

SEA STATEMENT

FOR THE

WICKLOW TOWN-RATHNEW LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025

for: **Wicklow County Council**



by: **CAAS Ltd.**



JUNE 2025

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025.

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

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

1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to the public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Plan.

This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement.

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

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

1.3 Implications of SEA for the Plan

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

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

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

2.1 Overview

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

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

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Amendments and Further Modifications.

2.2 Consultations

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

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

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Draft Plan and/or the SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3.3).

2.3 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

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

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations;
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;
- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

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

2.4 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.¹ The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

2.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

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

2.7 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations, including those relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, were integrated into the Local Area Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach which was informed by the environmental considerations identified by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Zoning has been applied in a way that, in general, primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) (for exceptions to this approach please refer to Section 2.10).

Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the County Development Plan and related provisions have been integrated into the LAP. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Plan has been informed by the SFRA process and associated delineation of flood risk zones. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that helps to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk.

2.8 Integration of individual provisions into the text of the Plan

Various provisions have been integrated into the text of the Plan through the Plan-preparation and SEA, SFRA and AA processes. Both the Planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation which was developed over multiple iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Table 2.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

2.9 Integration of individual provisions into the text of the County Development Plan

In addition to the individual provisions integrated into the text of the Local Area Plan, individual provisions relating to environmental protection and management have been integrated into the existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). These measures, which must be complied with by development under the Local Area Plan, are identified alongside the Local Area Plan measures on Table 2.1.

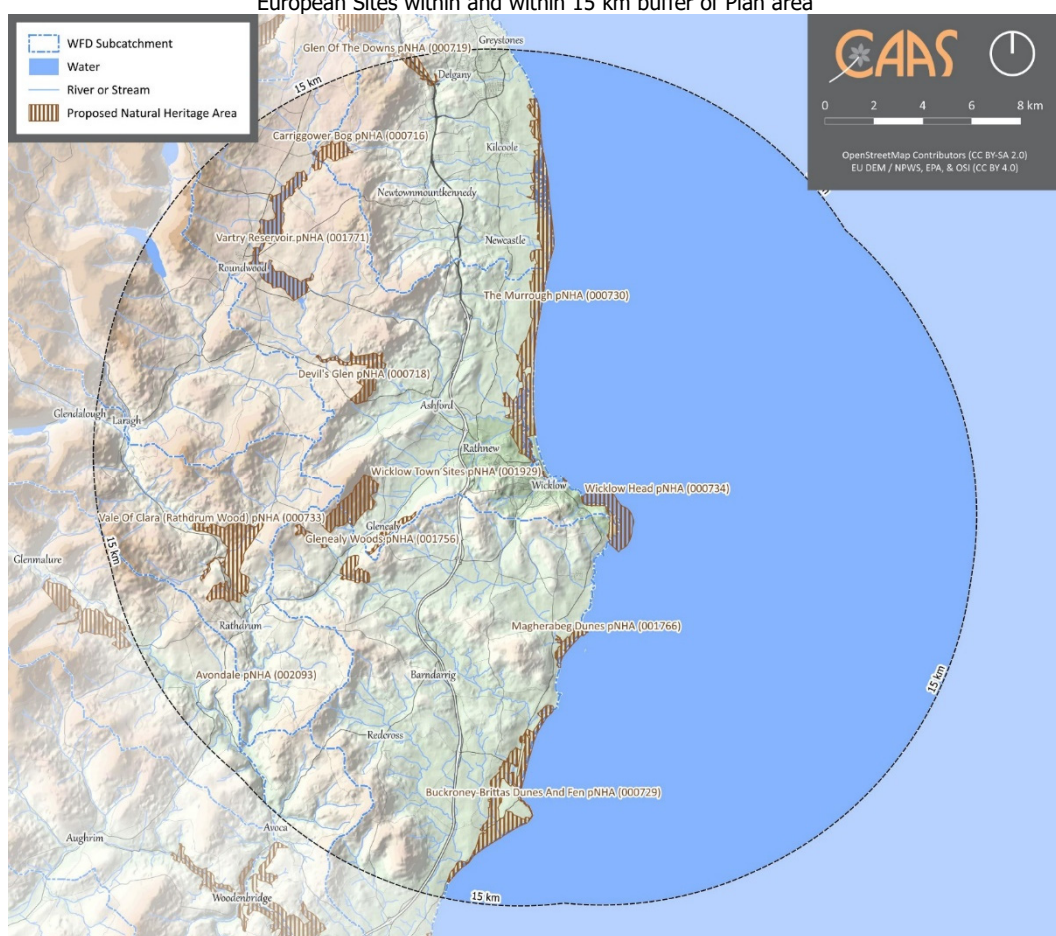
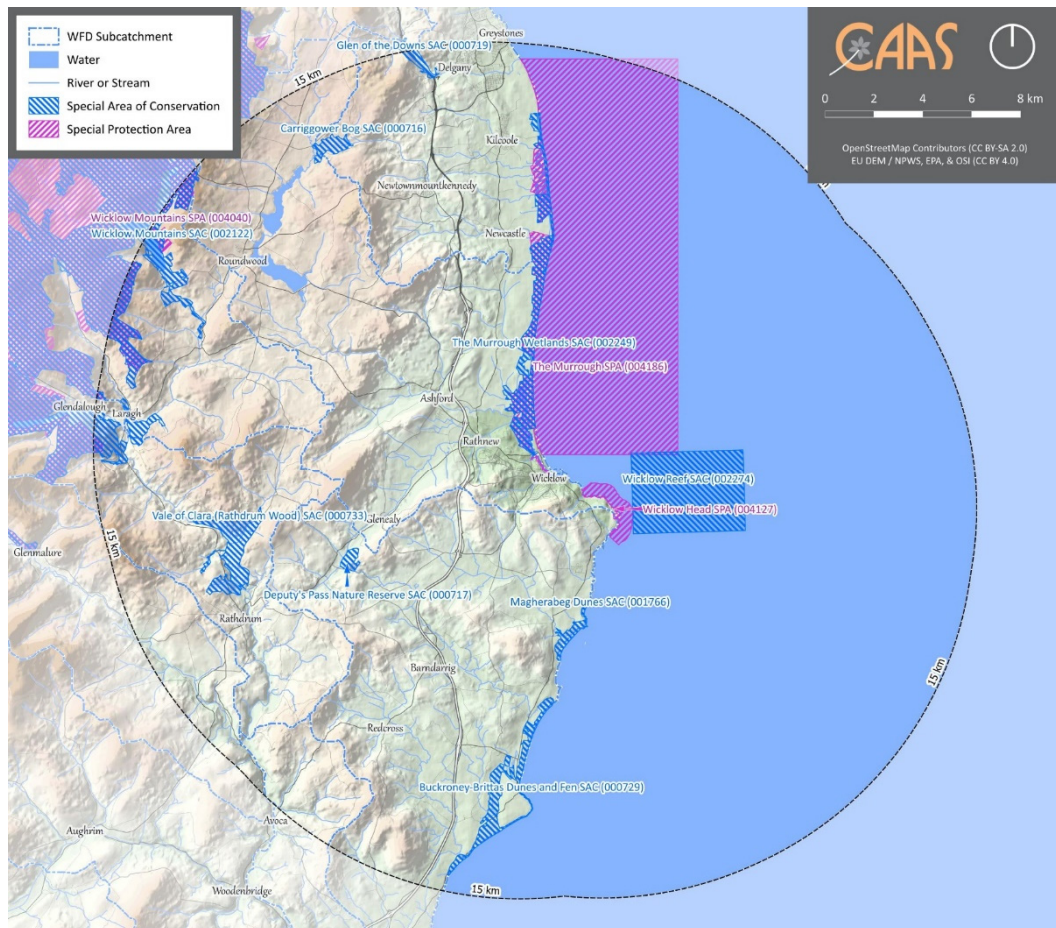
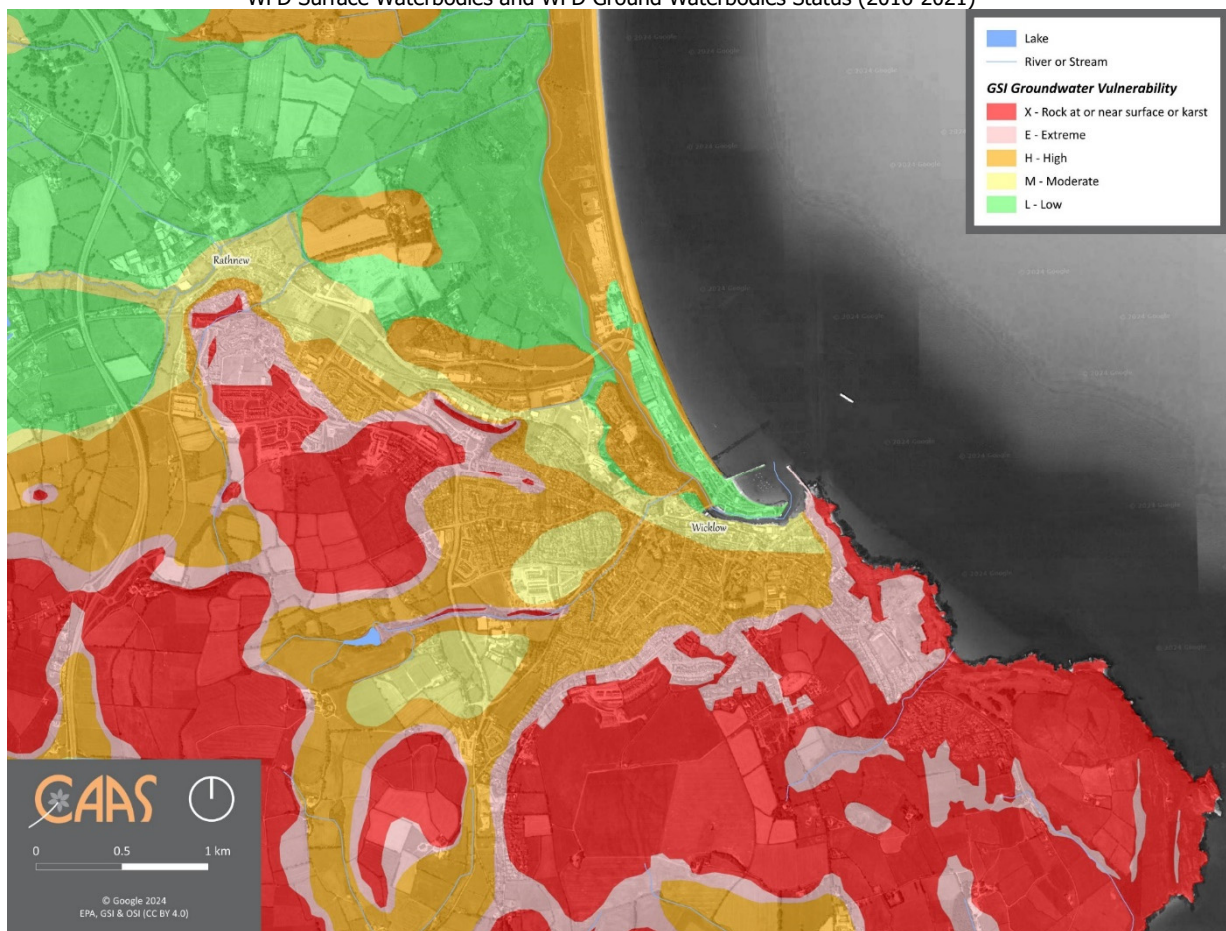


Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)



WFD Surface Waterbodies and WFD Ground Waterbodies Status (2016-2021)



Groundwater Vulnerability

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



Archaeological Heritage



Architectural Heritage

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

Table 2.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>Tourism Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect Wicklow Town – Rathnew's principal strengths and capitalise on the distinct tourism attractions that are on offer; To ensure a focus on high quality tourism products; To work with tourism bodies to increase the number of tourists visiting the settlement, to increase the length of stay of tourists and to help secure the tourism sector as key economic driver; To preserve the character and distinctiveness of scenic landscapes that are of high amenity value; To protect the conservation objectives of European sites, controlling development with the potential to cause adverse impacts on these, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, is subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive. <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR9 To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the settlement 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.</p> <p>WTR14 On lands zoned for employment on the 'Murrrough North', it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the continued operation of established / permitted existing business / commercial activities subject to ensuring they operate in a manner which is respectful of the local environment, use environmentally friendly / innovative technologies and improve the visual amenity of the area; To resist further expansion / intensification of the existing industries / businesses and consideration will only be given to development that enhances nature conservation; To ensure that no development is permitted which would give rise to significant adverse impacts upon the conservation objectives of European sites. To encourage site operators to improve the overall visual amenity of the area including the provision of additional landscaping using native species appropriate to this natural coastal setting. <p>While the Council acknowledges that these industries are established, permitted and operating businesses / commercial activities, it is important to have regard to (a) the need to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the European Sites arise from the intensification or change of use of this area for industry / employment and (b) the nature restoration goals of the Council and (c) the available of significant areas of zoned employment land within the settlement away from the coast and other environmentally sensitive locations.</p> <p>WTR42 To enhance the amenity value of the Rathnew Stream and to facilitate improved access, subject to the protection of its environmental and ecological value.</p> <p>WTR46 To enhance and protect the built and natural heritage of Rathnew and to facilitate improved access to these amenities.</p>	<p>SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity</p> <p>Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit or current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p>Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>Environmental Protection</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Corridor and Route Selection</p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives</p> <p>General</p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non-renewable resource.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p> <p>WTR52 To ensure that all proposals for development have cognisance of European sites in the area and that no development is allowed which would have a significant adverse effect on the conservation interests of these sites.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR73 To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p>WTR84 To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that contribute greatly to this character.</p> <p>WTR90 To facilitate the development and enhancement of green infrastructure resources, including access to, connectivity between areas of interest and linkages between green spaces including the coast, where feasible within the plan settlement boundary.</p> <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>European Sites Objectives</p> <p>To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.</p> <p>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 plan².</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards</p>	<p>Protected sites and species</p> <p>CPO 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019) • National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015. • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010); • Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same), • Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan; • Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>Sites & Corridors of ecological & biodiversity value</p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p>

² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

SEA Statement for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP and LAP as it sees fit.</p> <p>Text from SLO4: "All proposed projects within zoning area SLO4 – Bollanney North shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant: be informed by appropriately targeted ecological surveys of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA; and give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation, including additional visitor management plans)."</p> <p>Local Objective at The Murrough:</p> <p>All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:</p> <p>Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole. 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations. 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species. <p>And</p> <p>Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted.</p> <p>To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment.</p>	<p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To strongly discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling if such is essential to enable development to proceed.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>In particular, to support the development of existing and examine the feasibility of new walking, cycling, horse riding and water based routes and trails along the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way; • the extension of the 'Blessington Greenway' walk around the Phoulaphuca reservoir; • the expansion of a lakeshore walk around the Vartry reservoir; • the extension of the old Shillelagh branch recreational trail - railway walk from Arklow to Shillelagh; • the development of a route along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass. • the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road; • the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes). • the Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells. • 'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle. <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Recreation and Tourism</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes; • Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16. <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Light Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development & Design Standards set out in this plan.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan³.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon. 2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats. 3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla. 4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations. 6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline. 7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective. 8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell. 9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area. 10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew. 2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively. 3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs. 4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port. 5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south. 6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head. 2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon. 3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures. 4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea

³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites; Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types; automated gates will not be permitted on any development. <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p>
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Residential Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure sufficient zoned and serviced land is available at appropriate locations capable of meeting the housing needs of the targeted population of the settlement over the plan period in a sustainable manner. Notwithstanding the zoning of land for residential purposes, the Planning Authority shall monitor and implement the population targets as set out in the County Development Plan and shall phase and restrict, where necessary, the granting of residential planning permissions to ensure these targets are not exceeded; To promote and facilitate in-fill housing developments, the use of under-utilised / vacant sites and vacant upper floors for residential use and facilitate higher residential densities at appropriate locations, subject to a high standard of design, layout and finish; To promote and facilitate the redevelopment of sites in the town and village centres, including identified opportunity sites, where development will positively contribute to the commercial and residential vitality of the town centre; <p>Economic Development and Employment Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting and facilitating to the highest degree possible (subject to environmental and other relevant planning considerations) all forms of employment generation; Support the enhanced role and function of Wicklow as the County Town as a hub for employment, training and education; Exploitation and development of existing settlement assets to act as a catalyst for major employment growth in the settlement, county and region. To ensure that the appropriate framework and services are in place to allow these assets to be developed to their full employment potential To attract inward investment / growth in indigenous and foreign industry by providing the infrastructure and zoned land necessary and promoting a healthy community with a high quality environment; 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Seveso Sites</p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the "COMAH Regulations", (SI No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, public health and safeguarding of public health, and protection of the environment; ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering entrepreneurial activity by promoting and supporting opportunities for training and education, and business start-up and incubator facilities; • Support Wicklow-Rathnew's role in the provision of third level education at the Wicklow County Campus Rathnew (in association with SETU) and in particular, to support the development of the campus as a hub for the Film Industry (Screen Content Creation Sector), the renewable energy sector and the food sector; • To facilitate more intensive economic activity and job creation in the existing town / village centres, in retail and retail services, professional services, tourism and accommodation; • Promote a high quality built and natural environment that is attractive to indigenous and foreign industry and employees; • To facilitate the development of opportunities to capitalise particularly on the settlement's coastal location and to support enhancement and expansion of Wicklow Port and Harbour. <p>Infrastructure Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of safe and accessible pedestrian, cycling and traffic routes and excellent public transport facilities; • Facilitate and promote the delivery of reliable and effective water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure to service the existing and future development needs of the settlement. <p>Heritage Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the natural, architectural, archaeological and maritime heritage of the Wicklow Town – Rathnew area; • To enhance the quality of the natural and built environment, to enhance the unique character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew as a place to live, visit and work; • To promote greater appreciation of, and access to, local heritage assets. <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p>	
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Soils & Geology</p> <p>CPO 17.27 Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>CPO 17.29 To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail 'significant' ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.</p> <p>CPO 17.30 To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of "agreed access" subject to appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.31 To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a "Wicklow Rock Trail", Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 17.32 To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design & Development standards of this plan.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p> <p>WTR95 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.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>CP04.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective: To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p>Water Quality Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO 13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO 13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>Flood Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures , and</p>

