bioeconomy. The purpose of this plan is to further develop Ireland's bioeconomy in delivering the vision of the 2018 National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy; for Ireland "to be a global leader for the bioeconomy through a coordinated approach that harnesses Ireland's natural resources and competitive advantage and that fully exploits the opportunities available while monitoring and avoiding unintended consequences".	This action plan approaches the bioeconomy using seven pillars: • Governance & Awareness • Research, Development & Innovation • Nature, Climate, Energy & Circular Economy • Agriculture, Food, Forestry, And The Marine • Communities, Regions & Cities • Industry & Enterprise • Knowledge & Skills The Action Plan is aligned with the implementation of the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Building Regulations	The aim of the building regulations is to provide for the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings.	The building regulations apply to the design and construction of a new building (including a dwelling) or an extension to an existing building.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides 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.	• Through this document 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 considers 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, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	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.	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: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Plan 2025	The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.	Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon CAP24 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	- Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. - This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: - Build adaptive capacity within the sector - Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change - Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector.	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: - To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change - To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage - To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations - To communicate and transfer knowledge - To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- 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.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - 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; - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Electricity Storage Policy Framework (2024)	This Framework aims to o clarify the role of electricity storage systems (ESS) in Ireland's climate objectives and energy transition. This will support Ireland's 2030 climate targets as grid scale electricity storage is vital in securing an electricity grid capable in supporting Ireland's renewable generation programme and the future growth of industrial sectors. The Electricity Storage Policy Framework refers, in the main, to front of meter electricity storage, outlining its present roles, technical processes, market positions and regulatory structures in Ireland. The framework addresses the grids immediate and near-term needs by supporting the incorporation of electricity storage from the immediate up until 2040 and presents 10 government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland's energy transition, identifying the key stakeholders and timelines for these actions.	Under this framework there are ten government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland's energy transition: 1. Maintain a technology neutral approach to all electricity storage systems. 2. Creation of a 'sandbox' project to advance both System Operators' technological knowledge of emerging electricity storage technologies. 3. Convene an electricity storage and system services working group as part of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce. 4. Convene a forum for an expanded group of stakeholders including statutory bodies, leading industry representatives and academic or interest groups. 5. Support access to the wholesale electricity markets, arbitrage and revenue stacking for electricity storage systems. 6. Support the immediate procurement of Demand Flexibility products and of (long duration) electricity storage to meet specific network needs, on the Distribution and Transmission systems respectively. 7. Initiate a 'Quantity' consultation to establish the optimal (long duration) electricity storage requirements to meet climate targets and electricity grid network expansion between 2030-2040. 8. Initiate a 'Financial' consultation to establish if the expected market mechanisms due between 2025-2028 will provide sufficient service provider certainty to meet the optimum (long duration) electricity storage systems requirements of 2030-2040. 9. If required and pending the outcome of the 'Financial' consultation, develop a market framework to further incentivise the incorporation of (long duration) electricity storage system technologies to the grid to meet projected 2030-2040 requirements. Ensure a route to market for the identified optimum (long duration) electricity storage requirements for 2030-2040 is in place before end of 2028.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019	These Guidelines offer advice to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining applications for planning permission.	The guidelines are intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Energy Security in Ireland to 2030	Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. This report is being published as part of an Energy Security Package, containing a range of supplementary analyses, consultations, and reviews, which have informed the recommendations and actions related to energy security.	The Energy Security Package states that we must ensure energy security is prioritised, monitored, and reviewed regularly, and includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising: • Reduced and Responsive Demand • A Renewables-Led System • More Resilient Systems • Robust Risk Governance Under each of these four areas of actions, the report sets out a range of mitigation measures, including the need for additional capacity of indigenous renewable energy, but also energy imports, energy storage, fuel diversification, demand side response, and renewable gases. The governance structures supporting the energy system, including oversight and accountability reforms, were also examined.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)	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.	• 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).	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).	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 statutory land use plan on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	The Regulations cover statutory land use plans, including Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Regional Planning Guidelines etc.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2003 (as amended)	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Directive aims to provide a common framework to avoid, prevent or reduce, on a prioritised basis, the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise.	- The Regulations set out a two-stage process for addressing environmental noise (preparation of strategic noise maps and preparation of noise action plans for each area concerned. - The Regulations designate noise-mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making and reviewing of strategic noise maps and action plans. - The Regulations designate the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Authority for the purposes of the Regulations. - The Regulations provide for strategic noise maps and action plans and revised noise maps and action plans to be made available to the general public.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (as amended) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations (as amended)	• 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 (now Uisce Eireann) in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	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.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Food Harvest 2020	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.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Vision 2030	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level Missions for the sector to work toward: 1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector 2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being 3. Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad 4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur. This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade 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. - The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network. - The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027	This plan sets out the direction for the HSE to deliver its national <i>Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025</i>. The HSE aims to support 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.	This Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 has four main goals: - Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life. - Reduce health inequalities. - Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing. Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Heritage related legislation and guidelines: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997. • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. • Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland 1999). • The Heritage Act 2018. • Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Housing for All (2021)	Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life. The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.	Housing for All provides four pathways to achieving its overarching objectives: • Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability. • Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion. • Increasing New Housing Supply. • Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	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>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland 2040: The National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	• The National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) sets out the Government’s overarching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It 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.	The key role of the NDP is to set out the updated configuration for public capital investment over the next 10 years in order to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSO), as set out within the NPF. These ten National Strategic Outcomes are as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 5. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Planning Framework (First Revision) 2025	The revised National Planning Framework (NPF) published in April 2025 replaced the National Planning Framework (2018) and now informs the wider Government Policy agenda, the actions of a broad range of public and private bodies, including homebuilders, the renewable energy sector, infrastructure agencies and domestic and international investors. • The focus of the revised NPF have been the following key drivers of change in Ireland: • Population growth and associated housing requirements • Infrastructure delivery • Climate and Environment • The revised NPF now provides the basis of review and updating of regional strategies and local authority development plans to reflect matters such as updated housing figures, projected jobs growth, renewable energy capacity allocations, including through the zoning of land for residential, employment and a range of other purposes. • The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 will also be closely aligned with the implementation of the revised NPF, with updated regional strategies and new 10-year development plans required to reflect the revised NPF as they are prepared.	The revised NPF's ambition is expressed in a set of goals, termed National Strategic Outcomes: 6. Compact Growth 7. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 8. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 9. High-Quality International Connectivity 10. Sustainable Mobility 11. A Strong Economy 12. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 13. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society 14. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: • Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity. • Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs. • Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People. • Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity. • Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2024	This long-term strategy aims to build on the targets, policies, measures and actions that Ireland has committed to in the period to 2030 (as set out in success annual national Climate Action Plans and the EU National Energy and Climate Plans.	The Strategy sets out Ireland's 2050 climate action targets and describes sector-specific pathways to reaching those targets. These sectors include: • Electricity • Industry • Built Environment • Transport Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	- National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 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 first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: - To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; - To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; - Greater partnerships for the Goals; - To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and - Strong reporting mechanisms	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)	This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework. The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.	The key features of the plan are as follows: - Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time. - It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000. - Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA. Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, licence specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licences and offshore planning permissions.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	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, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024, and Sectoral Adaptation Plans	This framework specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of Ireland to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur. It sets out an extended suite of guiding principles that underscore the need for smarter, faster and transformative adaptation actions, which demand a pathway planning approach to account for a range of future warming and impact scenarios. It acts as a roadmap for governments, organisations, and communities to plan and implement adaptation strategies. The Framework helps coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and prioritise actions that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A robust framework not only enables more effective responses to immediate climate related challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability by ensuring that adaptation measures are integrated into policymaking, infrastructure development, and local planning.	Key actions under the framework: • Putting in place revised governance and reporting arrangements • Formalising the status of existing guidelines • Formalising long term operational support for key sectors • Facilitating the establishment of regional local authority climate action offices • Increasing awareness around climate adaptation and resilience • Integrating climate adaptation into key national plans and policies	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.	The programme includes: • An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants • An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant • Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030 • Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2019)	The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to • Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Broadband Plan (2019)	The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Demand Management Strategy - Moving Together: A Strategic Approach to Improving the Efficiency of Ireland's Transport System	The Strategy encourages an urban first approach to rolling out measures, where other travel options exist, and aims to improve journey times for car drivers, public transport users, business and freight, leading to improvements in local air quality and reduced stress with associated health benefits for drivers and non-drivers alike.	The Strategy does not contain a prescriptive series of actions. Instead, it provides a firm policy direction and suite of options - such as road space reallocation, progressive taxation, freight efficiency, or behavioural incentives - that can be taken at national, regional and local levels to bring about the systems changed needed. It is also intended that the Strategy will provide guidance needed for local authorities and local council representatives to develop plans for their own areas that suit their own communities' needs best.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030	The NECP outlines Ireland's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP is a consolidated plan which brings together energy and climate planning into a single process for the first time.	The NECP facilitates the ongoing analysis at EU level. It will be revised to bring it in line with the 7% trajectory and to include policies and measures currently being developed to achieve the 7% trajectory.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Security Framework	The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine. The Framework also sets out how Government can support households and businesses, with a particular focus on protecting those most at risk of fuel poverty, how it is already ensuring Ireland's energy security, how it will speed up the country's shift to increased energy efficiency and indigenous renewable energy systems. It also sets out how consumers and businesses can be supported to save energy and save money.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The national Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027	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: • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • 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.	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Inspection Plan - Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026	The Water Services Act 2007 (as amended) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to produce a national inspection plan for domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTSs). The purpose of the plan is to protect human health and water quality from the risks posed by DWWTSs. This document is the fourth plan and covers the period 2022 to 2026.	The plan sets out the background, minimum inspection numbers, risk based allocation of inspections, requirements for enforcement of advisory notices and for engagement to promote broader compliance.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	- NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. - The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: - Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. - Protection and renewal. - Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. - Decarbonisation.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character	- 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: “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.”	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive, including: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013	The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
---	--	--	--