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

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Water Systems</p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>As detailed at the beginning of the Plan: It is also important to note that the land-use objectives of this plan aim to support other plans and strategies prepared by Wicklow County Council, including the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan, the Wicklow Climate Action Plan, Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan, Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan, Wicklow Heritage Plan etc., all which have a wider remit than this LAP.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR32 To maintain the Main Street as a principal vehicular route through the town centre and to exploit any opportunities that arise to improve safety for both vehicles and pedestrians / cyclists.</p> <p>WTR33 To improve the pedestrian and cyclist environment and to promote ease of movement throughout the town centre and avail of any opportunities to improve footpaths, pedestrian routes, road crossings and the quality of service for cyclists including the provision of safe and secure cycle parking at key locations throughout Wicklow town centre.</p> <p>WTR34 To facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of new linkages from the town centre to car/bike parks, amenity areas, to South Quay and to the port / Murrough areas and to the town's environs.</p> <p>WTR37 To continue to facilitate the improvement of public transport user facilities including, inter alia, shelters, covered bicycle parking, information points with maps, routes, timetables, real-time information and designated taxi ranks.</p> <p>WTR38 To facilitate improved access to bus stops particularly</p>	<p>Air Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p>Noise Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Climate change action is one of three cross-cutting key principles of the Plan and has been integrated into the Plan in a proactive way with the inclusion of relevant policies and objectives; strategic policy outcomes incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into land-use planning, supported by land-use policies and objectives that where relevant incorporate objectives that both mitigate against the source of the causes of climate change and adapt to reduce the impacts of climate change. Climate change action informs objectives in relation to all chapters of the Plan, including the town and settlement plans and the Plan appendices.</p> <p>Given the Plan's remit as a land use framework not all sources and impacts are addressed in the Plan objectives (e.g. impact on insurance costs). The Plan's role in addressing climate change is part of a combined overall effort by Wicklow County Council to fulfil its role in addressing the climate change challenge. Climate change poses a real threat to ecosystems, however</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>crossing points for passengers.</p> <p>WTR39 To facilitate the regeneration of Rathnew Village centre, by improving the public realm, facilitating road, footpath and cycling improvement works, creating urban spaces with hard and soft landscaped areas within the centre of the village. The regeneration of the centre will be further enhanced following the construction of the RIRR, and the new link road to the Glenealy Road, which will bring about a significant reduction in vehicular traffic travelling through the centre.</p> <p>WTR43 To improve pedestrian movement around the centre by facilitating the provision of pedestrian crossings at appropriate locations, including across the Glenealy Road to the 'Old Village' and across the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (from the VC zoning) to the Wicklow County Campus.</p> <p>WTR44 To encourage the development of a transport hub around the existing bus stops, including improved accessibility, car-parking, bus stop facilities, shelters and covered bicycle parking</p> <p>WTR45 To facilitate the delivery of the remainder of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road.</p> <p>WTR47 To require the vacant lands between the R752 and Charvey Lane to be developed as a single comprehensive development, with a masterplan, that provides for new frontage on the R752 and Charvey Lane, and which addresses all traffic movement issues arising from any development.</p> <p>WTR56 To facilitate the development of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the waterfront zone and to the town centre and train station. To consider the feasibility of a new pedestrian/ cycling bridge connecting the Port to the town centre.</p> <p>WTR61 To facilitate the improvement of pedestrian/cyclist/transport movement and access to the Waterfront zone, by facilitating the provision of appropriate directional and information signage that increases access to and the legibility of the routes between attractions and facilities in the Waterfront zone. In the Waterfront area, no development will be considered that would reduce or remove existing public amenity access to the coast, river banks or port/harbour quays. Any development proposals will be required to show how existing access is to be maintained, improved or new access is to be provided.</p> <p>WTR74 To support the development of linkages to connect Wicklow Town-Rathnew with adjoining towns / villages via cycle and walking trails.</p> <p>WTR75 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of new regional/distributor roads and road improvements⁴, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road including reconfiguration of road network between Junction 16 and Rathnew Village to re-direct Wicklow Town-bound flows away from the Aldi-Tinakilly traffic lights and the village centre; • A new link road between Tighe's Avenue and the R752 (for Glenealy – Rathdrum bound traffic); • The improvement of the road connections between the Wicklow Town – Rathnew and M11 Junctions 17 and 18, namely the L-1099 	<p>these ecosystems including wetlands and woodlands, are important for their role as carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection. As it noted in the RSES, careful land management is needed to ensure that land use changes do not impact on the ability of the natural environment to absorb climate impacts. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment also have a key role to play in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The approach taken in crafting the Plan is to identify what are the impacts and sources of climate change, identify the key sectors of the sources of impacts that are relevant to the County Plan as a land use plan and to ensure that these are considered in the crafting of all policies and objectives.</p> <p>Under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Local Authorities are required to prepare local Climate Action Plans outlining how they are implementing their adopted Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation strategies. Wicklow's is Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is adopted and being implemented.</p> <p>Building on existing climate action policies, the RSES identifies the following five areas where Climate Change Action should be targeted in the region namely Built Environment, Sustainable Transport, Energy and Waste, Flood Resilience and Water, and Green Infrastructure and Eco-system services. Provisions relating to these areas have been integrated throughout the County Development Plan.</p>

⁴ The detail associated with new transport or green/blue infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and accompanying Transport Assessment, including locations and associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>and R751, and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate and support the improvement of the operational efficiency of the regional / local road network to ensure that the M11 is not utilised as a 'local' route for trips internal to the settlement. <p>WTR76 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of road improvements, including pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, to the existing road network, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading the Rocky Road Upgrading access roads to schools and public transport services. <p>WTR77 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to active travel and public transport measures, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major public realm improvements in Wicklow Town and Rathnew village centres; Active Travel Bridge Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route; Ballyguilemore footpath; and Providing improved, safer sustainable transport linkages (including permeability linkages in existing areas) to schools, public transport facilities, shops and services. <p>WTR78 To continue to work with Iarnrod Eireann and the NTA on the improvement of mainline train services to Wicklow Town station and to extend the DART services to Wicklow Town station and to provide for the significant enhancement of facilities and infrastructure at Wicklow train station, including but not limited to enhanced pedestrian and cycling connectivity and enhanced car / bike / bus parking.</p> <p>WTR79 To 'future proof' the development of rail services to reserve land at (a) Rathnew (in the area west of the former Rathnew station) and (b) Merrymeeting for possible future halts / stations.</p> <p>WTR80 To facilitate the upgrading of the Rocky Road, from Junction 17 of the M11 to Wicklow town centre.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR91 To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk 	

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p>	
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use Zoning provisions.</p> <p>Community Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the development of a range of high quality community, educational, open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population. To require new community, open space and recreational facilities be developed in tandem with new housing. To facilitate healthy place-making with a well-designed public realm which includes public spaces, parks, playgrounds and safe streets with access for all. <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR91 To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>Strategic Objective: To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG); 'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)', EPA 2006; 'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009; 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and 'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009. <p>Strategic Objective: To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newtownmountkennedy - Rathdrum - Dunlavin - The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p>

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		<p>existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation of water efficient equipment; - Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; - Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; - Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; - The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; - In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arklow - Blessington - Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca - Laragh – Glendalough - Lakes area around Blessington - Large and Small Villages <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; • the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); • the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and • in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:</p> <p>Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p>Solid Waste Management Objectives</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development & Design Standards of this plan).</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.</p> <p>CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste.</p> <p>CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area.</p> <p>CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Hazardous Waste Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of open space amenities, • sustainable management of water, • protection and management of biodiversity, • protection of cultural heritage, and • protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and • the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment) <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption), • the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority, • the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow, • the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area, <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrough Coastal Protection Study, the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<p>WTR22 To positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures within the town centre so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to retention of any special features with use of suitable design, materials and construction methods.</p> <p>WTR23 Proposals to significantly alter or demolish Protected Structures, or special features which contribute to the character of an ACA, only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>WTR30 To facilitate and support suitable proposals to merge or assemble multiple buildings / sites in order to develop modern retailing formats, including department stores or malls, having due regard to the protection of architectural heritage within the Town Centre.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR62 To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational and amenity areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.</p> <p>WTR63 To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.</p> <p>WTR86 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its 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.</p> <p>WTR87 To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow quay side through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that are of architectural merit and/or contribute greatly to this character.</p> <p>WTR88 To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.</p> <p>WTR89 To facilitate the development of initiatives to highlight Wicklow's maritime heritage in the public realm.</p>	<p>Archaeology Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules 08.01 & 08.02 and Maps 8.01 & 8.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate new or improved public access to and erection of appropriate interpretive signage at National Monuments, archaeological sites, castles, sites of historic interest and archaeological landscapes in State or private ownership, as identified in Schedule 08.02 and Map 8.02 of this plan, in co-operation with landowners.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p>Other Structures & Vernacular Architecture Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA. The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line. The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings. Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible. A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required. The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used. Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA. <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p>Historical & Cultural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR62 To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational and amenity areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p>Landscape, Views & Prospects</p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.</p> <p>WTR63 To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.</p> <p>WTR73 To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p>WTR85 To protect the listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>WTR86 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its 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.</p> <p>WTR88 To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.</p>	<p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

2.10 Instance whereby Environmental Considerations were not fully integrated into the Plan

Against the advice of the Executive, the Members decided to adopt certain Proposed Material Amendments as part of the Plan. The Material Amendments that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Plan, together with the advice to Members provided in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display, are detailed on Table 2.2 below.

With respect to Proposed Material Amendment No. 41, it is noted that this Amendment was subject to a further modification that allowed for the integration of a local objective that was recommended by the SEA/AA processes⁵ in order to contribute towards the protection of European sites.

Table 2.2 Material Amendments that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Plan and associated SEA commentary

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
20	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 20 includes amending c. 0.6ha of land use zoning from OS2 to RN2 at southern end of SLO (Glenealy Road).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive, this additional residential zoning proposed would conflict with the protection of the riverine environment and the protection of mature vegetation, notwithstanding the 25m set back from the river edge.</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); • Increased loadings on water bodies; • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur).

⁵ This wording was integrated into the Plan as a local objective relating to the lands that were the subject of Material Amendment No. 41:

"All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:

- Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including:
 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole.
 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations.
 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species.

And

- Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted.

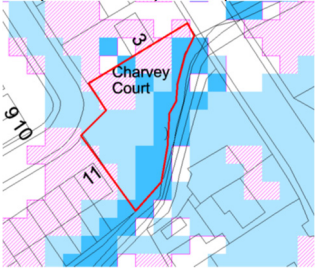
To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment."

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
22	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.22 includes zoning of land measuring c. 6.9ha at SLO4 (Bollorney North) from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
26	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.26 includes changing c. 1.4ha of zoning at Glebe – Fernhill House from 'CE Community/Education' to 'RN1 New Residential' (Priority 1) (0.7ha) and 'RN2 New Residential' (Priority 2) (0.7ha)</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In particular, the key design aim in delivering sustainable communities is to reduce, as far as possible, the need to travel, particularly by private car, by facilitating mixed-use development and by promoting the efficient use of land. The sequential approach specifies that zoning shall extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped serviced lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference, encouraging infill opportunities, and that areas to be zoned shall be contiguous to existing zoned development lands. The urban form and pattern of development in Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village was carefully analysed as part of the plan crafting process, as detailed in the draft plan and associated appendices. This analysis determined the need to capitalise on the potential of the town and villages centres, on regeneration areas such as Wicklow waterfront, and on infill opportunities with the existing built footprint of the settlements, with a small number of edge of centre, serviced, greenfield lands being identified for new residential development.</p> <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use as detailed in this submission would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) • Result in a reduction in CE 'Community & Education' zoned lands. These are essential zonings that are necessary to support the sustainable development of the plan area, and the location and area of these zones has been carefully determined in order to meet Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and sustainable development principles. It should be noted that CE zones are not identified or so zoned solely for the potential development of new schools; a range of social and community infrastructure is required to support any growing settlement. <p>In addition, the CE is concerned with the overall reduction in 'CE' zoned land which is essential in order to meet community development objectives, at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking /</p>

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>cycling distance of the resident population.”</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility (loss of potential Community and Education services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population) and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur). • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Occurrence of visual impacts (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); and • Increased loadings on water bodies (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites).
27	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.27 is to create a new SLO 10 area including lands zoned RN and AOS (1ha) and amend zoning of land measuring c3.5ha from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>“The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre.” <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.


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28	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 27 includes creating a new SLO 11 area – Specific Local Objectives' at Marlton - Ballynerrin Lower and changing land use zoning of: c.3.6ha from CE to RN1; c.3.82ha from E / OS1 to CE; and c.0.5 Ha from E / RN1 to CE.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE has no objection to the new CE zone at the 'Grain Store' as proposed.</p> <p>While the CE has no objection to the relocation of the larger CE zone as proposed, the CE does not support to the proposal to zone additional lands (3.5ha) for new residential use.</p> <p>The CE does not support this element of the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, in particular:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use would exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p>In addition, the CE is concerned with the overall reduction in 'Employment' zoned land which is essential in order to meet employment growth objectives, at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population."</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility (including with reference to loss of potential employment development at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population) and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur). • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Occurrence of visual impacts (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); and • Increased loadings on water bodies (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites).
29	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 29 includes creating a new SLO 12 area – Specific Local Objectives' at Broomhall and changing land use zoning of: c. 7.35ha from RN2 to RN1; and c. 1.7ha from 'unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre."

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	<p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
30	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 30 includes creating a new SLO 13 area – Specific Local Objectives' at Broomhall – Hawks Bay and changing land use zoning of: c. 2.7ha from RN2 to RN1; and c. 2.8ha from 'unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
32	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 32 involves amending zoning of lands from 'VC Village Centre' to 'WCC-Wicklow County Campus' in Rathnew Village Centre.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including a small area areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p>

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	<p>However, the SFRA identifies that "Only a very minor part of the overall proposed zone is located within an area identified as at risk of flooding (south east corner close to a watercourse). The zoning objective does not prescribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the County Campus zone is sufficiently large to provide for the development of desired uses while avoiding development in the at risk area. Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan and Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site."</p> <p>Potentially significant effects arising from this Amendment relating to flood risk would be mitigated to this effect.</p>
38	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 38 involves amending zoning of lands measuring c0.06ha from OS2 to RN1 at Charvey Court, Rathnew.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including significant areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>A flood risk corridor has been identified along the Rathnew stream in this area. Any lands identified as flood zones A or B are appropriately zoned OS2, which limits development and aims to leave the lands in their natural state. Furthermore, when one considers the OPW 'future scenarios' maps of flood risk, the entire area is potentially at risk.</p> <p>The image below shows: in dark blue – area currently at 1:100 risk (Flood Zone A), in light blue - area currently at 1:1000 risk (Flood Zone B) and in pink - areas of future potential risk.</p>  <p>In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, residential use is identified as a 'high vulnerable' land use. Such land should not be zoned where located in an area identified at risk of flooding unless the 'Plan Making Justification Test' is satisfied. In the case of these lands, this test is not satisfied as:</p> <p><i>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is NOT required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:</i></p> <p><i>(i)The zoning of the land for residential use is NOT Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;</i></p> <p><i>(ii)The land do NOT comprise significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;</i></p> <p><i>(iii)The development of the lands would NOT be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and</i></p> <p><i>(iv)There ARE suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.</i></p> <p>In addition, all of these undeveloped lands that are within 25m of the river and are appropriately zoned OS2 in order to be consistent with Wicklow County Development Plan objective 17.26 i.e.</p> <p><i>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."</i></p> <p>Although the written provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan would be likely to limit the development of this site, significant inconsistencies with these written provisions would be present if this Proposed Material Amendment was adopted as part of the Plan. Development of this site would potentially result in significant adverse effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk – with associated adverse effects including on residents and people affected by any flood event and buildings and other material assets; • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
39	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 39 involves changing c. 0.673ha of lands at Ballyguile Beg from 'Unzoned' to 'RN1 – New Residential (Priority 1)'.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft plan boundary at this location is intended to follow the boundary of existing developed lands, and as these lands are not developed, they are not included. This is in order to manage the spatial expansion of the settlement, particularly in peripheral and visually elevated areas, such as this. It is noted that there have been no applications for permission on these lands since 1996-97, when permission was refused, nor recent pre-planning inquiries. <p>In addition, the CE draws attention to the following:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In particular, the key design aim in delivering sustainable communities is to reduce, as far as possible, the need to travel, particularly by private car, by facilitating mixed-use development and by promoting the efficient use of land. The sequential approach specifies that zoning shall extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped serviced lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference, encouraging infill opportunities, and that areas to be zoned shall be contiguous to existing zoned development lands. The urban form and pattern of development in Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village was carefully analysed as part of the plan crafting process, as detailed in the draft plan and associated appendices. This analysis determined the need to capitalise on the potential of the town and villages centres, on regeneration areas such as Wicklow waterfront, and on infill opportunities with the existing built footprint of the settlements, with a small number of edge of centre, serviced, greenfield lands being identified for new residential development.</p> <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use as detailed in this submission would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) Support the continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and Increased loadings on water bodies.
40	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 40 involves amending of lands measuring c.3ha at Ballyguile More from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and

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	<p>densify the centre."</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
41	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 involves amending of lands measuring c. 1ha at The Murrough from 'OS2- Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment'.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including significant areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support this proposed amendment due to concerns about the impact of development on the adjacent European Sites and flood risk.</p> <p>European Sites – Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>The lands in question are zoned OS2 'Natural Areas' in the draft LAP having regard to their location vis-a-vis the adjacent European Site and its conservation objectives and sensitivities.</p> <p>As detailed in the SEA Environmental Report (Section 8) that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan, environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning contained within the Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Draft Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, where feasible, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone, protecting potentially valuable ecological areas including contributing towards maintaining ecological linkage.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning followed for the Draft Plan remains relevant and it is recommended that the OS zoning objective at any natural/semi-natural lands remains unchanged.</p> <p>The members' attention is drawn to a recent (2024) application for the development of these lands. This application was withdrawn following a recommendation for refusal for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having regard to the location of the development in proximity to the Murrough SPA, and the Murrough Wetlands SAC, the location of part of the works in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B, the qualifying interests of these Natura 2000 sites and their conservation objectives, the direct / indirect pathways to these Natura 2000 sites, the absence of sufficient details in respect to the nature and scale of the construction works and ongoing operations the lack of information on the subterranean conditions, the Planning Authority cannot be satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the proposed development would not have significant effects on these Natura 2000 sites, and therefore the development would require Appropriate Assessment. Therefore, to permit the proposed development would be contrary to the Habitats Directive, the Objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Wicklow Town Rathnew Development Plan 2013, and proper planning and sustainable development. 2. Having regard to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of details in respect to construction/ operation • Lack of details in respect to the subsoil composition. • Partial location within a Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B • The provisions 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Planning Authorities Nov 2009. • Lack of justification demonstrating the development is necessary on grounds of wider sustainability through the

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	<p><i>Justification Test outlined in section 3.9 of the guidelines, It is considered that the proposed development would contravene objectives CPO 14.26 and Objective CPO 17.26 of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, and the provisions of the Wicklow Town –Rathnew Development Plan 2013, is contrary to the "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines", would set an undesirable precedent for similar types of development on floodplains, would be prejudicial to public health, and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</i></p> <p>The members attention is also drawn to the following assessment of this proposal from the Council's ecological consultants:</p> <p><i>This amendment would present a potential, likely significant effect on the Murrough SPA and SAC. As a result it would need to be subject to a more detailed Stage 2 AA, also requiring full SEA.</i></p> <p><i>Although the area defined appears to be outside the boundary of the European site, it would create a direct (or near direct) connection onto the site and, as such, would remove any level of buffering offered by the existing undeveloped space. Buffering helps to protect against noise and light disturbance and emissions (such as surface water). The amendment would have the potential to affect the ecological functioning and integrity of the SPA by potentially impacting on aspects such as flight lines, predator risk and lighting effects on birds using the site. The amendment would also have the potential to affect species such as Otter using the SAC.</i></p> <p><i>The amendment would be contrary to Objective WTR14 from the Draft Plan, which seeks to facilitate the continued operation of existing business/commercial activities in this area while ensuring the protection of European sites.</i></p> <p><i>The Stage 2 AA process that would need to be undertaken would recommend the application of Objective WTR14 to this area i.e. to resist further expansion / intensification of existing development in this area.</i></p> <p>Should the members decide to proceed with this proposed amendment against the advice of the CE, as detailed above, it will be necessary to carry out a full Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and SEA of the proposal.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 20 (g) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) the CE is afforded additional time to carry out such assessments prior to the publishing of any proposed material amendments for public display (such display normally being commenced within 3 weeks of the making of the proposed material amendments).</p> <p>Within 2 weeks of the date of the Council meeting of 10 February 2025, the CE shall notify the members regarding how much additional time is required to carry out the assessments prior to the publication of the proposed material amendments. At this time, the CE cannot advise with respect to the length of the period required.</p> <p>Flood Risk</p> <p>The majority of the lands are at high risk of present day flooding – Flood Zone A. Additional lands are within Flood zone B and the entire site is within the OPW future climate change scenarios areas at risk.</p>  <p>In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, Employment use is identified as a 'less vulnerable' land use. Such land should not be zoned where located in an area identified at high risk of flooding unless the 'Plan Making Justification Test' is satisfied. In the case of these lands, this test is not satisfied as:</p> <p><i>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is NOT required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The zoning of the land for employment use is NOT Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;</i> <i>ii. The land do NOT comprise significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;</i> <i>iii. The development of the lands would NOT be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and</i> <i>iv. There ARE suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement."</i> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>Although the written provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan would be likely to limit the development of this site, significant inconsistencies with these written provisions would be present if this Proposed Material Amendment was adopted as part of the Plan. This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects)

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>would occur);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk – with associated adverse effects including on residents and people affected by any flood event and buildings and other material assets; • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies. <p>As this amendment could potentially result in likely significant effects on a European site(s), Stage 2 AA was required to be undertaken. The Stage 2 AA demonstrates that the approach to land use zoning followed for the Draft Plan remains relevant and the OS zoning objective at these lands would help to ensure the protection of European sites.</p> <p>However, if this approach to zoning for the subject lands is abandoned, and Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 incorporated into the Plan, Amendment No. 41 would need to be modified in order to allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Final AA Natura Impact Report to demonstrate that, following the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures, the Plan to be adopted will not result in any adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European site; and • For the Plan, incorporating the Amendment, to be adopted in compliance with the Habitats Directive. <p>The modification to Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 would be to add the following local objective for the subject lands⁶:</p> <p>“All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole. 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations. 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species. <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. <p>To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment.”</p>

⁶ Note: This modification was integrated into the adopted Plan.