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Mitigation Plan 2017	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades. The Plan is structured across several key themes: • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	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.	Objectives of the Strategy: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- 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. - 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.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Retrofit Plan	The National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.	The Plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the Plan were guided by a number of key principles.	

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Roads 2040	NR2040 sets out TII's long-term strategy for the maintenance, development, and management of Ireland's National Roads network. NR2040 is fully aligned with NIFTI and Project Ireland 2040 and focuses on strategic issues for National Roads identified by TII.	The following objectives have been defined. • Safe and efficient transport network for people and goods • Environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable • Tailored for different customers in different places • Managed and improved as a key public asset	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030	Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy ('the CFP'), on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, calls for the establishment of multiannual national strategic aquaculture plans. The NSPSA 2030 is the second such plan under the current CFP.	This Plan proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030. The purpose is as follows: • To align and mainstream the recently updated but non-binding guidance for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2021 – 2030) with national aquaculture sector planning. • To help inform the investment priorities for aquaculture in Ireland's new Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027 (EMFAF). • To provide a framework so that strategic planning for the aquaculture sector in Ireland responds to the latest thinking in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Irish aquaculture in order to promote the development of a sustainable and forward-looking sector.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Sustainable Mobility Policy and the Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022 - 2025	The National Sustainable Mobility Policy sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is accompanied by an action plan to 2025 which contains actions to improve and expand sustainable mobility options across the country by providing safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car journeys. It also includes demand management and behavioural change measures to manage daily travel demand more efficiently and to reduce the journeys taken by private car.	The policy aims to deliver at least 500,000 additional daily active travel and public transport journeys by 2030 and a 10% reduction in the number of kilometres driven by fossil fuelled cars. It will make it easier for people to choose walking, cycling and use public transport daily instead of having to use a petrol or diesel car.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Transport Authority's Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	Section 13(1) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the DTA Act) requires the NTA to prepare an integrated implementation plan covering a six year period.	In accordance with the DTA Act, the Plan comprises the following: • An infrastructure investment programme, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority over the period of the Plan; • The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public transport infrastructure over the period of the Plan; • An integrated service plan, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority in relation to the procurement of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; • The actions to be taken by the Authority in relation to small public service vehicles; • The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; and • Such other matters as the Authority considers appropriate or as may be prescribed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030	The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 has been published and replaces the Regional Waste Management Plans. The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector. This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables. The Plan is presented in 5 Volumes. • VOLUME I Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the key waste management challenges facing the State. • VOLUME II Sets out the responses to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges. • VOLUME III Sets out the delivery roadmap for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified. • VOLUME IV Provides the supporting information for the Plan in a series of technical appendices. • VOLUME V Contains the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement and Natura Impact Statement. Key challenges identified in the Plan include resources, organisational capability, policy requirements, specific material stream targets, the provision of infrastructure and waste generation.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025	The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is an action-focused plan that will place Ireland at the vanguard of EU efforts. It will act as a roadmap for Ireland to embrace the opportunities in becoming a circular economy in the upcoming decade.	The overarching objectives of this action plan are to: • Shift the focus away from waste disposal and treatment to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and rewards circularity • Make producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market; • Ensure that measures support sustainable economic models (for example by supporting the use of recycled over virgin materials); • Harness the reach and influence of all sectors including the voluntary sector, R&D, producers / manufacturers, regulatory bodies, civic society; and • Support clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector, including through a strengthened role for Local Authorities (LAs).	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	• 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.	The key objectives of the plan are to: • 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	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.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Acts	The principal objectives of these are to provide a framework for land use planning and development control – with a view to promoting proper planning and sustainable development	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning and Development 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO)	PLUTO's objective is to develop a transport investment framework which delivers a land transport network that meets the travel needs of the population in the coming decades and which supports the National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)	Under Action EL/23/2 of CAP23, the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF) is currently being prepared. In effect, this will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables in order to enable the delivery of Ireland's renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23. The RESPF will promote a plan-led and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% RES-E by 2030.	The objective of this spatial policy framework is to effectively translate renewable electricity objectives, as those outlined in Climate Action Plan 2023, to the regional level and allocate regional spatial and renewable generation capacity targets.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	Priority actions for the Strategy include: • Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure. • Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources. • Simplify administrative & regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies • Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen. Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	• 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.	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. 79 of 2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended (latest S.I. No. 322/2024)	- These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: - To improve health protection for bathers - To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and - To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	- The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. - Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. - A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. - Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. - There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. - The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. - Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022, as amended	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality.	The Regulations include measures such as: • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 254/2001 - Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001, as amended (latest S.I. No. 48/2010)	These regulations concern the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.	The objective of these regulations is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the abovementioned waste water discharges.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. No. 296/2009 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009, as amended (latest S.I. 355/2018)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: • 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. No. 9/2010 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended (latest S.I. No. 287/2022)	These Regulations are made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for groundwater by Article 4(1)(b) of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and to give effect to the requirements of the Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	The Regulations establish clear environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies within specified timeframes and introduce the legal basis for a more flexible, proportionate and risk-based approach to implementing the legal obligation to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater, which already exists under Directive 80/68/EEC. Measures include: • measures to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater • measures to protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater and to ensure a balance between abstraction and recharge of groundwater, with the aim of achieving good groundwater within a particular timeframe • measures requiring the reversal of any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of any pollutant resulting from the impact of human activity in order to progressively reduce pollution of groundwater • measures for determining groundwater quantitative and chemical status • measures establishing procedures for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and the definition of the starting point for trend reversal • the laying down of rules for the presentation and reporting of groundwater monitoring results, trend assessments and the classification of quantitative status and chemical status of groundwater bodies	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	- 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.	- 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 offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027	Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan provides a framework for the application of the Common Agricultural Policy in Ireland. It aims to promote the agricultural sector and the provision of safe and sustainable food in the country. Ireland as an EU member state is responsible for the running of our own CAP Strategic Plan, in close co-operation with the European Commission, and the EU Court of Auditors as the guardian of EU finances. he CAP is divided into two pillars. Pillar 1 covers direct support and market supports, and rural development is in Pillar 2.	The Irish CAP Strategic Plan aims to: 1. Protect farm family incomes 2. Recognise the hard work of our farm families as food producers regardless of where they are in the country 3. Play a meaningful role in supporting our climate ambitions. It provides for the following: • Pillar 1 agri-environment schemes, including direct support consisting of payments granted directly to farmers and provides baseline income support and operates as a safety net in cases of market disturbances, and market measures to manage and control the agricultural economy. • Pillar 2 direct payments supporting rural development. Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan has a strong emphasis on achievement of a higher level of climate and environment ambition that will be achieved through the CAP's new green architecture. It contains measures that will help to achieve significant improvements in the areas of biodiversity and water quality, as well as contributing to national and EU climate and environmental targets, including through increased sequestration and carbon removal. There are three key areas in the new green architecture: 1. Conditionality 2. Pillar 1 Eco-schemes 3. Pillar 2 climate and environment-related interventions	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	- Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. - Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. - Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. - Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	- Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. - Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. - Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. - Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. - Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. - Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Uisce Éireann Water Services Strategic Plan 2015, Water Services Strategic Plan 2050, and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) presents Uisce Éireann's objectives for the next 25 years and the means by which we will achieve them. It aligns to requirements set out in the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The first Water Services Strategic Plan was published in 2015 and are the draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is in the process of consultation which will replace the current plan.	The new Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 will be an important strategic document that will focus on the provision of safe drinking water and ensure that the environment is protected from the impacts of wastewater discharges.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	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.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are (i) to prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status and (ii) to achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022	- 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 wastewater supply. - Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: - 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. - 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 - Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	• 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	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans in other areas and adjacent counties in Ireland – South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Carlow and Wexford.	