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

3.1 Introduction

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

3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the SEA scoping process for preparation of the Plan, environmental authorities⁷ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council.

A detailed submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The issues raised in this submission and how these issues have been taken into account during preparation of the Plan and the SEA are provided on Table 3.1 below. Taking into account the submission from the Environmental Protection Agency environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan, including through the selection of Plan provisions identified on Table 2.1.

⁷ The following authorities were notified: the Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; South Dublin County Council; Kildare County Council; Carlow County Council; and Wexford County Council.

Table 3.1 Taking into account SEA Scoping Submissions

No.	Submission text/Summary	SEA Scoping Response
1	Submission from Environmental Protection Agency	
A	We acknowledge your notice, dated 18th August 2023, in relation to the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (the 'Plan').	Noted.
B	The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.	Noted.
C	As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use Plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document has been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process.
D	In preparing the Plan, Wicklow County Council should also ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region.
E	The EPA may provide additional comments upon receipt of the SEA Environmental Report and Draft Plan/Programme/Variation at the next stage of the SEA process.	Noted – any submissions received will be taken into account as relevant and appropriate.
F	Available Guidance & Resources Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: - SEA process guidance and checklists - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA - topic specific SEA guidance (including Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA, 2020), Integrating climatic factors into SEA (EPA, 2019), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)) You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/	These resources and guidance have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be accessed, as relevant, for reference throughout the SEA process.
G	Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool The ESM Webtool is a decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to explore environmental considerations within a particular area and create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners anticipate potential land-use conflicts and help identify suitable development locations, while also protecting the environment. The ESM Webtool is available at www.enviromap.ie .	The ESM Webtool has been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be considered throughout the SEA process, where relevant.
H	EPA SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool Our SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool is publicly available through EPA Maps at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA . It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.	Available online EPA resources, including mapping resources, have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be considered throughout the SEA and AA processes.
I	EPA WFD Application Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is available via www.catchments.ie .	
J	Catchments.ie Our https://www.catchments.ie/maps/ website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.	
K	EPA AA GeoTool Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for	

No.	Submission text/Summary	SEA Scoping Response
	each European Site within the area. It is also available through EPA https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool .	
L	State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2020 In preparing the Plan and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan. This should also be taken into account, in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within the current version of Ireland’s Environment will be considered in the preparation of the Plan and SEA.
M	Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society You should ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.
N	Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.	Notice has been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.
O	If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie .	Noted.

3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan

Various submissions were made on the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Amendments and/or associated environmental assessment documents, including the SEA Environmental Report and AA/SFRA documents, while these documents were on public display.

Updates made to the Plan and associated environmental assessment documents on foot of submissions include:

- In order to address the concerns raised in one submission, the following additional measure relating to SLO4 - Bollarney North was added to the Local Area Plan and referenced in the accompanying AA Natura Impact Report:

"All proposed projects within zoning area SLO4 – Bollarney North shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant: be informed by appropriately targeted ecological surveys of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA; and give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation, including additional visitor management plans)."
- The insertion of additional text relating to flood risk management and compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines into the Plan.

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

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Amendments and Further Modifications. The mitigation integrated into the final, adopted Plan includes that identified at Table 2.1 of this report.

3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report

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

A number of material amendments were proposed after public display of the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Amendments were subject to SEA and Stage 2 AA as relevant. Responses to submissions made during the public display of the Proposed Material Amendments and associated SEA, AA and SFRA documents were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Wicklow County Council. Further modifications were considered by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

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

Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Summaries of the alternatives for the Plan and their assessment are provided below.

Five alternatives for the Local Area Plan are identified and considered under a number of different future development scenarios, as follow:

1. Maximum Environmental Protection
2. Sustainable Transportation
3. Compact Growth
4. Housing Market Driven
5. Community Driven

Alternatives were assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs). SEOs are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics (see Table 4.1) and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if – in the case of adverse effects – unmitigated.

Table 4.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

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

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be consistent with the existing, already in force, Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are significantly limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, which are not wholly consistent with each other, including those of the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Minister Guidelines and the County Plan. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan, including on topics such as population, land use zoning and proper planning and sustainable development.

4.3 Alternatives Description and Assessment Summary

An overall comparative assessment of the alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 4.1) is provided on Table 4.2. The basis of this assessment is provided under subsections 4.3.1 to 4.3.5 below.

4.3.1 Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection

By limiting development within parts of the Plan area, including those that are most sensitive to development, this alternative would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development within the Plan area⁸ (although this potential would remain, albeit to a reduced degree) and benefit the protection and management of following environmental components within the Plan area⁹:

- Biodiversity and flora and fauna (including through application of a buffer around designated sites, the protection of all trees and mature hedgerows and zoning Bride's Head for Natural Areas)
- Population and human health (limiting development in certain locations would reduce potential for interactions with human health)
- Soil (as a result of limiting greenfield development in certain locations)
- Air (limits in increases in traffic as a result of limiting development in certain locations)
- Water (including as a result of limiting development in certain locations and zoning all lands within 50m of watercourses for Natural Areas only)
- Cultural heritage (through restricting additional development to Protected Structures and restricting development at all designated archaeological sites)
- Landscape (including as a result of designating all lands above the 80m contour as Greenbelt, protecting views and prospects with restricted development within the view/ prospect and zoning Bride's Head for Natural Areas).

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected¹⁰. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited¹¹.

By allowing for development targets to be met within the Plan area, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a moderate degree¹². New development would have to be accompanied by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services¹³.

4.3.2 Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation

By focusing on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport, and by providing for higher densities, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including

⁸ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

⁹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹⁰ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹¹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹² See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹³ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PHH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

associated interactions with population) to a greater degree¹⁴ and conflict with these efforts to a lesser degree¹⁵.

Dezoning undeveloped greenfield lands, including parts of the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) that is not within 15-minute walking distance of public transport would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development at these locations¹⁶ (although the potential would remain elsewhere, including as a result of new and enhanced transport infrastructure) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape¹⁷.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-serviced and less-well connected¹⁸. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited¹⁹.

4.3.3 Alternative 3: Compact Growth

By allowing for development targets to be met within the Plan area, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a moderate degree²⁰. New development would have to be accompanied by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services²¹.

Dezoning all undeveloped greenfield lands would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development at these locations²² (although the potential would remain elsewhere, including as a result of town and village centre development and mixed use, high density residential development at the Murrough) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape²³.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development

¹⁴ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹⁵ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹⁶ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹⁷ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹⁸ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

¹⁹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PPH MA L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²⁰ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²¹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²² See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²³ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-serviced and less-well connected²⁴. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited²⁵.

4.3.4 Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven

As a plan developed from this alternative would be in effect for ten as opposed to six years, a fully comparative evaluation cannot be provided.

By providing for

- a. excesses in zoned land (above current targets) and lower densities of housing development
- b. facilitating increases in car dependency and
- c. providing for community and education, employment and active open space uses on the periphery of the residential zoned land,

this alternative would:

- benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a lesser degree²⁶; and
- conflict with these efforts to a greater degree²⁷.

This alternative would provide zoning for ten years of housing needs, unlike the other alternatives that would make provisions over a six-year lifespan and be reviewed towards the end of this six-year period. Furthermore, demand would be met through lower densities, requiring a greater extent of lands to be zoned for development. The extent of greenfield development provided and the lack of a focus on infill/regeneration development would present a greater potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from such development within the Plan area under this alternative²⁸ and consequently benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape, in the Plan area to a lesser degree²⁹.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-serviced and less-well connected³⁰. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited³¹.

²⁴ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²⁵ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²⁶ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²⁷ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²⁸ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

²⁹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

³⁰ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

³¹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

4.3.5 Alternative 5: Community Driven

By focusing on healthy communities, where residents have all necessary facilities and services within short walking/cycling distance of their homes, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a greater degree³² and conflict with these efforts to a lesser degree³³.

Providing for a strengthened town centre and more opportunity sites for the redevelopment of brownfield sites would help to reduce demand for greenfield development within the Plan area and associated potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from such development³⁴ (although the potential would remain) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape, especially in peripheral parts of the Plan area³⁵.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected³⁶. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited³⁷.

³² See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

³³ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.











³⁴ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

³⁵ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

³⁶ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.


³⁷ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PPH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Overall Comparative Assessment of Alternatives against SEOs³⁸

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection	BFF PHH S W L CH - 	MA A C PPH		BFF PHH S W L CH - 	MA A C PPH	
Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation	MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -		MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -	
Alternative 3: Compact Growth	BFF PHH S W L CH 	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -		BFF PHH S W L CH 	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -	
Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven	BFF PHH S W L CH 		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -	BFF PHH S W L CH 		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -
Alternative 5: Community Driven	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -	

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area (as a result of directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to the potential for direct adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated (arising from development within the Plan area)

 = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area (as a result of providing development within the Plan area)

 = These interactions relate to adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, (arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area)

³⁸ For more detail on Strategic Environmental Objectives refer to Table 4.1.

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

The 'Selected Alternative' for the Plan integrates the following components from the five above evaluated alternative scenarios for the Plan:

- from "Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection"
 - The protection of European Sites (SAC and SPA) and NHAs.
 - The protection of the trees on the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) list and protect all other mature trees and hedgerows.
 - The protection of watercourses in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' 2020.
 - The protection of the landscape.
 - The zoning of lands at Brideshead as Natural Areas (OS2).
 - The enhancement of protection of views and prospects.
- from "Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation"
 - High-density mixed-use zones within 15-minute walking distance of the Train Station.
 - Downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB).
 - Include enhanced pedestrian connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the Leitrim River from the north to the south quay.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the railway line at the train station connecting the lands to the north to Station Road/ Train Station.
 - Enhanced cycle routes and connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include 'Park and Ride' sites at Junction 16.
- from "Alternative 3: Compact Growth"
 - Downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB).
 - All Town Centre/ Village Centre Sites are zoned for high density mixed use.
 - The Murrough (*south*) area is zoned for mixed use including high density residential.
- from "Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven"
 - Provide for extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2, on the next best lands (*with strict phasing criteria*).
- from "Alternative 5: Community Driven"
 - Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for new schools are zoned close to residential areas.
 - Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for recreational/ sports / community facilities are zoned for, Community Education (CE) and Active Open Space (AOS) (e.g. for playing pitches, community halls, theatres, cultural facilities, running tracks, landscaped parks, dog parks, all other recreation/ sports. etc).
 - New walking routes / cycling routes are designated throughout the settlement.
 - Extra lands are zoned for employment to facilitate people working locally.
 - There will be additional lands zoned for childcare facilities.
 - The town centre will be strengthened with a larger Town Centre zoning with more opportunity sites for redevelopment of brownfield sites.

These components emerged from the planning/SEA process having regard to both:

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

An assessment of the 'Selected Alternative' against SEOs is provided at Table 4.3. The 'Selected Alternative' will help to:

- Maximise the provision of land use zoning and the deliverance of associated travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies to a greater degree (improving SEO interactions for **MA A C PPH**), conflicting with these to a lesser degree (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **MA A C PPH**);
- Maximise positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area as a result of providing development within the Plan area (improving SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**), while helping to minimise adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**); and
- Maximise positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area as a result of directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area (improving SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**), while helping to minimise adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from development occurring within the Plan area (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**).

Table 4.3 Assessment of 'Selected Alternative' against SEOs³⁹

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Selected Alternative for the Plan	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH BFF PHH S W L CH			MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH BFF PHH S W L CH		

▪ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area (directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area)

▪ = These interactions relate to the potential for direct adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated (arising from development within the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area (as a result of providing development within the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, (arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area)

³⁹ For more detail on Strategic Environmental Objectives refer to Table 4.1.

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives that were used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Local Area Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), the measures identified in that County Development Plan SEA have been used as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

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

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to

deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

5.3 Sources

The Plan forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midland RSES and the Wicklow County Development Plan is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. Individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

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

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

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*⁴⁰ basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the development to be permitted are identified, such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

⁴⁰ The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. Documenting any identified effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

5.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. Monitoring frequencies of indicators tend to change although where they are consistent frequencies are identified. This report should address the indicators set out on Table 5.1.

The methodology for monitoring set out below will be undertaken by the Council. Where monitoring beyond existing sources is to be undertaken, it is recommended that industry standard methods are used where they exist and where appropriate.

Reporting may be undertaken in conjunction with the monitoring reporting on other plans, such as the County Development Plan and other Local Area Plans.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴¹
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans Confirmation of compliance with Plan provisions relating to the protection of European Sites and sustaining resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)⁴² DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 6 years)⁴³ Internal review of local land use plans Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the County Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see County Development Plan Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see County Development Plan Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by County Development Plan Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC

⁴¹ Where remedial action is required, consultations with government agencies (e.g. DECC, DT, EPA, HSE, NPWS, Regional Assembly, Uisce Éireann) may be undertaken in order to confirm causes of any identified changes in the environment and in order to develop appropriate responses.

⁴² Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁴³ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

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Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴¹
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of published information from the Health Service Executive and EPA Internal consultations with the Council's Environment Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive, not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance⁴⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.

⁴⁴ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available

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Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴¹
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), PM10 (particulate matter with diameter of 10 microns or less) and O₃ (Ozone) as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data EPA Air Quality Monitoring Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of progress in implementing of Wicklow County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions 	

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Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁴¹
		may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030)	reporting • Internal review of implementation of Plan provisions relating to renewable energy in transport, including facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure	
	• Greenhouse gas emissions	• Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions of at least 51% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (helping to set Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050)		
	• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating	• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating		
	• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels	• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the City using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels • Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel	• CSO data • Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	• Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures • Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	• CSO data • Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	• Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	• Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Internal review of development management / grants of permission	• Where monitoring reveals visitor or development pressure is causing negative effects on designated archaeological or architectural heritage, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and the National Monuments Service and other stakeholders, as relevant, to address pressures through additional mitigation.
	• Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	• Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	• Internal review of development management / grants of permission	
Landscape	• Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Internal review of development management / grants of permission	• Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

WICKLOW TOWN-RATHNEW LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025

for: Wicklow County Council



by: CAAS Ltd.



JUNE 2025

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List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CAFE	Cleaner Air for Europe
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CGS	County Geological Site
CORINE	Co-ORdinated INformation on the Environment
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
DCCAE	Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment
DCHG	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
ELVs	Emission Discharge Values
EU	European Union
GFC	Gross Final Consumption
GSi	Geological Survey of Ireland
LAP	Local Area Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NO₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NTA	National Transport Authority
OPW	Office of Public Works
O₃	Ozone
PM_{2.5}	Fine particulate matter
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
PAS	Priority Action Substance
RAL	Remedial Action List
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable urban Drainage systems
WHO	World Health Organisation
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WRZ	Water Resource Zone
WSS	Water Supply Scheme
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

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

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

Flora is all the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all the animals found in a given area.

Environmental Problems

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

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

Environmental Vectors

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

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

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

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

Natural Heritage

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

Protected Structure

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

Recorded Monument

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

Scoping

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

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

Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan (LAP) 2025. It has been prepared by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Wicklow County Council. The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

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

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

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

1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

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

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

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

1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

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

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

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

An overlay of environmental sensitivities for the Plan area is shown at Figure 1.1 (more detail on the weighting applied to individual sensitivities is provided at subsection 4.14). The mapping shows that environmental

sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the Plan area. Most of the Plan area is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the Plan area include:

- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village, mainly on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Coastal areas and estuarine areas, including the Murrough and Wicklow Head, and areas adjacent to rivers and streams – mainly on account of ecological and visual sensitivities and elevated levels of flood risk.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focuses on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit.

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

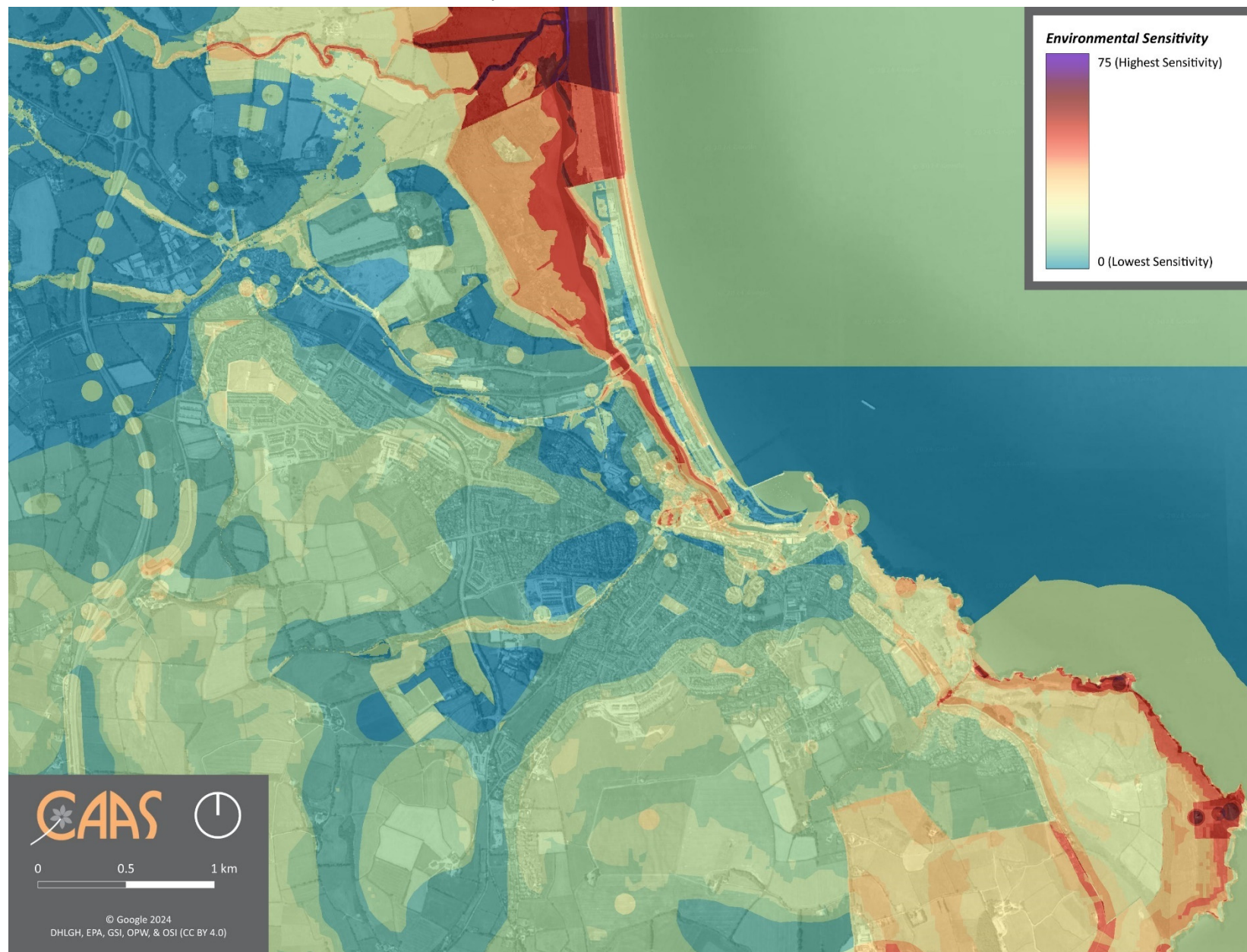


Figure 1.1 Environmental Sensitivities that the Plan directs incompatible development away from

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Introduction and Content

The Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 has been prepared and adopted pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The purpose of the Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area. The Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

2.2 Plan Format

The Plan 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.

The Plan is accompanied by a number of appendices, including this SEA Environmental Report. All of these documents have informed the crafting of the Plan.

The Plan sets out an Overall Vision and Strategy followed by objectives under the following headings:

- Residential development
- Economic development
- Key regeneration areas
- Centres and Retail
- Community development
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
- Zoning and Land Use

2.3 Plan Vision

A key aim of a Local Area Plan is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of the area and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of

achieving this vision. The vision and development strategy must be consistent with the 'Core Strategy' of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the area.

With healthy placemaking, climate change and economic opportunity to the fore of the Plan, the vision for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan is:

"For Wicklow Town-Rathnew to be a prosperous and growing community in the Garden County of Wicklow, offering a unique and high quality of life by providing for a sustainable and local work/life balance within a healthy environment for all who live, work and visit the settlement.

To strengthen and consolidate Wicklow Town as the County Town.

To protect the identity of Rathnew village.

To recognise and protect, the unique character, built heritage, seaside location, maritime history and natural environment of the area."

2.4 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning

In preparing the Plan, information relating to various sectors, from different Departments within the Councils and from different bodies and organisations, was gathered and analysed, contributing towards the development of evidence-led Plan provisions. This work included undertaking a Local Transport Assessment (Plan Appendix 1) and a Social Infrastructure Audit (Plan Appendix 2) and preparing details on an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, Phasing and Implementation (Plan Appendix 3).

The undertaking of the SEA process was part of this strategic work and contributed towards

the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 9 of this report.

2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is important to note that when reading the Plan, the policy objectives of the County Development Plan are relevant and, in this regard, both documents should be read in tandem with each other. As detailed at the beginning of the Plan:

“This Local Area Plan is consistent with the objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan. The County Development Plan sets out the overall strategies, objectives and standards for the county. The strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan apply directly in this settlement and shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Local Area Plan.”

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

The First Revision of the National Planning Framework sets out Ireland’s planning policy direction to 2040. The National Planning Framework is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and

lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 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, as relevant and appropriate, be implemented through the Wicklow County Development Plan, that sets out the overarching development strategy for the County, and the Local Area Plan.

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

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

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

The preparation of the Plan, SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) are taking place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the Plan.

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

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

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

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

3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

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

Scoping

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

³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Baseline

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

Alternatives

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

Impact assessment

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

Mitigation and monitoring

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

Reporting

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

Communication and consultation

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

3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Area Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Local Area Plan.

3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive⁴.

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

As the Plan is not likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State, transboundary consultations as provided for by Article 7 of the SEA Directive were not undertaken.

3.5 Alternatives

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

3.6 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely environmental effects of

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

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

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

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

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

3.7 SEA Statement

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

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

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

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

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

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

Section 4 Environmental Baseline

4.1 Introduction

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

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making⁶.

4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

The EPA's *"Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024"* report provides an integrated assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment, the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues. This report has informed various parts of the environmental baseline provided below. The five key environmental priorities identified by the report are:

- "Delivering a national policy position on the environment - we urgently need to have a national policy position on the environment to address the complex interactions, synergies and trade-offs across environmental policy areas and to deal with its interactions with other policy domains.
- Driving policy implementation - we must rigorously implement existing environmental plans and programmes to achieve the benefits that they were developed to deliver.
- Transforming our systems - transformation of our energy, transport, food and industrial sectors is critical to achieving a sustainable future.
Scaling up investment in infrastructure - investment in water, energy, transport and waste management infrastructure is essential to

protect the environment now and into the future.

- Protecting the environment to protect our health - protecting the environment is key to protecting our health and we must act to reduce the modifiable risks to our health from environmental exposures."

4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

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

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

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

In the absence of a new Local Area Plan, the framework for development across the Plan area would be provided by the County Development Plan and other related documents. There would be no Local Area Plan to provide additional detail beyond that provided already through the existing planning framework as how to achieve sustainable

⁶ Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required taking into account, inter alia, the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

development and environmental protection and management in the Plan area.

As a result, there would be a decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of the positive environmental effects identified by this assessment occurring, including:

- Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.
- Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.
- Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.
- Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, such as air and water.
- Contribution towards the protection of soils and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
- Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
- Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
- Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.
- Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
- Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.
- Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.
- In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:
 - Sustainable compact growth;
 - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
 - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; and
 - Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
- Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area.

Furthermore, and as a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent,

magnitude and frequency of the adverse environmental effects identified by this assessment occurring, including:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
 - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
 - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
 - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

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

Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. There are four main types; provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines. Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values⁷.

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

⁷ <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

- Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function.
- Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation, resources for food, fibre or fuel, or for recreation, culture and quality of life.
- Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them.

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Local Area Plan and associated higher-tier Wicklow County Development Plan:

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

4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.6.1 Overview

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna which is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects includes available information on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

Key ecological sensitivities within and surrounding the Plan area include:

- **Sites designated adjacent to the Plan area, comprising:**
 - **The Murrough Special Area of Conservation** - sensitive features of this site include: annual vegetation of drift lines; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; calcareous fens; and alkaline fens;
 - **The Murrough Wetlands Special Protection Area** - sensitive features of this site include: red-throated diver; greylag goose; light-bellied brent goose; widgeon; teal; black-headed gull; herring gull; little tern; and wetland and waterbirds;

- **Wicklow Head Special Protection Area** - sensitive features of this site include kittiwake; and
- **Wicklow Reef Special Area of Conservation** - sensitive features of this site include reefs.
- **Non-statutorily proposed sites partially within/ adjacent to the Plan area, comprising:**
 - **The Murrough proposed Natural Heritage Area** - this wetland site provides an important flood control role and supports a range of coastal and freshwater habitats, some of which contain threatened flora and fauna;
 - **The Wicklow Town Sites proposed Natural Heritage Area** - this site comprises the Leitrím River (river bank) and Black Castle (landward side of the cliffs); and
 - **Wicklow Head proposed Natural Heritage Area** - sensitive features of this site include kittiwake.
- **Locally important, non-designated habitats within the Plan area**, including coastal, transitional and marine areas, various woodlands, parks, gardens, hedgerows, old buildings/stone walls and lands used for agriculture within and surrounding the Plan area, providing habitats for flora and fauna and facilitating linkages and corridors to the surrounding countryside for the wildlife; and
- **Aquatic and riverine ecology** associated with rivers and streams and their tributaries and riparian buffer zones, including the **River Leitrím, River Vartry, Burkeen Stream, Rathnew Stream, Marlton Stream and Dunbur Stream. The River Vartry to the north of the Plan area is an important Salmonid River.**

The following information is relevant to ecological networks and connectivity and non-designated habitats:

- CORINE land cover mapping (including areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive)⁸;
- Tree Protection Order and Trees, groups of trees and woodlands⁹;
- Watercourses, wetlands and peatlands;
- Other relevant County Development Plans designations;
- The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland¹⁰; and

⁸ The CORINE land cover mapping classifies land cover under various headings. This dataset allows for the identification of lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity including those which are likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive e.g., natural grasslands, peat bogs, salt marshes. CORINE Land Cover is a map of the European environmental landscape based on interpretation of satellite images. Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface.

⁹ These areas are those identified as those requiring special protection under existing national or European legislation, either to protect their surface water or groundwater, or to conserve habitats or species that directly depend on those waters.

⁹ TPOs are a planning mechanism whereby individual trees or groups of trees can be identified as important and protected. **There are four TPOs designated within the Plan area as identified in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).**

¹⁰ The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network provides a classification of the relative importance of areas by virtue of the biodiversity and flora that they contain and the connectivity they provide. Many of the areas identified are corridors.

- Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance as identified by, for example, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (badger sets), relevant datasets from the National Biodiversity Data Centre and BirdWatch Ireland's 'Important Bird Areas' (Crowe et al., 2009)¹¹.

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna particularly for mammals, especially for bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, the non-designated surrounding countryside and urban areas.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained.

Man-made habitats within the Plan area can also include important biodiversity features. Gardens provide habitats for a range of wildlife including various bird species, invertebrates such as bees and butterflies and mammals such as hedgehogs, mice, rats and foxes. These species move around between gardens using hedgerows and vegetated areas. These urban green spaces are of importance as they form part of a network of green spaces across the Plan area including gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, railway lines and patches of woodland and scrub within which animals and plants continue to thrive.

Ecological islands or areas of habitat that are not connected to surrounding ecologically valuable habitats can also be important.

¹¹ Including: **North Wicklow Coastal Marshes Important Bird Area**, located to the north of the Plan area; available habitats mapping at a suitable scale; trees; groups of trees and woodlands; and hedgerows.

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

4.6.2 European Sites

European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation¹² (SACs) and Special Protection Areas¹³ (SPAs). Such sites within 15 km buffer around the Plan area are mapped on Figure 4.1). There are a total of 12 European sites (nine SACs and three SPAs) designated within 15 km of the Plan boundary (as listed below and shown on Figure 4.1):

- The Murrough Wetlands SAC (Site Code: 002249)¹⁴;
- Wicklow Reef SAC (Site Code: 002274)¹⁵;
- Magherabeg Dunes SAC (Site Code: 001766)¹⁶;
- Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC (Site Code: 000717)¹⁷;
- Buckroney-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC (Site code: 000729)¹⁸;
- Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC (Site Code: 000733)¹⁹;

¹² SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (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.

¹³ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

¹⁴ Sensitive features comprise: perennial vegetation of stony banks; calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Mediterranean salt meadows; alkaline fens; annual vegetation of drift lines; and Atlantic salt meadows.

¹⁵ Sensitive features comprise reefs.

¹⁶ Sensitive features comprise: annual vegetation of drift lines; petrifying springs with tufa formation; shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* - white dunes; fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes; and embryonic shifting dunes.

¹⁷ Sensitive features comprise old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles.

¹⁸ Sensitive features comprise: annual vegetation of drift lines; alkaline fens; fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes; shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* - white dunes; dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *Argentea*; embryonic shifting dunes; humid dune slacks; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Mediterranean salt meadows; and Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes.

- Wicklow Mountains SAC (Site Code: 002122)²⁰;
- Carriggower Bog SAC (Site Code: 000716)²¹;
- Glen of the Downs SAC (Site Code: 000719)²²;
- Wicklow Head SPA (Site Code: 004127)²³;
- The Murrough SPA (Site Code: 004186)²⁴; and
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (Site Code: 004040)²⁵.

Three of these sites, namely The Murrough Wetlands SAC, Wicklow Head SPA and The Murrough SPA, are situated adjacent to the Plan area, as mapped on Figure 4.2.

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

4.6.3 Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

There are a total of 12 pNHAs designated within and within a 15 km buffer of the Plan area (as mapped on Figure 4.3 and listed on Table 4.1), out of which three sites, namely The Murrough pNHA (Site Code: 000730), Wicklow Head pNHA (Site Code: 000734) and Wicklow Town Sites pNHA (Site Code: 001929) are situated partially within/adjacent to the Plan area (as mapped on Figure 4.4.). There

are no NHAs designated within or within a 15 km buffer of the Plan area.

Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are priority habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues.

Cutover bog is a variable habitat, or complex of habitats, that can include mosaics of bare peat and re-vegetated areas with woodland, scrub, heath, fen and flush or grassland communities. It occurs where part or all of the original peat has been removed through turf cutting, by the traditional hand method or mechanically, for either domestic or commercial purposes. This habitat is widespread surrounding industrially and traditionally cutover raised bogs across the country. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste management, industrial, and tourism and recreation.

Table 4.1 pNHAs within and within 15 km of the Plan area

Designation	Site Code	Site Name
pNHA	000730	The Murrough
	000734	Wicklow Head
	001929	Wicklow Town Sites
	001756	Glenealy Woods
	001766	Magherabeg Dunes
	000718	Devil's Glen
	000729	Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen
	001771	Vartry Reservoir
	000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood)
	002093	Avondale
	000716	Carriggower Bog
	000719	Glen of the Downs

¹⁹ Sensitive features comprise old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles.

²⁰ Sensitive features comprise: natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Alpine and Boreal heaths; European dry heaths; blanket bogs; Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*; calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains; otter; siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe; and siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels.

²¹ Sensitive features comprise transition mires and quaking bogs.

²² Sensitive features comprise old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

²³ Sensitive features comprise black-legged kittiwake.

²⁴ Sensitive features comprise: light-bellied brent goose; black-headed gull; greylag goose; herring gull; red-throated diver; wigeon; wetland and waterbirds; little tern; and teal.

²⁵ Sensitive features comprise: merlin; and peregrine falcon.

4.6.4 Land Cover

Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface.

The CORINE 2018²⁶ mapping (shown on Figure 4.5) identifies the land cover of central parts of the Plan area as urban fabric with adjacent areas of industrial or commercial units, port areas, sport and leisure facilities and road and rail networks and surrounding lands identified as pastures, non-irrigated arable land and complex cultivation patterns. Areas of coastal lagoon, salt marshes and inland marshes are identified along the coastal parts of the Plan area.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats (Figure 4.6) partially situated within and adjacent to the Plan area comprise coastal lagoons and marshes.

4.6.5 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the Plan area, designated by virtue of their value to biodiversity include a number of water-dependent habitats within the area that have been listed on RPAs relating to biodiversity – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.2) and associated surface and groundwaters.

The main channel of the River Vartry, which forms part of the northern boundary of the Plan area, is designated as a Salmonid River under the Salmonid River Regulations (SI No. 293 of 1988). Associated surface and ground water bodies are identified in the WFD RPA for Surface Water and Groundwater in Salmonid Regulations Catchments (as shown on Figure 4.7).

²⁶ The CORINE (Co-ordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

RPAs designated by virtue of their value to humans are addressed under Section 4.9.7.

4.6.6 Salmonid Waters

The Salmonid Regulations (SI No. 293 of 1988) designate the waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected. 34 (no.) rivers, tributaries and lakes are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. The main channel of the River Vartry, which forms part of the northern boundary parts of the Plan area, part of which is mapped on Figure 4.7 is designated as a Salmonid Water under these Regulations.

4.6.7 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas

Freshwater pearl mussel is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment. There are two species of freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. Within the Plan area, Margaritifera Sensitive Areas²⁷ are found within the Vartry River catchment (as mapped on Figure 4.8).

Twenty-seven Management Plans for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel have been published, the objective of which is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation. The most significant pressures across these catchments were identified as: point sources in relation to quarries, sand/gravel pits and wastewater treatments plants; and diffuse sources associated with agriculture (including

²⁷ Within the Plan area, part of a "Catchment with previous records of Margaritifera, but current status unknown" is identified. Other types of Margaritifera Sensitive Areas comprise: "Catchments of other extant populations"; and "Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. No. 296 of 2009".

overgrazing), forestry and on-site wastewater treatment systems.

4.6.8 Existing Problems

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

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

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

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

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

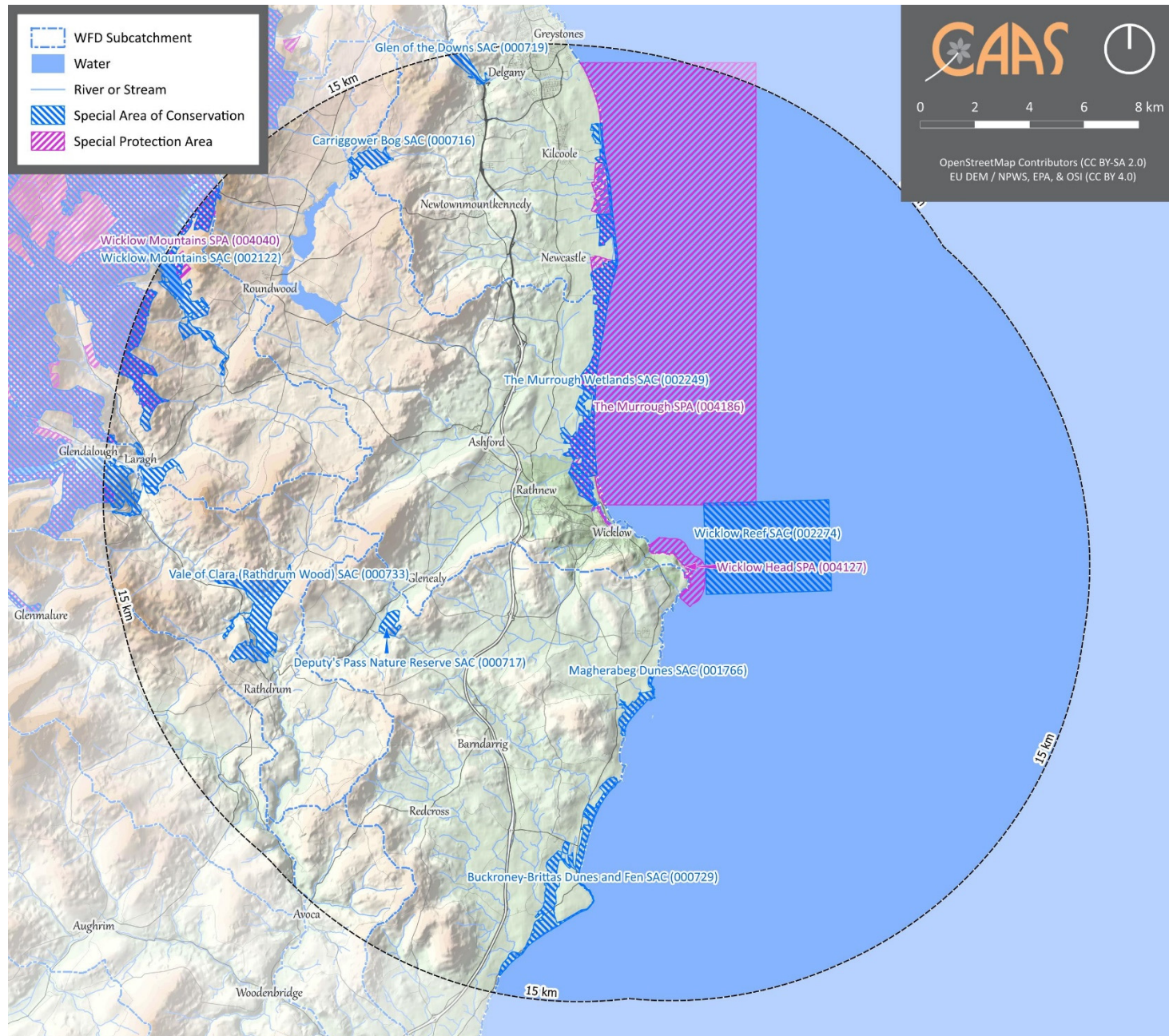


Figure 4.1 European sites within and within a 15 km buffer of the Plan area



Figure 4.2 SACs and SPAs adjacent to the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area