• These statutory land use plans outline planning objectives for land use development (e.g. housing, economic, community, transport objectives). • These plans provide strategic frameworks for planning and sustainable development in areas. In alignment with the higher-order National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • These plans set out the policies and proposals to guide development in other areas in the functional area and adjacent counties	• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhance amenities and environment. • Guides planning authorities in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in areas • Aim to promote sustainable development in neighbouring and connected areas. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030	The overall aim of the Draft County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2025-2030 is protecting and restoring biodiversity in the local authority functional area.	The Draft Wicklow BAP provides a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at the county level, with the following aims: • Assess, Protect and Restore Local Biodiversity • Embed Biodiversity in Decision-Making • Build and Strengthen Partnerships • Ensure Resilience for the Future • Monitor, Learn and Adapt	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Draft Wicklow Noise Action Plan 2024-2028	The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive ("END") (2002/49/EC) which was transported into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years.	The Environmental Noise Directive (END) requires local authorities to draw-up plans of action which will include measures to "address priorities which may be identified by the exceeding of any relevant limit value or by other criteria chosen by the Member State and apply in particular to the most important areas as established by strategic noise mapping." It also requires plans to identify and protect "quiet areas against an increase in noise."	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow County Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021) required each local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan to meet national climate targets and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change. The plans are consistent with the most recently approved National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework. Wicklow County Council has prepared their Climate Action Plan for the period 2024 to 2029 to create a low carbon and climate resilient county, by delivering and promoting best practice in climate action in Wicklow.	The plan demonstrates the ambition, focus and commitment of each local authority to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life for people living, working and studying in each county. The plan is built on a strong evidence base. To help inform the plans, Wicklow County Council developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment which sets out the likely risks in terms of climate change, such as increased rainfall or flooding. They also did a Baseline Emissions Inventory which calculates the emissions within the local authority area and sets out emission by sector such as transport, the built environment and agriculture. As part of its local authority climate action plan, Wicklow County Council is responsible for establishing a decarbonising zone within their local authority area. Decarbonising zones (DZs) are intended to be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and will help local authorities to identify projects which will contribute to the delivery of the national climate objective. Arklow has been designated as the decarbonizing zone.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029	Provides a roadmap for the next phase of development within the local area. ‘A progressive, sustainable, inclusive and accessible county underpinned by a strong economy.’	Adopts four Strategic High Level Goals: 1. To strengthen and sustain Wicklow as a vibrant County, by delivering key infrastructure, supporting economic growth and innovation, shaping our towns and villages through proper planning and sustainable development. To create quality public realm that contributes to people’s health, happiness and wellbeing. 2. To deliver climate resilient and regenerative biodiversity actions and maximise renewable energy opportunities in the county. Incorporate the Sustainable Development goals into our business strategies and support communities and business to deliver on climate change targets thereby protecting our environment now and for future generations. 3. To develop and strengthen communities by promoting an inclusive, creative, welcoming and safe, natural sustainable environment. To improve the health and quality of life for everyone in County Wicklow by leading, guiding and developing recreational facilities to promote social, health and economic benefit meeting the changing needs of the people of County Wicklow. 4. To strengthen and develop staff to effectively respond to the changing needs of our organization and the evolving environment in which we operate to deliver the best possible service in the most efficient manner.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Draft County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2025-2029	The Plan sets out a framework for heritage activity across the community, volunteer and NGO sectors and for state agencies with a role in Wicklow heritage.	The Plan focuses on the following key strategic themes: • Protecting Our Heritage • Connecting People and Place • Sharing and Celebrating Our Heritage • Collaboration and Partnership • Building and Sharing Knowledge ~ Responding to Climate Change	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029	• Sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote the community and economic development of Wicklow's neighbourhoods and communities.	Not applicable.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan	Ambition is to develop an attractive and accessible tourist destination where visitors are given the opportunity to seamlessly explore the County's rich history and immerse themselves in the local culture.	Priority actions include: • Develop new accommodation • Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs • Masterplan for Glendalough • Grow Thematic Experiences • A Common Narrative	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	• Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. • Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	• Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. • Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)	It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: - 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	- Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow - Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically - The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.	Aims to identify and determine: - The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level - The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, 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.	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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	- Produced by Local Authorities. - Outlines areas local flood risk. - Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	- To promote sustainable transport. - To promote integrated and proper transport planning. - To promote safe travel. - To promote active travel infrastructural development. - To encourage modal shift.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • 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	• 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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Port Masterplans (such as the Dublin Port Masterplan 2040)	- The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. - The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies.	Not applicable.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of 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. The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	- Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. - Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. - Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