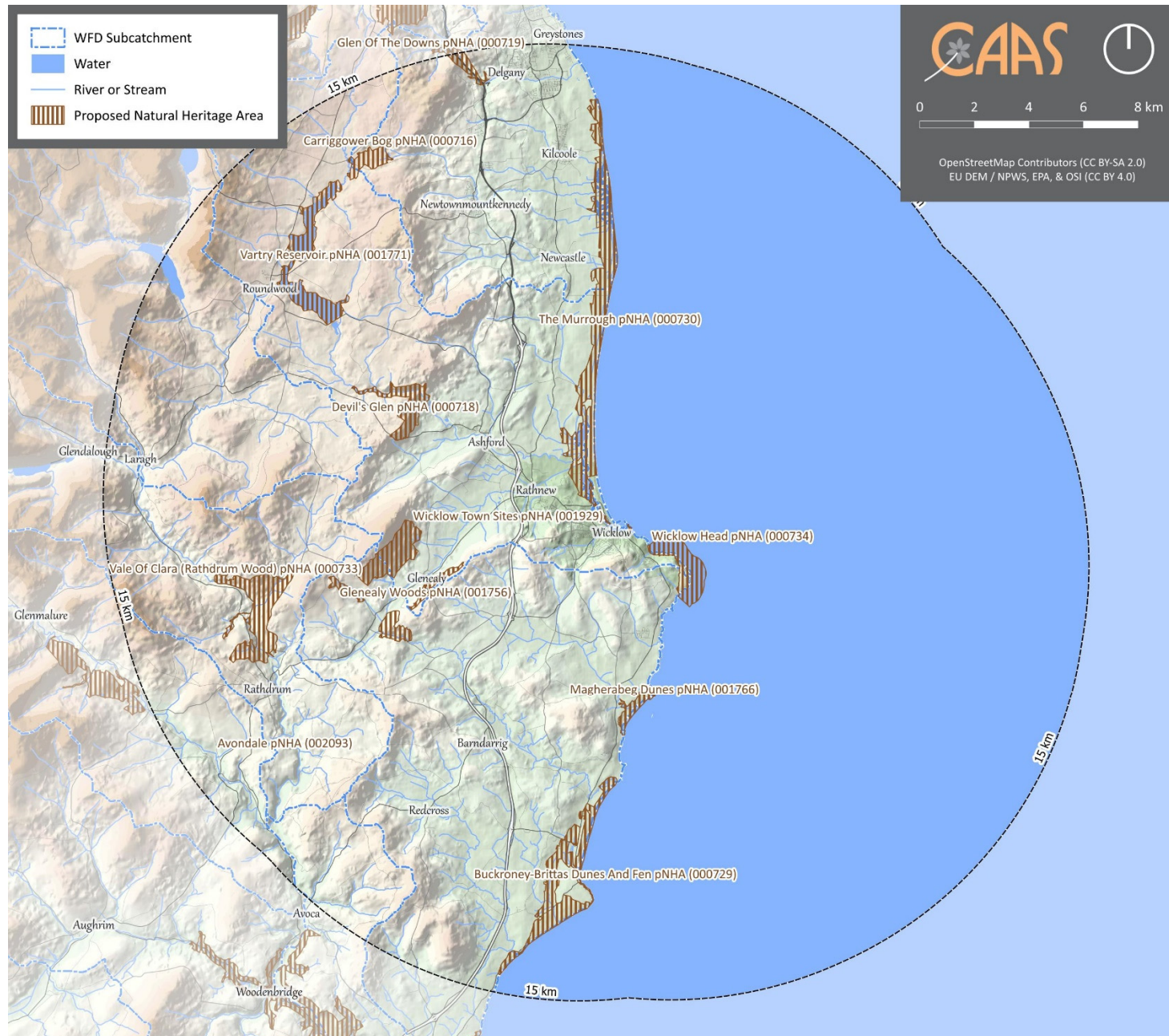


Figure 4.3 pNHAs within a 15 km buffer of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area



Figure 4.4 pNHAs within and adjacent to the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area

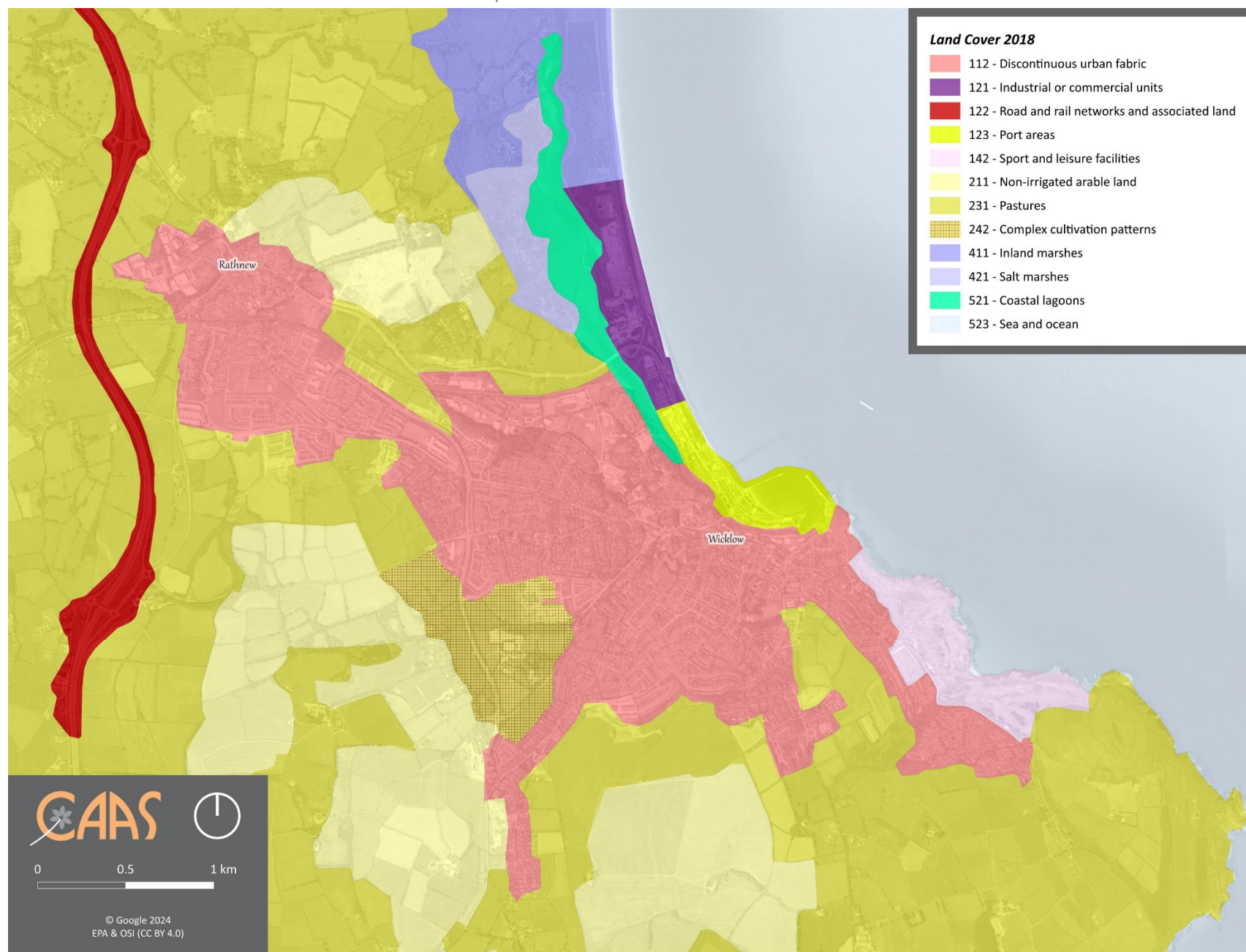


Figure 4.5 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018

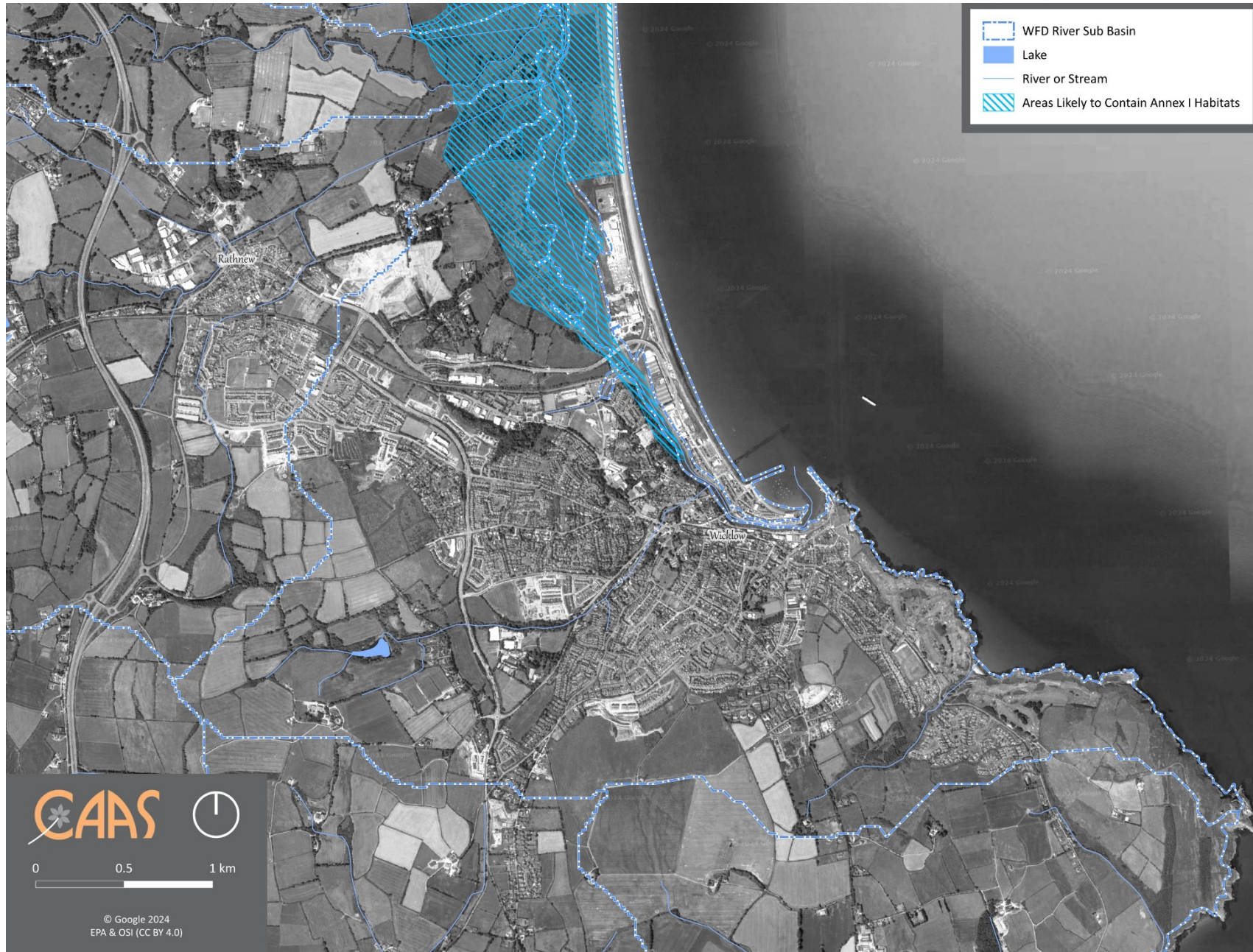


Figure 4.6 Areas likely to contain Annex I Habitats

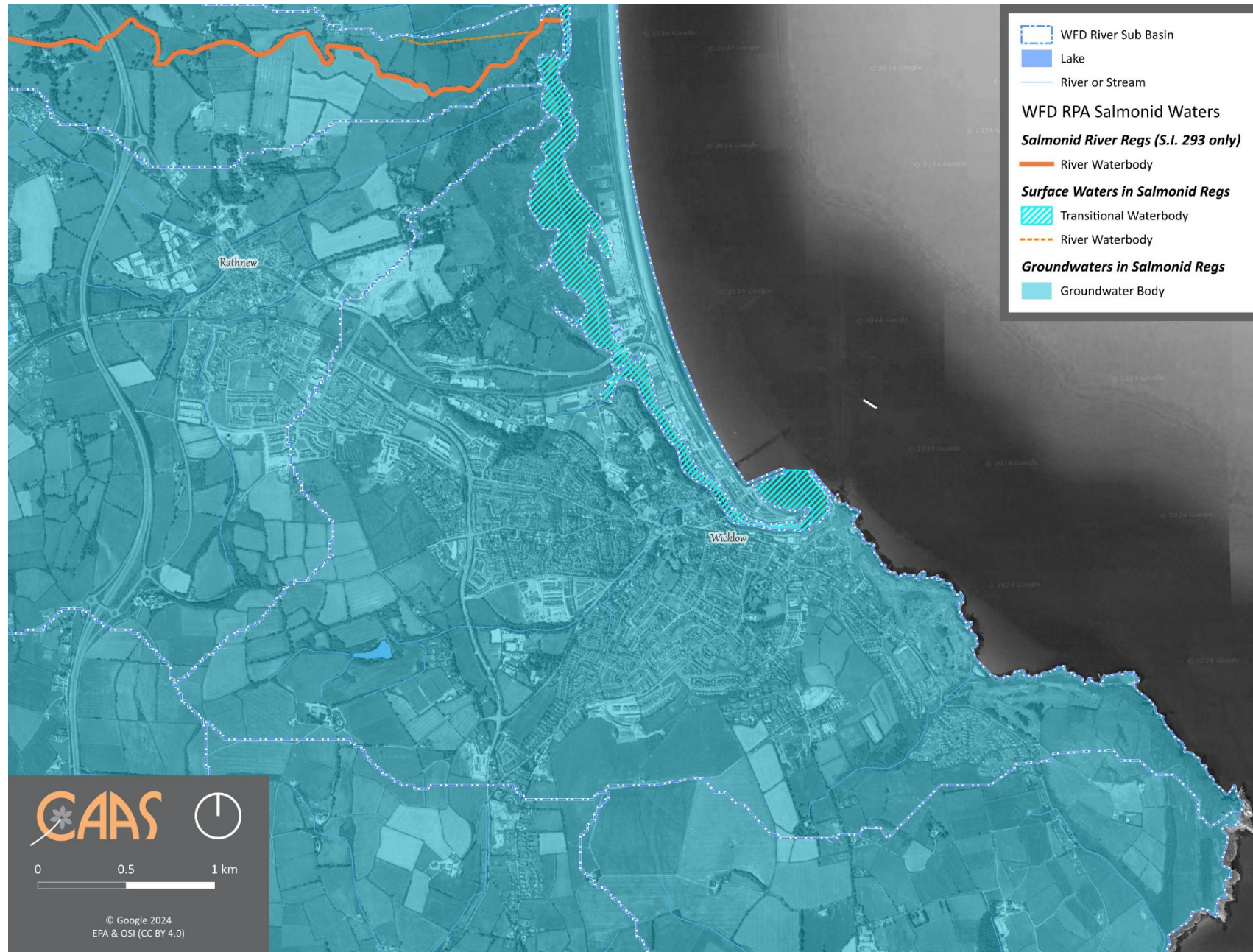


Figure 4.7 WFD RPA Salmonid Waters

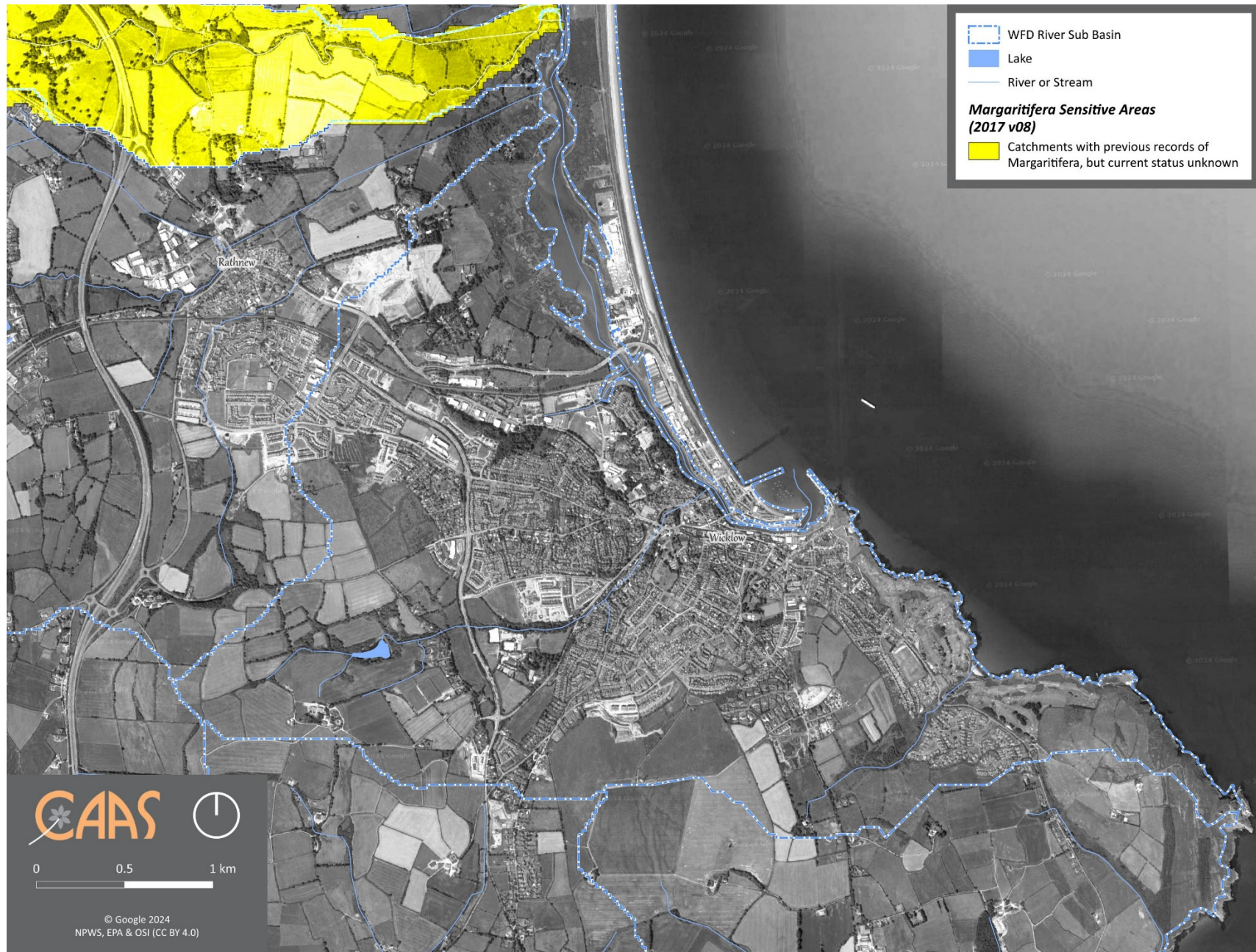


Figure 4.8 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas

4.7 Population and Human Health

4.7.1 Population

The results of Census 2022 within the CSO boundary of Wicklow Town-Rathnew recorded a population of 16,500 persons.

The Core Strategy in Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) provides for a population growth in Wicklow Town-Rathnew up to 18,515 persons by 2028 and 19,400 persons by 2031.

Wicklow Town-Rathnew is a 'Core Region Key Town' as identified in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The settlement's role and function is as follows:

- The County Town;
- Home to a Healthy Community;
- A Major Employment Hub;
- Provides Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education;
- Provides Higher Order Health;
- Facilitates An Active Regional Port and Harbour;
- A Recreational and Tourism Hub;
- An Attractive Retail Town Centre;
- Provides Social and Community; Facilities; and
- A Base for Public Transport.

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

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

4.7.2 Human Health

With regard to human health, impacts relevant to the SEA are those which arise as a result of interactions with environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors e.g. interactions with human health that could occur in urban locations that experience high-

levels of traffic congestion and associated particulate matter and noise emissions to air.

Emission limits for discharges to air, soil and water are set with regards to internationally recognised exposure limit values. These are generally set to be many times the safe exposure limit - in order to provide protection. In the event that a plan or programme began to have adverse health effects on surrounding populations it is likely that it would have been identified as being in breach of such emission standards at a very early stage - and long before the manifestation of any adverse health effects in the population.

These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

4.7.3 Soil

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species.

As is the case with other historically developed areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at local sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of the high standards of today's environmental protection legislation.

4.7.4 Existing Problems

The number of homes within the Plan area with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country²⁸.

Parts of the Plan area are vulnerable to adverse effects from changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events and associated flooding from surface water. Flooding in certain circumstances could pose a risk to human health. There is historic and

²⁸ The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

predictive evidence of flooding within the Plan area (see subsection 4.9.8).

Also refer to the other sections of this report referred to above with respect interactions with other environmental components.

4.8 Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is an extremely complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including: food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. Such functions of soil are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic as well as environmental importance. Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. However, the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils, and ensure that they are used sustainably. It sets a vision and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050, with concrete actions by 2030. In 2023, the EU proposed a new Soil Monitoring Law to protect and restore soils and ensure that they are used sustainably.

4.8.1 Soil Types

Main soil types²⁹ (Figure 4.9) surrounding the built-up areas³⁰ of Wicklow Town-Rathnew are: brown earths (well-drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility);

²⁹ All soil types belong to a Sub-Group and so in turn to one of the 11 soil Great Groups. Great Groups and Sub-Groups are a hierarchical arrangement of soils used for taxonomical classification (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/soilguide.php>).

³⁰ The built-up areas are mainly made up of urban soils. Urban soils are soils, which have been disturbed, transported or manipulated by human activity in the urban environment and are often overlain by a non-agricultural, man-made surface layer that has been produced by mixing, filling or by contamination of land surfaces in urban and suburban areas.

and alluvial soils (associated with alluvial clay, silt or sand river deposits). An area of outcropping rock is identified partially within the south-east of the Plan area at Wicklow Head.

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

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

4.8.2 County Geological Sites

Geological Survey Ireland coordinate the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, whereby an objective has been set to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. County Geological Sites (CGSs) do not receive statutory protection like Natural Heritage Areas but receive an effective protection from their inclusion in the planning system. The audit of CGSs in County Wicklow was completed in 2014, which identified 62 CGSs in County Wicklow. There is one designated County Geological Site occurring partially within the north of the Plan area, namely Wicklow-Greystones Coast CGS (Site Code: WW060), as shown on Figure 4.10.

4.8.3 Landslides

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

A number of previous landslide events have been recorded within the northern parts of the Plan area³¹. The GSI have identified³² the Plan

³¹ Wicklow Town Parish Church (c.1990); Bollarney, Train Station Wicklow Town minor event on railway line north of Inch County Wicklow (2009); Vartry River landslide, Wicklow Town, large

area as having mainly low, moderately low and moderately high levels of landslide susceptibility (mapped on Figure 4.11).

4.8.4 Potentially Contaminated Lands and Landfill Sites

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species. As is the case with other urban, semi-urban and port areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past, in the absence of environmental protection legislation.

4.8.5 Coastal Erosion

As identified in the Plan, coastal protection from erosion and flooding is becoming a prominent issue for many coastal cities and towns across Ireland. Rising sea levels and increased storm events presents a real concern for coastal towns like Wicklow Town.

County Wicklow has been divided into nine coastal 'cells'³³, according to characteristics and pressures of different areas for which different provisions have been included in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). The entire Plan area is located within Coastal Zone Management 'Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs'. The management objectives for this cell are set out in the County Development Plan. Two other of these cells [Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) and Cell 8 Wicklow Head/Kilpcoole] occur nearby.

Coastal Vulnerability Index mapping for the County is available from the GSI that identifies the relative susceptibility of the Irish coast to adverse impacts of sea-level rise. Vulnerability ranges from low (including certain stretches of the coast between Bray and Greystones and south of Wicklow Town) to moderate

(including from Greystones to Newcastle) to high (including from Newcastle to Wicklow Town).

Following a coastal protection study carried out in 2007, covering the area between Five Mile Point and Wicklow Pier, coastal erosion in this area was found to be significant. Limited intervention undertaken on foot of this study involved works to protect the existing railway bridge and the Port Access Road Bridge.

In 2013, the OPW completed the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study, which provides a strategic assessment of the extent of coastal erosion and coastal flooding along the south-east coastline of the County. The East Coast Erosion Study, commissioned by Irish Rail and completed in 2020 further recommends the use of offshore islands and beach nourishment for soft coastline and extension and enhancement of the existing coastal protection works.³⁴

The Plan includes a number of Policy Objectives relating to coastal erosion at Chapters 9 and 10.

4.8.6 Existing Problems

No existing problems in relation to soil have been identified.

landslide of the east facing valley slope, partially blocking the river (2015).

³² <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geohazards/projects/Pages/Landslide-Susceptibility-Mapping.aspx>

³³ These cells are: Cell 1 Bray Town; Cell 2 Bray Head; Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown); Cell 4 Greystones Town; Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin); Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough); Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs; Cell 8 Wicklow Head/Kilcoole; and Cell 9 Brittas Bay.

³⁴ Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

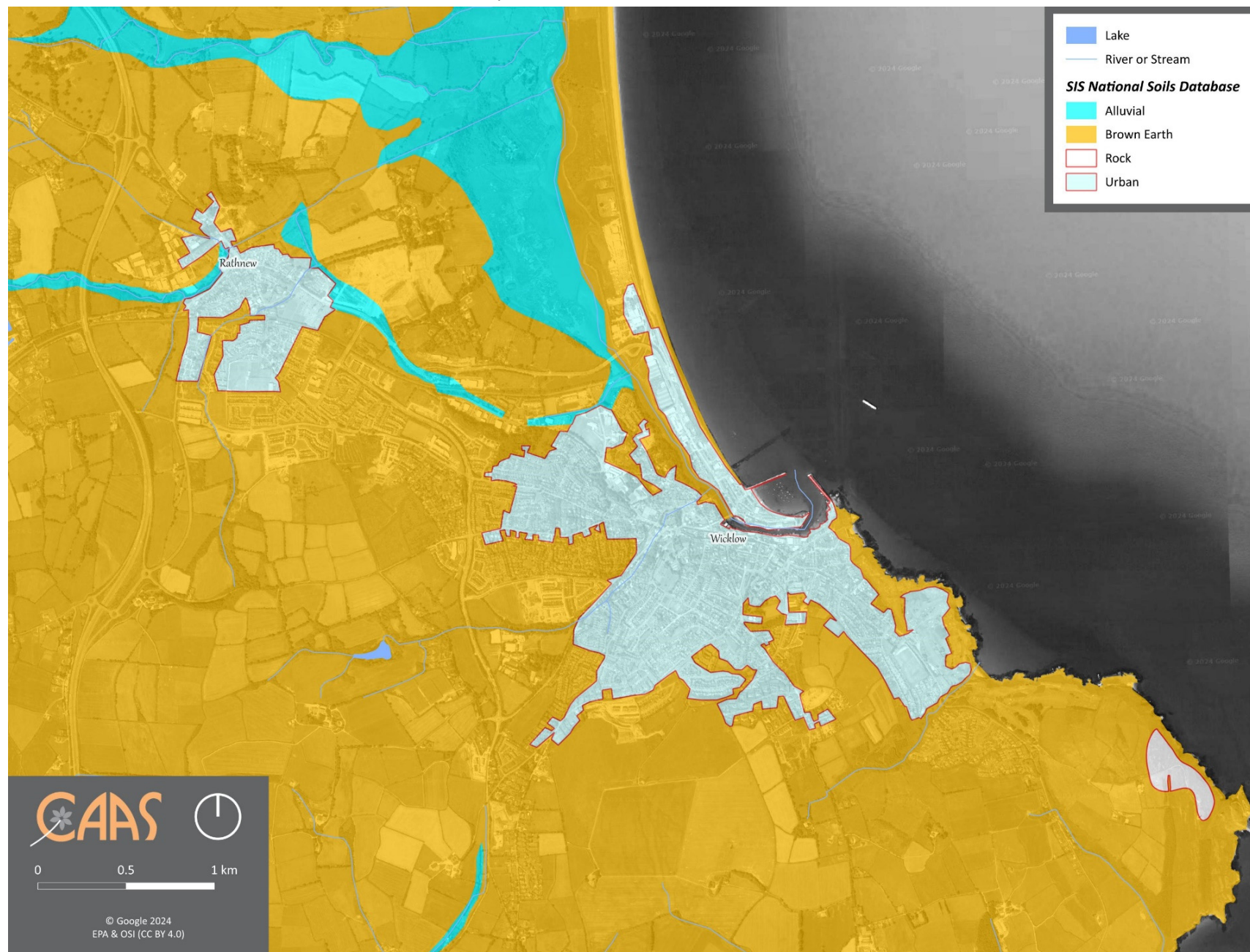


Figure 4.9 Soil Types



Figure 4.10 County Geological Sites

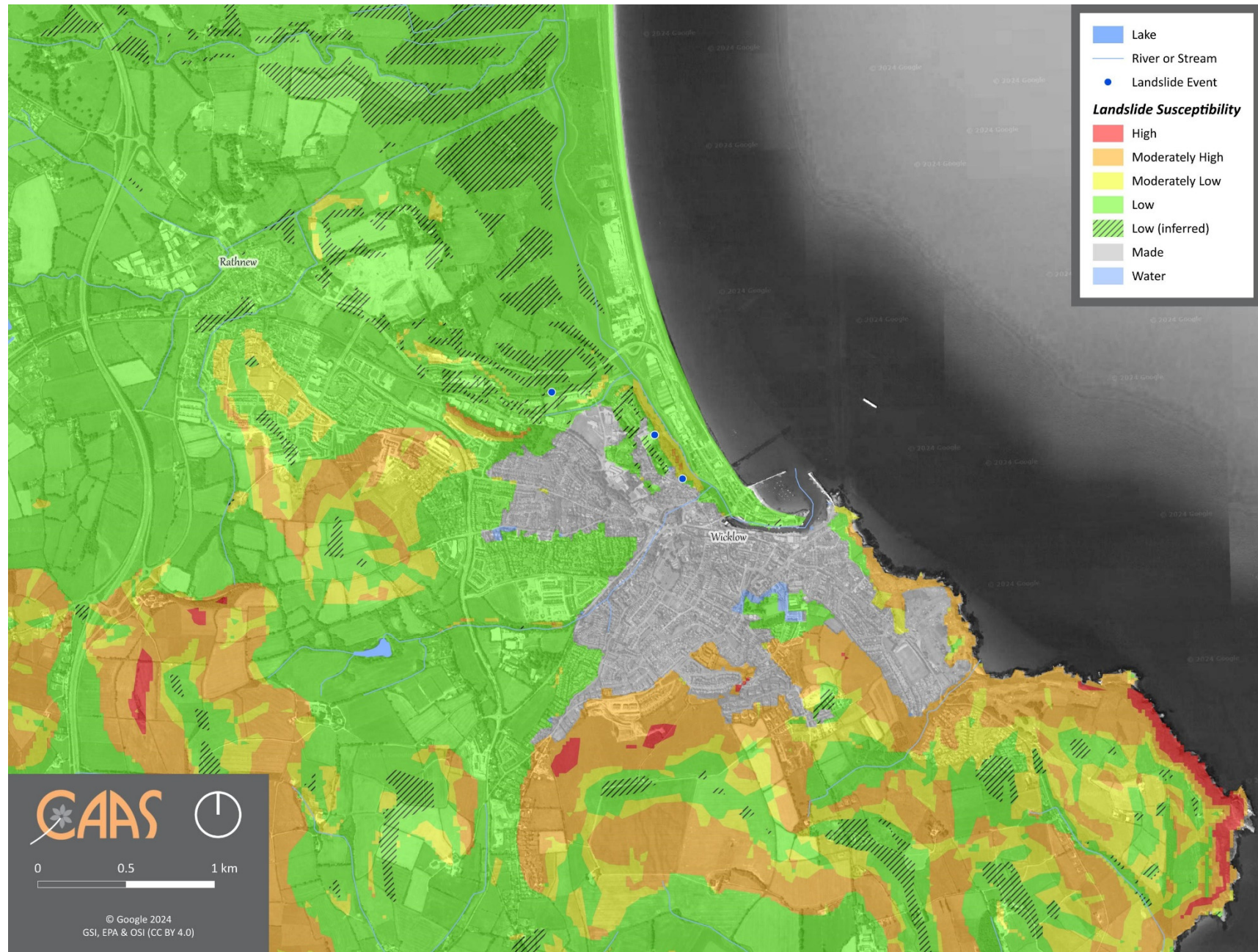


Figure 4.11 Landslides – Previous Events and Susceptibility

4.9 Water

4.9.1 The Water Framework Directive

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

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

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

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

4.9.2 Zone of Influence

The Zone of Influence of the Plan beyond the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area with respect to impacts upon waters can be estimated to be all groundwater and surface water bodies that are downstream of catchments which drain the Plan area.

4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

A catchment is an area of land contributing to a waterbody, with all the water ultimately running off to a single outlet. The WFD requires water quality management to be based on natural river catchments i.e. by reference to the natural, environmental unit rather than by reference to administrative or legal boundaries, which often fragment river catchments.

Surface water at and around the Plan area is channelled by rivers, streams and their tributaries. The Plan area is traversed by the Vartry River and the Rathnew, Burkeen, Dunbur and Marlton Streams and associated tributaries, flowing from west to east towards the Irish Sea.

The Murrough wetlands are centred around Broad Lough, immediately north of Wicklow town. This coastal wetland complex stretches for 15 km from Ballygannon to north of Wicklow Town, and in parts, extends inland for up to 1 km. Broad Lough is a large estuarine lake that is cut off from the Irish Sea by a long, thin shingle ridge, which carries the mainline Dublin-Wexford railway. Various rivers and streams flow into Broad Lough to the north of Wicklow Town, including the Vartry River and the Rathnew Stream.

4.9.4 Surface Water Status

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

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

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more Priority Action Substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at

European level. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

The current WFD (2016-2021) status³⁵ of the rivers and streams draining the Plan area is:

- *moderate* (identified by the EPA as 'Vartry_040');
- *good* (identified by the EPA as Rathnew Stream_010, Wicklow_010, Inchanappa_010, Three Mile Water_010, and Kilpoole Lower_010); and
- *high* (identified by the EPA as Three Mile Water_020).

The status of the transitional water body (2016-2021) of Broad Lough within the Plan area is identified as *moderate*.

The status of coastal water bodies (2016-2021) within and adjacent to the Plan area is identified as being *high* (identified by the EPA as Southwestern Irish Sea – Killiney Bay).

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, some of these water bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

Figure 4.12 illustrates the WFD surface water status within and surrounding the Plan area.

The transitional water body of Broad Lough is currently identified in the combined 2016-2021 data as being at risk of not meeting the WFD's objectives due to damage caused by significant pressures related to³⁶:

- **Agricultural pressures**, which may include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters; and
- **Urban run-off pressures**, which can include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.

4.9.5 Groundwater Status

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

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

The WFD status (2016-2021) of all groundwater underlying the Plan area (mapped on Figure 4.12) is currently identified as being of *good* status, meeting the objectives of the WFD.

4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The GSI rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution.

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The aquifers underlying most of the Plan area (mapped on Figure 4.13) are classified mainly as being of "high" and "moderate" and "low" vulnerability, while an "extreme" and "extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)" vulnerability are identified in some parts within and adjacent to the Plan area.

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.14. Aquifers in the vicinity of the Plan area are classified as being 'Locally Important Aquifer – Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones' and 'Poor Aquifer – Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones'.

³⁵ As per EPA's WFD Status 2016-2021 classification (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>).

³⁶ <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>

4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

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

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and, Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Also refer to Section 4.6.5.

The groundwater underlying the Plan and surrounding areas are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278/2007) and are identified on the RPAs for Groundwater for Drinking Water, as mapped on Figure 4.15.

4.9.8 Flooding

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) document accompanies this SEA Environmental Report and the Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014.

Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and related provisions have been integrated into the LAP. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Plan has been informed by the SFRA process and associated delineation of flood risk zones.

Historical flooding is documented by the Office of Public Works. Recurring flood events are identified within the Plan area (see Figure 4.16). Predictive flood risk mapping is also available from the Office of Public Works and

is included in the SFRA document that accompanies the Plan.

The most significant source of flood risk within the Plan area is from fluvial (from rivers and streams) and coastal sources. There are other sources of flooding present including from pluvial (rainwater) and from surface drainage systems sources.