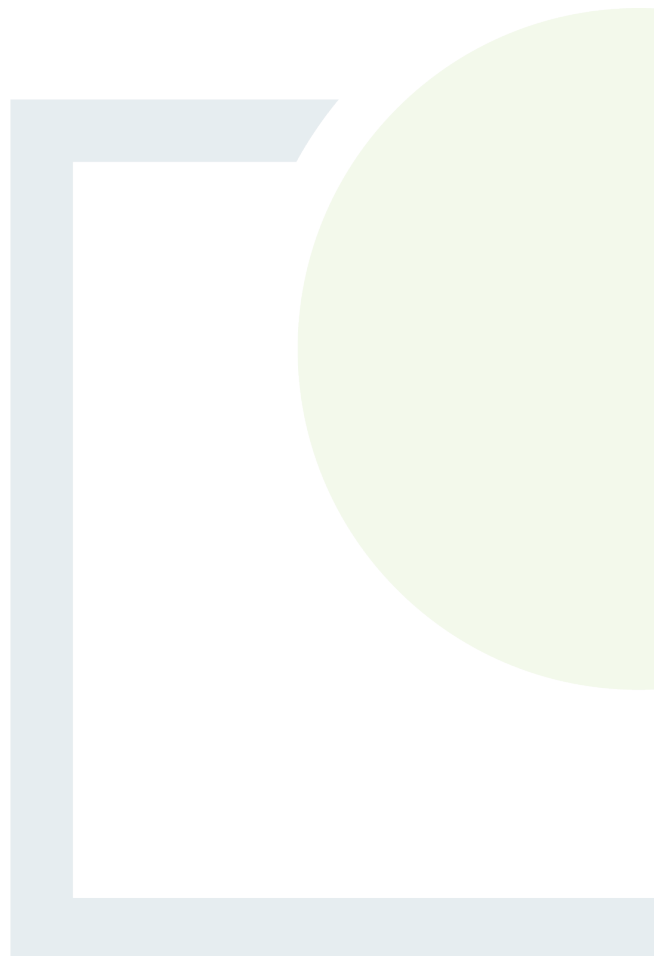
Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	• Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 4