4.9.9 Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data, the recorded status of certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD. The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial and coastal sources at various locations across the Plan area. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

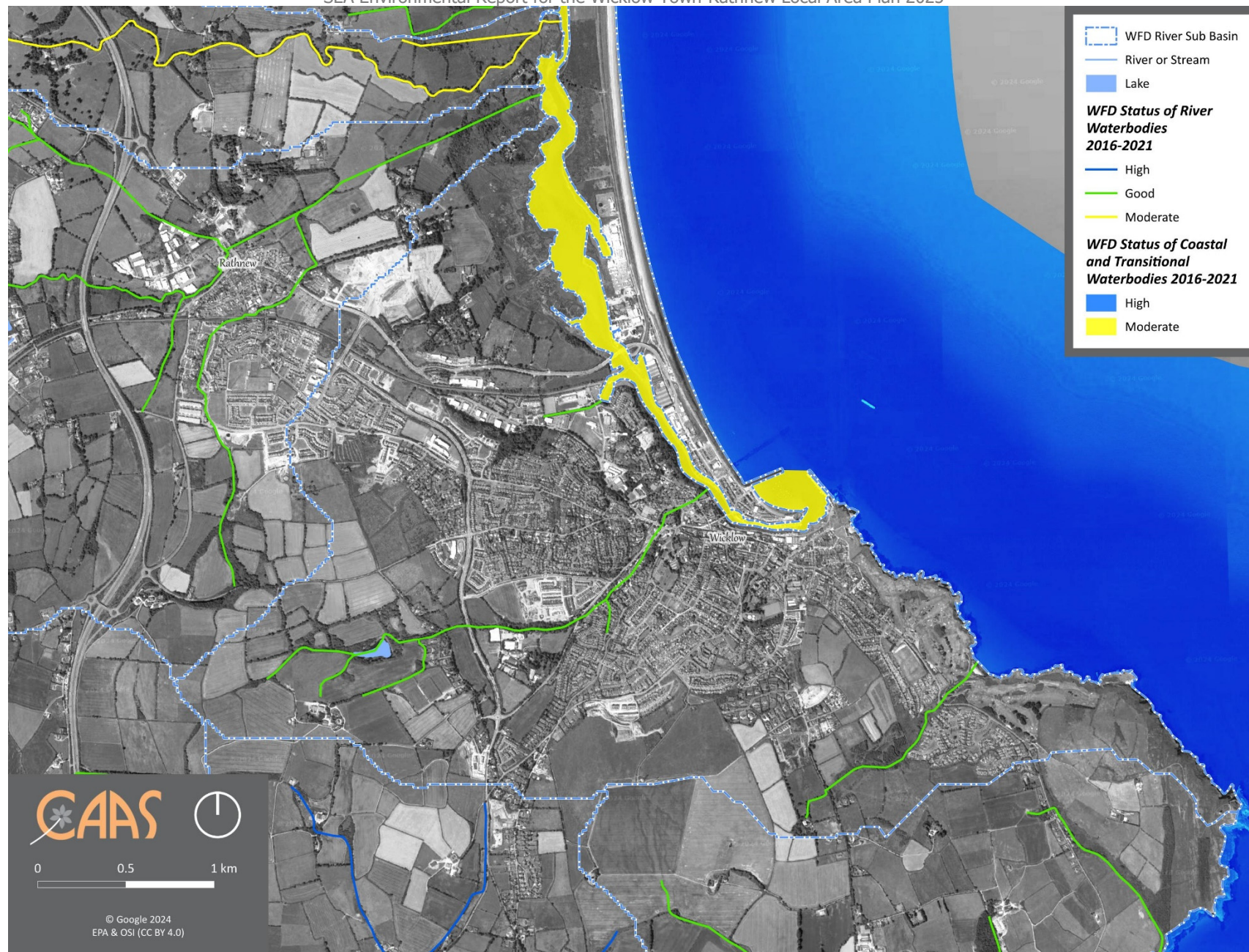


Figure 4.12 WFD Status of Surface Waterbodies and WFD Ground Waterbodies (2016-2021)

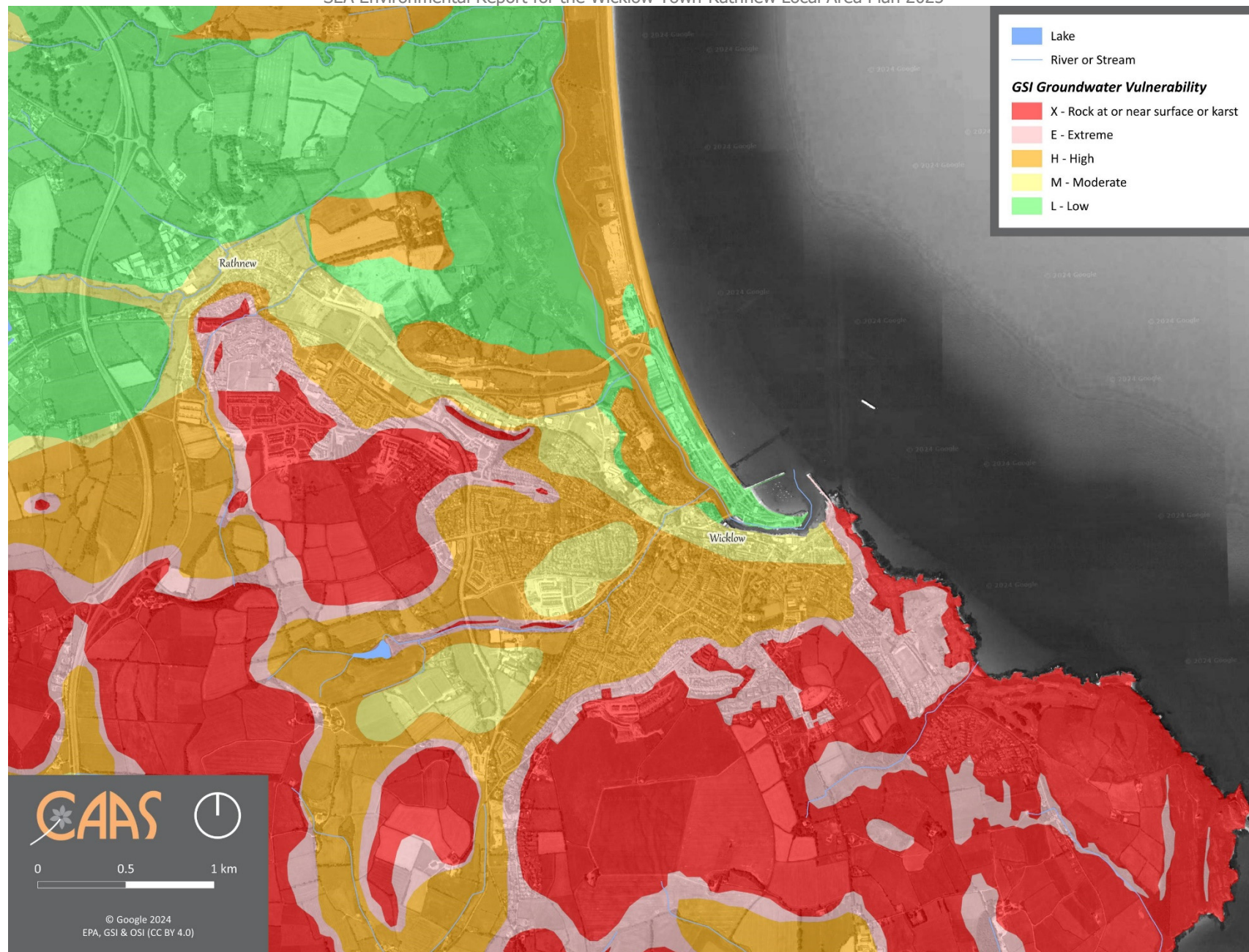


Figure 4.13 Groundwater Vulnerability

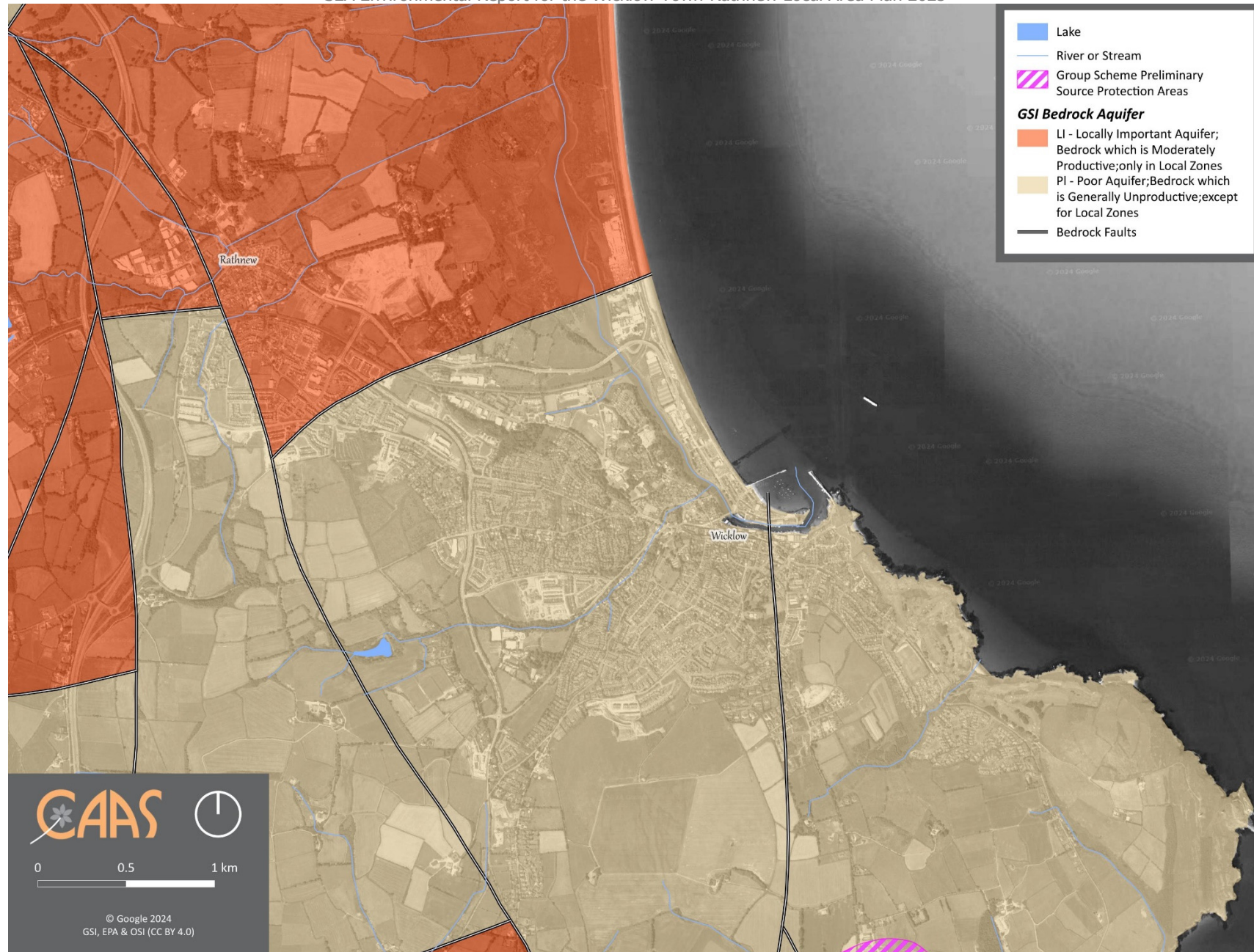


Figure 4.14 Aquifer Productivity



Figure 4.15 WFD RPA Drinking Water

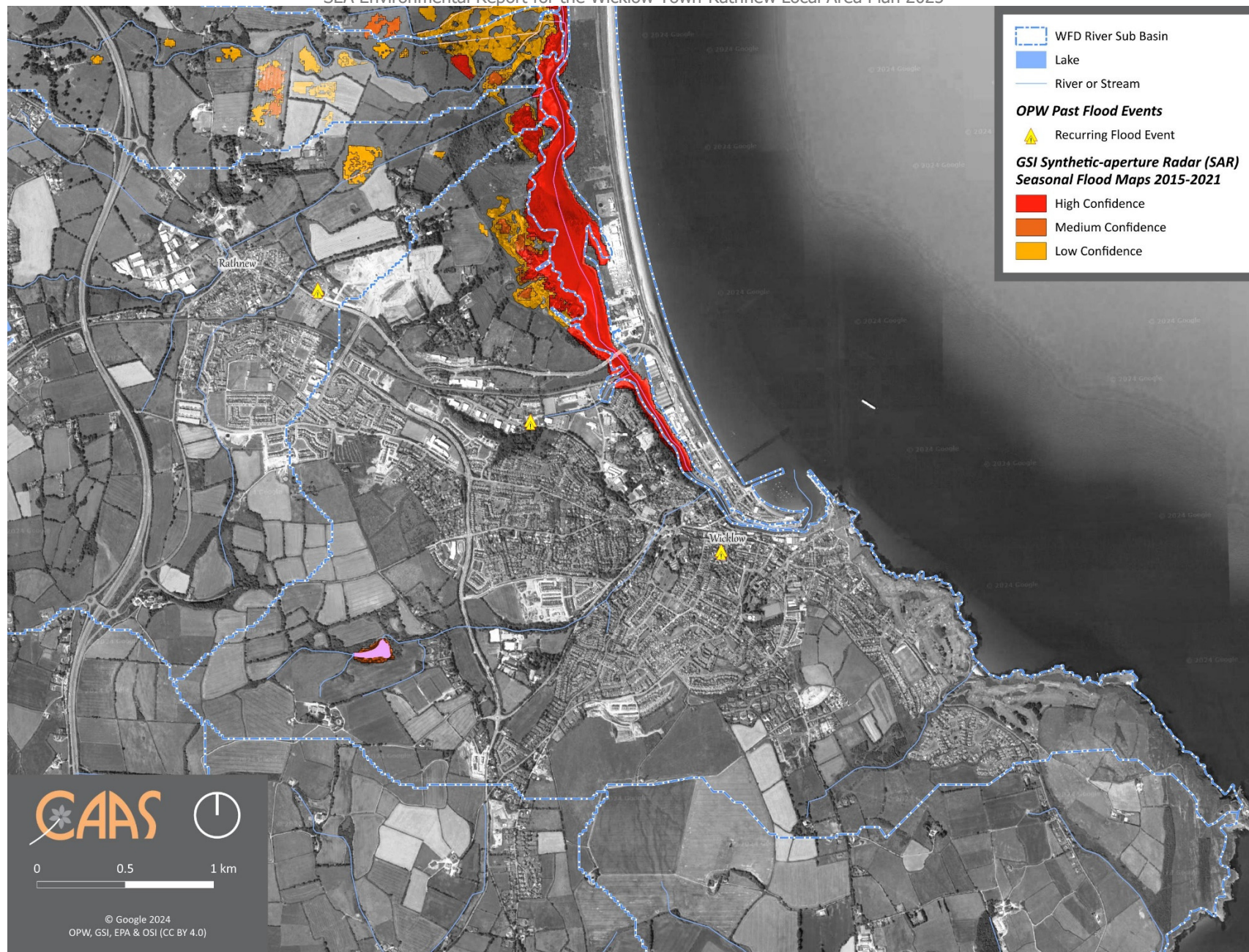


Figure 4.16 OPW Past Flood Events

4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

4.10.1 Climatic Factors³⁷

Interactions with climatic factors are also present with other environmental components including water/flooding (see Section 4.9.8).

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

In 2023, Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 55.01 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq), which is 6.8% lower (or 4.00 Mt CO₂ eq) than emissions in 2022 (59.00 Mt CO₂ eq) and follows a 2.0% decrease in emissions reported for 2022. Emissions are 1.2% below the historical 1990 baseline for the first time in 33 years.

In 2023, emissions in the stationary EU Emissions Trading System emissions (covering emissions from sectors including Agriculture, Transport, Energy, Industries, Residential, Manufacturing Combustion and Industrial Processes) decreased by 17%. When land use, land-use change and forestry is included, total national emissions decreased by 3.8%.

Emissions under the Effort Sharing Regulation (covering emissions from the electricity and heat generation, industrial manufacturing and aviation sectors) decreased by 3.4%.

Decreased emissions in 2023 compared to 2022 were observed in the largest sectors except for transport which showed an increase of 0.3%.

The Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (see also subsection 4.10.2 below) provides

information on the breakdown of emissions from County Wicklow:

- In 2018, the baseline year, Ireland's national greenhouse gas emissions were approximately 70,235 ktonnes CO₂ eq.
- Emissions within the Wicklow County Council area are estimated to have been 1,101 ktonnes CO₂ eq in 2018.
- Of total emission in County Wicklow, the agriculture sector accounted for 40%, the residential sector for 25%, the transport sector for 24%, the Commercial and Public Sector for 9%, the Municipal sector for 1% and the Waste sector for 1%.

The EPA's 2024 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2023-2040* provides an updated assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions to 2040, using the latest Inventory data for 2021 as the starting point. The report provides an assessment of Ireland's progress towards achieving its national ambitions under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and EU emission reduction targets for 2030 as set out under the Effort Sharing Regulation³⁸. Key findings identified as part of the report are that:

- Ireland is not on track to meet the 51% emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections, which include most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures.
- The first two carbon budgets (2021-2030), which aim to support the achievement of the 51% emissions reduction goal, are projected to be exceeded by a significant margin of between 17% and 27%.
- Sectoral emissions ceilings for 2025 and 2030 are projected to be exceeded in almost all cases, including agriculture, electricity, industry, and transport.
- Ireland will not meet its non-ETS³⁹ EU targets of a 42 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 under the With Additional Measures Scenario.
- Emissions in the 'Planned Additional Measures' scenario are projected to be 29% lower in 2030 (compared with 2018) whereas in the 'Implemented Existing Measures' scenario the emissions reduction is projected to be 11%.

³⁸ Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement.

³⁹ Any company or body within the EU that emits a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions is included in the Emissions Trading System, commonly known as the ETS for short. This includes large industries, electricity generators, and the aviation industry. All greenhouse gas emissions that are not from companies in the ETS are called non-ETS emissions. Non-ETS emissions include greenhouse gas emissions from homes, cars, small businesses and agriculture. These are often collectively called the non-ETS sector.

³⁷ This section uses information from the provisional 1990-2023 inventory data (updated July 2024), available at epa.ie

There has been no improvement in these figures since EPA projections published in 2023.

- Faster implementation of measures is necessary to meet both National and EU targets. The pace at which planned policies and measures are implemented needs to be accelerated.
- Total emissions from the agriculture sector are projected to decrease by between 1% and 18% over the period 2022 to 2030. Savings are projected from a variety of measures including limiting usage and switching to different fertilisers, methane reductions measures and water table management.
- Transport emissions are projected to decrease by 5% to 26% over the period 2022-2030. Measures that are projected to contribute to greater emissions reductions include 945,000 EVs by 2030, a 20 per cent biodiesel blend rate by 2030 and avoid/shift measures such as 50% increase in daily active travel journeys and a 130% increase in daily public transport journeys.
- Emissions from the Energy Industries sector are projected to decrease by between 57% to 62% over the period 2022 and 2030. Renewable energy generation at the end of the decade is projected to range from 69% to 80% of electricity generation as a result of a projected rapid expansion in wind energy and other renewables.
- Emissions from the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector have been revised significantly to reflect new science. Total emissions from the LULUCF sector are projected to increase over the period 2022 to 2030. It is unlikely with the currently planned measures that the target set under the EU LULUCF Regulation and included in the Climate Action Plan 2024 will be met.

4.10.2 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

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

The National Climate Action Plan 2024 is the second statutory update to the plan since the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law, committing Ireland to 2030 and 2050 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It builds on Climate Action Plan 2023, outlining how Ireland will accelerate the actions required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action

Plan. Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the 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 legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 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.

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

The National Adaptation Framework (2024) aims to create a unified approach involving both government and society to adapt to climate change. It outlines how various sectors and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland's vulnerability to climate change's adverse effects while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The Framework emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development, and local planning.

In 2018, four Climate Action Regional Offices were established for the purpose of coordinating climate action at regional and local levels. As specified in its Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly supports the work of the Climate Action Regional Offices.

The Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 will contribute towards addressing the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptation, and strengthening the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of local climate action. The local objectives of Wicklow County Council's

Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 are grouped under five thematic areas as follows:

Governance and Leadership

- Integrate Climate Action into all policy and programme development.
- Ensure planned development considers long term outcomes and pathways for a net zero economy by 2050
- Ensure adaption to climate is considered in decision making, policy and planning
- Build capacity of staff and elected representatives to embed climate action across all functions of the organisation.
- Demonstrate leadership on decarbonizing our buildings and operations.
- Develop partnerships to strengthen delivery of climate action

Built Environment and Transport

- Reduce carbon emissions from buildings, fleet and operations by 51%
- Implement energy efficiency measure to achieve target of 50% improvement in energy efficiency
- Measure performance on reducing carbon emissions.
- Ensure emissions from new buildings are minimized and offset by further reductions in energy use elsewhere to achieve targets.
- Retrofit our housing stock to a minimum of B2 BER and build to a minimum of A2 BER.
- Support a shift in modal transport from cars to active travel for shorter journeys
- Support the development of public transport in County Wicklow working with service provider to increase access.
- Enable the roll out of EV charging infrastructure ensuring local needs are met.
- Raise awareness on the benefits of a change in modal transport options.

Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure

- Ensure business continuity in the face of changing climate and preparedness for extreme weather events.
- Maintain roads and infrastructure in good state
- Protect communities and infrastructure from the risk of flooding
- Protect communities from the risk of coastal erosion
- Harness the capacity of nature to assist in building resilience, protecting and restoring natural systems including biodiversity, water, soils and air.
- Raise awareness on the risk from climate change
- Build collaboration with stakeholders to increase participation in measures to protect resources and communities from the impact of climate change.

Community Resilience and Transition

- Ensure that funding to communities considers climate impact and prioritises projects delivering climate action
- Support community projects through the Climate Action Fund, seeking projects that

deliver a measurable benefit which can be replicated elsewhere

- Develop awareness and active citizen participation in climate action harnessing the participation of key stakeholders
- Support youth participation in climate action
- Build capacity for collaboration on climate action
- Support sectors and communities vulnerable to the regressive effects of climate change and/or the impacts of climate policy.
- Identify and implement measures to support impacted sectors and communities
- Ensure that actions for decarbonisation, adaptation and climate resilience are designed to improve the health and wellbeing of all.
- Address fuel poverty in social housing.