Background Information to
European Sites



Appendix 4 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in Natura Impact Report

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	The site has been designated for as an SPA for a nationally important population of Kittiwake and this species is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA. A survey in 2002 recorded a nationally important population of breeding Kittiwake (956 pairs) and other breeding seabirds including Fulmar (62 pairs), Shag (11 pairs), Herring Gull (20 pairs), Guillemot (281 pairs) and Razorbill (125 pairs). A survey of Black Guillemot in April 1998 recorded 70 individual birds within the SPA. The site also supports a pair of breeding Peregrine. Ravens nest annually on the cliffs, and the heath supports such species as Stonechat, Whitethroat and Linnet.	Wicklow Head is a rocky headland with extensive exposures of mica-schist. It is situated approximately 3 kilometres south of Wicklow town. A lighthouse is located near the base of the cliffs. The cliffs are highest immediately south of the lighthouse where they rise to about 60 m and it is here that most of the seabirds breed. The site comprises the cliffs and cliff-top vegetation, as well as some heath vegetation. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the base of the cliffs is included in the site
004186	The Murrough SPA	The site is of high importance for the good numbers and wide variety of waterfowl species that it holds in winter and on passage. The improved grassland provides feeding for Greylag Geese (<i>Anser anser</i>). This is one of a handful of sites around the south and east coasts at which Reed Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>) has in recent years proved to be a regular breeding species. For some years in the 1980s Bearded Tit (<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>) bred here at its only site in Ireland emphasizing the potential of this site to hold the community of reedswamp species present in Great Britain but largely absent in Ireland. The shingle beach is a breeding site for the country's largest colony of Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) and supports 19% of the all-Ireland population.	The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13 km from Kilcoole Station east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow town in the south and extends inland for up to 1 km. The site includes area of marine water to a distance of 200 m from low water mark. There is a railway on top of the beach and much agricultural reclamation of the marshes/saltmarshes.
004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Common Scoter, Red-throated Diver, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Gannet, Shag, Cormorant, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot.	The marine waters off the coast of County Wexford mark the boundary between the Irish and Celtic Seas. These waters constitute a valuable feeding resource for the seabirds that return every spring to Wexford's coastal and island colonies to breed. Outside of the summer months these relatively shallow coastal waters provide safe feeding and roosting opportunities for a range of marine birds overwintering here or on passage.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The breeding seabird species listed [or, in the case of Mediterranean Gull at Lady's Island Lake SPA, under consideration for listing] for the SPAs which abut the Seas off Wexford cSPA are: Little Tern (Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA), Roseate Tern (Lady's Island Lake SPA), Common Tern (Lady's Island Lake SPA), Arctic Tern (Lady's Island Lake SPA), Sandwich Tern (Lady's Island Lake SPA), Black-headed Gull (Lady's Island Lake SPA), Mediterranean Gull (Lady's Island Lake SPA), Cormorant (Keeragh Islands SPA, Saltee Islands SPA), Fulmar (Saltee Islands SPA), Gannet (Saltee Islands SPA), Shag (Saltee Islands SPA), Lesser Black-backed Gull (Saltee Islands SPA), Herring Gull (Saltee Islands SPA), Kittiwake (Saltee Islands SPA), Guillemot (Saltee Islands SPA), Razorbill (Saltee Islands SPA) and Puffin (Saltee Islands SPA). Based on a summer aerial marine bird survey conducted in 2021, an estimated 28,611 individuals occurred within this SPA. The following species formed a significant proportion (i.e. ≥1%) of the overall marine bird assemblage: Guillemot, 47.2%; Manx Shearwater, 28.9%; Razorbill, 9.6%; Sandwich Tern, 3.1%; Gannet, 2.7%; Herring Gull, 2.0%; Common Tern, 1.8% and Arctic Tern, 1.4%. Based on a series of surveys focused on the northern section of this SPA during the non-breeding period of 2018/2019 population estimates of up to 1,078 Common Scoter, 499 Red-throated Diver and 180 Cormorant were recorded, all of which are of national importance.	The Seas off Wexford cSPA extends offshore along the majority of the county Wexford coastline and is approximately 3,054 km² in area. This SPA abuts, and is ecologically connected to, four breeding seabird SPAs namely Lady's Island Lake SPA, Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA, Keeragh Islands SPA and Saltee Islands SPA.



**DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

www.fehilytimoney.ie

 **Cork**

 **Dublin**

 **Carlow**





**Screening Determination under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended
for the Proposed Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)**

Wicklow County Council is preparing the Proposed Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan (WCDP) 2022-2028 (as varied) under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This Proposed Variation proposes administrative and technical changes to the WCDP, adds contemporary detail on the planning framework in County Wicklow to Volume 1 of the WCDP, and will integrate a Local Planning Framework (LPF) for Arklow into the WCDP. This integration of the Arklow LPF into the WCDP constitutes the substantive component of the Proposed Variation.

The prospective Arklow LPF will provide a land use framework to guide the future sustainable development of the settlement of Arklow. The LPF, in conjunction with the WCDP, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

A Report to Inform AA Screening has been completed. The purpose of this report was to identify whether the implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF has the potential to have likely, significant effects on the integrity of European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the nature of the Draft Variation/LPF, development aspirations for the Arklow area and the characteristics of the baseline environment, WCC has concluded that the Draft Variation/LPF:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.
- Individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on 2 No. European sites, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge.

Site Code	Site Name
004127	Wicklow Head SPA
004186	The Murrough Special Protection Area
004237	Seas off Wexford Special Protection Area

The Draft LPF provides a land use planning framework for the Arklow area and supports various types of development, including housing, transport and renewable energy development. The implementation of Draft LPF objectives, which are supportive of various forms of development, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites from the following: Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration; Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses; Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project; LPF related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species and LPF related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density.

In consideration of the above, WCC must carefully consider the wording, content, focus and the scope of the Draft Variation/LPF, so that adverse effects on European sites associated with its implementation are avoided/mitigated.

WCC, having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' enshrined in EU and Irish environmental law, therefore determines that an AA/Natura Impact Report (NIR) is required for the LPF.

Signatory: Helena Dennehy
Helena Dennehy
Director of Services
Planning, Economic and Rural Development

Date: 30/9/25.