Sustainable Resource Management

- Promote engagement in resource efficiency programme.
- Develop collaboration and sharing of experience, promoting economic opportunities that arise from climate action
- Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards and Local Enterprise Offices.
- Develop local strategy and raise awareness for the Circular Economy.

4.10.3 Alternative Fuels and Renewable Electricity Generation Targets

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce transport emissions. The Plan facilitates a mode shift away from the private car to public transport, walking and cycling and provisions relating to electric vehicles. This will contribute towards reductions in the consumption of non-renewable energy sources and achievement of legally binding renewable energy targets.

The first Renewable Energy Directive (RED)⁴⁰ was the most important legislation influencing the growth of renewable energy in the EU and Ireland for the decade ending in 2020. From 2021, RED was replaced by the second Renewable Energy Directive (REDII)⁴¹, which continues to promote the growth of renewable energy out to 2030. RED set out two mandatory targets for renewable energy in

⁴⁰ Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

⁴¹ Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources (recast).

Ireland to be met by 2020, while REDII sets new targets and criteria to be met by Ireland in 2030 and the interim.

The overall renewable energy share is referred to as the overall RES target. REDII introduced a binding EU-wide target for overall RES of 32% in 2030 and requires Member States to set their national contributions to the EU-wide target. As per the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030, Ireland's overall RES target is 34.1% in 2030. The sectoral targets are referred to as RES-E (electricity), RES-T (transport) and RES-H (heat). Ireland's NECP 2021-2030 set targets for RES-E of 70%, RES-H of 24% and RES-T of 14%, by 2030.⁴²

Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to contribute towards energy security.

4.10.4 Ambient Air Quality

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

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

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

The EPA's (2023) *Air Quality in Ireland 2022 Report* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues.
- Ireland met all of its EU legal requirements in 2022 but it did not meet the more stringent health-based World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines.
- Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from vehicle emissions are the main pollutants.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 1,300 premature deaths annually in Ireland due to poor air quality from PM_{2.5}.
- The choices people make in how they heat their homes and how they travel directly impact the quality of the air they breathe.
- Ireland's ambition in the Clean Air Strategy is to move towards the WHO Air Quality guidelines.

The report further identifies the critical role of local authorities in the enforcement and implementation of existing plans and investment in infrastructure to encourage cleaner and healthier air quality choices, including:

- Local authorities must provide more resources to increase air enforcement activities and implement the new solid fuel regulations.
- Investment in clean public transport infrastructure across the country must be maintained and increased.
- More safe footpaths and cycle lanes must be created to continue to increase active travel as a viable and safe alternative to car use and associated NO₂ emissions.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at monitoring stations across the country.⁴³ There is no such station within the Plan area and the closest station is in Greystones, over 15 km to the north of the Plan area.

4.10.5 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. 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 EU policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

⁴² SEAI (2022): *Energy in Ireland 2022 Report*. Available at: <https://www.seai.ie/publications/Energy-in-Ireland-2022.pdf>

⁴³ For more detail on current daily air quality data for the Plan refer to: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>.

- 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 who 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.

Under the EU Environmental Noise Directive, which was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (as amended), Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans are required to be made or revised every five years. The Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2028 has been prepared jointly by the local authorities of the Dublin Agglomeration (Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Wicklow County Council and Kildare County Council). The Plan has been informed by and is based on the Strategic Noise Maps, which were prepared for the agglomeration of Dublin in 2022 and which cover transport (road and rail) and industry related environmental noise sources. The purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to avoid, prevent and reduce, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the long-term exposure to environmental noise.

4.10.6 Existing Problems

Significant progress is being made in the reduction of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA's 2024 publication Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2023-2040 identifies that Ireland's emissions, under the Emissions in the 'Planned Additional Measures' scenario, which includes most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures, are projected to be 29% lower in 2030 (compared with 2018). However, this would not meet the 51% emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections.

In the Climate Change Advisory Council's *Annual Review 2024*, the findings of an assessment of the degree to which progress is being made solely in the implementation of adaptation policy and increasing resilience for the period April 2023 to March 2024 is

provided. The Review details that four sectors (Transport, Flood Risk Management, Built and Archaeological Heritage and Local Government) demonstrated good overall progress, six showed moderate progress (Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood, National Adaptation Framework, Communications Networks, Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure, Health and Electricity and Gas Networks) and one (Biodiversity) showed no progress and supplied insufficient evidence. This was a slight improvement compared with the results in 2023.

Air quality and noise can present challenges, especially in urban areas, as detailed under the relevant sub-sections above. With regard to air quality, air pollution from transport is dominated by NO_x emissions. Of these, NO₂ is particularly impactful from a health perspective. The Plan will help to facilitate reductions in emissions and a transition from dependence on fossil fuel combustion powered transport.

4.11 Material Assets

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

4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

4.11.2 Land

The Plan has the potential to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential

adverse environmental effects. Brownfield lands are generally located within urban/suburban areas.

4.11.3 Coastline

The County's coastline, including that which is within and adjacent to the Plan area, is amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in County Wicklow, in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries.

4.11.4 Green Infrastructure

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

4.11.5 Woodland

Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism, and also important as links in the green infrastructure network.

4.11.6 Transport

Wicklow Town-Rathnew is well served by the M11, which bypasses the area and provides transport links to Dublin, Arklow, Gorey and Wexford. The Plan area is also served by daily trains along the Dublin Connolly – Rosslare Europort line. In addition, bus services are provided by Bus Éireann and Local Link with daily services to Dublin Airport, Glendalough and Arklow. National, regional and local roads provide vital links between Wicklow Town-Rathnew and retail, service and employment centres throughout the County and to adjoining counties.

A Local Transport Assessment has been integrated into the Plan to help ensure a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport.

4.11.7 Minerals and Aggregates

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

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

4.11.8 Water Services

4.11.8.1 Wastewater

The EPA's 2023 report '*Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2022*' identified that:

- 15 large urban areas that did not meet European Union treatment standards in 2022 require improvements to comply with these standards;
- 26 towns and villages discharging raw sewage into the environment every day must be connected to wastewater treatment plants;
- 6 collecting systems (sewers) must be upgraded to address the findings of a judgement from the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- 39 priority areas require improvements to protect rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters that are adversely impacted by wastewater; and
- 12 areas need improvements in wastewater treatment to protect endangered freshwater pearl mussels.

Based on the EPA's assessment of monitoring information provided by Uisce Éireann and the enforcement activities carried out by the EPA, this report identifies urban areas with the most important environmental issues that must be addressed.

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

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the town while also protecting the environment and public health. Uisce Éireann is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of waste water where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages.

Uisce Éireann, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is making investments to undertake essential upgrade works to waste water treatment plants in towns and villages across the County. The upgrading of infrastructure will contribute towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Drinking Water Regulations and will help to protect human health and maintain the quality of surface and ground waters.

4.11.8.2 Wastewater Infrastructure

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving the Plan area is currently not listed as a priority area⁴⁴ (such areas are those where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues). As identified in the Plan, this WWTP serves the majority of the Plan area and the settlement of Ashford, operating with no capacity issues.⁴⁵

The Wicklow WWTP has a design capacity of 34,000 Population Equivalent (PE)⁴⁶, with current load of 19,617 PE.⁴⁷ As indicated by Uisce Éireann, there is spare capacity available.⁴⁸

The Wicklow WWTP (Registration No. D0012-01) is currently fully compliant with the

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence in the most recent available Annual Environmental Report 2023 (published in April 2024).⁴⁹

4.11.8.3 Water Supply

Uisce Éireann is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout County Wicklow.

Wicklow is located within the Greater Dublin Area Water Resource Zone⁵⁰ and as identified by Uisce Éireann, there is capacity available to meet targeted population growth by 2032, although an improvement in level of service is required.⁵¹

The Water Supply Schemes for the Plan area include the Wicklow Regional Water Supply Scheme (WSS). The Wicklow Regional WSS is serviced by Vartry Water Treatment Plant, which produces approximately 4,495 m³/day of water, serving a population of 15,598⁵². As identified in the Plan, it supplies water to the Cronroe Reservoir, which currently serves the majority of the Plan area by gravity, including supplying the Broomhall Reservoir and its supply area. In the southern area of the town water is pumped to a number of storage tanks that service a limited amount of lands. As capacity is constrained in these smaller reservoirs, further development is not appropriate for these areas.⁵³

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned

⁴⁴ <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/Priority-areas-for-website-April-2024.pdf>

⁴⁵ Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP 2025

⁴⁶ Population Equivalent (PE) is a measurement of the organic biodegradable load. A population equivalent of 1 (1 PE) means the organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) of 60 g of oxygen per day; the load is calculated on the basis of the maximum average weekly load entering the treatment plant during the year, excluding unusual situations such as those due to heavy rain.

⁴⁷ https://www.water.ie/docs/aers/2023/D0012-01_2023_AER.pdf

⁴⁸ Uisce Éireann: Settlements with Waste Water Discharge Authorisations - *Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register*. The register provides an indication of available wastewater treatment capacity based on loads received in 2021 and available treatment plan capacity now or by completion of a project by 2024 (where relevant). Available at: <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/wicklow/> (Published in June 2023).

⁴⁹ https://www.water.ie/sites/default/files/docs/aers/2023/D0012-01_2023_AER.pdf

⁵⁰ A Water Resource Zone (WRZ) is an independent water supply system serving a region, city, town or village and is governed by topography or the extent of the water distribution network in an area. A WRZ may include multiple Water Treatment Plants and/or sources.

⁵¹ This may take the form of leakage reduction and/or capital investment to maintain/improve levels of service as the demand increases. Proposed solutions will be developed and prioritised through the National Water Resources Plan and investment planning process. <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/water-supply-capacity-register/wicklow/> (Published in June 2023).

⁵² Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

⁵³ Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP 2025

above. The most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q2 of 2024, published in February 2024)⁵⁴ does not include any water scheme that supplies the Plan area.

4.11.8.4 Surface Water Drainage

Wicklow County Council is responsible for surface water drainage in the Plan area. Sustainable urban Drainage systems (SuDS) is a method to minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff and to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change. SuDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. The Council seeks to ensure the sustainable management of surface water discharges in urban areas through the use of SuDS.

4.11.9 Waste Management

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024) sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030. The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.

4.11.10 Existing Problems

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

The provision of infrastructure and supporting services for development, particularly water and wastewater services, is critical.

4.12 Cultural Heritage

4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types

and periods, (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

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

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

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State', but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004). A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Notification within which requirements for notifications of proposed works apply.

⁵⁴ Available at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/annual-drinking-water-reports/Q2-2024-RAL-for-public-drinking-water-supplies-FINAL.pdf>

There are various entries to RMP within the Plan area. These Recorded Monuments are identified within Wicklow Town (including along the Varty River and at Wicklow Harbour), along the coast and in the centre of Rathnew village. Parts of the centre of Wicklow Town are identified as an Area of Archaeological Significance or Potential. Figure 4.17 shows the spatial distribution of Recorded Monuments within and beyond the Plan area, their associated zones of notification and the Wicklow Town Centre Area of Archaeological Significance or Potential.

The Underwater Archaeology Unit was established within the National Monuments Service to manage and protect Ireland's underwater cultural heritage, including the quantification of the underwater resource and assessing development impacts in order to manage and protect this aspect of Ireland's heritage. The Shipwreck Inventory is principally a desktop survey with information gathered from a broad range of cartographic, archaeological and historical sources, both documentary and pictorial. Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such Orders can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements.

Waterbodies within and surrounding the Plan area may contain many features and finds associated with riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features.

4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

The term architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act 1999 as meaning all: structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings; groups of structures and buildings;

and, sites which are of technical, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

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

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

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage⁵⁵ of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

There are a total of 41 entries in the RPS within the Plan area, as set out in Appendix 4 of Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). Clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within Wicklow town centre, as shown on Figure 4.18. Notable Protected Structures include: Clermont House, Rathnew Village; Dominican Convent; Black Castle; the Courthouse; Wicklow Gaol; and ecclesiastical buildings such as the Church of Ireland (Wicklow Parish Church at Church Hill) and the Catholic Church (St. Patrick's Catholic Church). Many of these Protected Structures are located within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to

⁵⁵ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

the appreciation of a Protected Structure. An ACA may or may not include Protected Structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. There are currently five ACAs designated within the Plan area, all within Wicklow Town: Town Centre ACA; Leirim Place ACA; Bachelors Walk and Church Street ACA; Bay View Road ACA; and Brickfield Lane ACA (shown on Figure 4.18).

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. Figure 4.18 shows entries to NIAH in the Plan area.

4.12.3 Existing Problems

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



Figure 4.17 Archaeological Heritage



Figure 4.18 Architectural Heritage

4.13 Landscape

4.13.1 Introduction

Article 1 (a) of the European Landscape Convention provides a definition of landscape as follows; "Landscape means an area, as perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural/or human factors". The Convention was ratified in Ireland in 2002, requiring the adoption of national measures to promote landscape, planning, protection and management. The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

Wicklow is a coastal harbour town with neighbouring village of Rathnew situated c. 3 km to the east of the town. The surrounding area is predominantly agricultural land with an area of marshes (the Murrough) to the north of the Plan area. The River Vartry is the main river flowing through Wicklow Town. The eastern coastal strip includes Wicklow Bay and a stone beach. The harbour and the coast provide important recreational and commercial amenities in the Plan area.

4.13.2 Landscape Character Assessment

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

There are a range of different landscapes found in the Plan area, each with varying visual and amenity values, topography, exposure levels and each containing a variety of habitats. Each landscape type has varying capacity to absorb development related to its overall sensitivity.

The existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) identifies 15 Landscape Character Areas within six Landscape Categories across the Council's administrative area.

The Plan area is located within the 'Urban Areas' Landscape Category, adjacent to the 'Corridor Areas' and 'Coastal Areas of Natural Beauty' Landscape Categories. The parts of the 'Coastal Areas of Natural Beauty'/'Coastal Areas' and 'Corridor Areas'/'Eastern Corridor' Landscape Categories adjacent to the Plan area are shown on Figure 4.19.

The Plan area is located within the 'Urban Areas' Landscape Character Area, adjacent to the 'Coastal Areas Northern and Southern' and 'N11 Corridor Area' Landscape Character Areas.

Other landscape designations within the Plan area are (shown on Figure 4.19):

- Prospects/Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest - the views and prospects within the Plan area are mainly views and prospects associated with the coastline; and
- Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders - there are four trees/group of trees within the Plan area protected under the Order.

4.13.3 Existing Environmental Problems

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

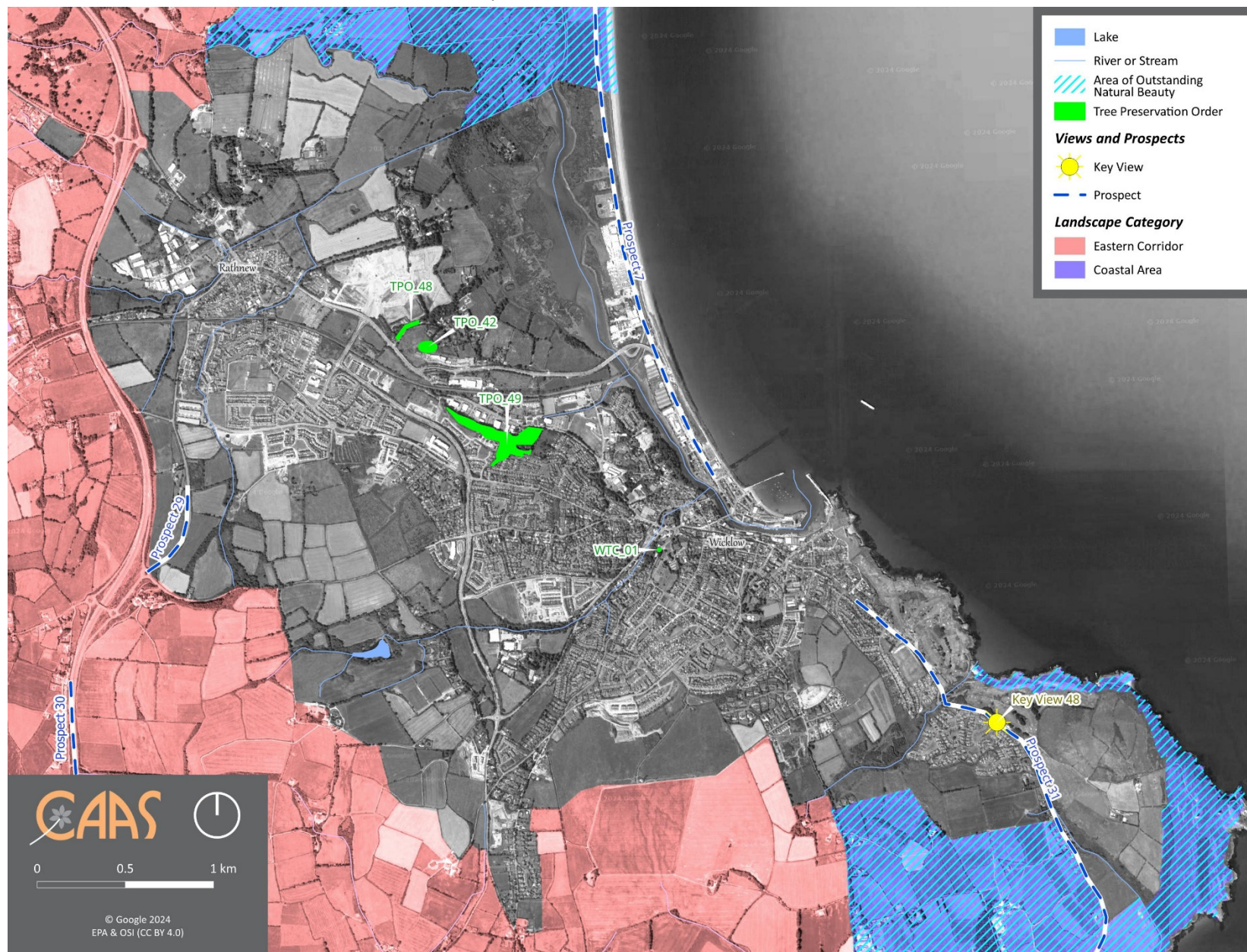


Figure 4.19 Landscape designations

4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

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

Figure 4.20 provides an Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in the Plan area. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity. The map was prepared using Geographical Information System software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

- European Sites – SACs and SPAs (10 points);
- Other Ecological designations – pNHAs (5 points);
- Sensitive Landcover Categories (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface Water: moderate ecological status (5 points);
- Groundwater vulnerability (aquifers which are extremely vulnerable, 10 points; and highly vulnerable, 5 points);
- Source Protection Areas (Inner Protection Area and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Area, 10 points);
- Salmonid River identified under the Salmonid Regulations (S.I. 293 of 1988 only) (10 points) and Surface Waters in Salmonid Regs (5 points);
- County Geological Sites (10 points);
- GSI Landslide Susceptibility (High or High Inferred, 10 points; Moderately High or Moderately High Inferred, 5 points);
- Indicators of Elevated Flood Risk (10 points);
- Architectural Conservation Areas, entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Zones of Notification, entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and Area of Archaeological Significance or Potential (10 points); and
- Scenic Routes and Visually Vulnerable Views (10 points) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (15 points).

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration. However, the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have been integrated into the Plan - will

need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the Plan area.

Most of the Plan area is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the Plan area include:

- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village, mainly on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Coastal areas and estuarine areas, including the Murrough and Wicklow Head, and areas adjacent to rivers and streams – mainly on account of ecological and visual sensitivities and elevated levels of flood risk.

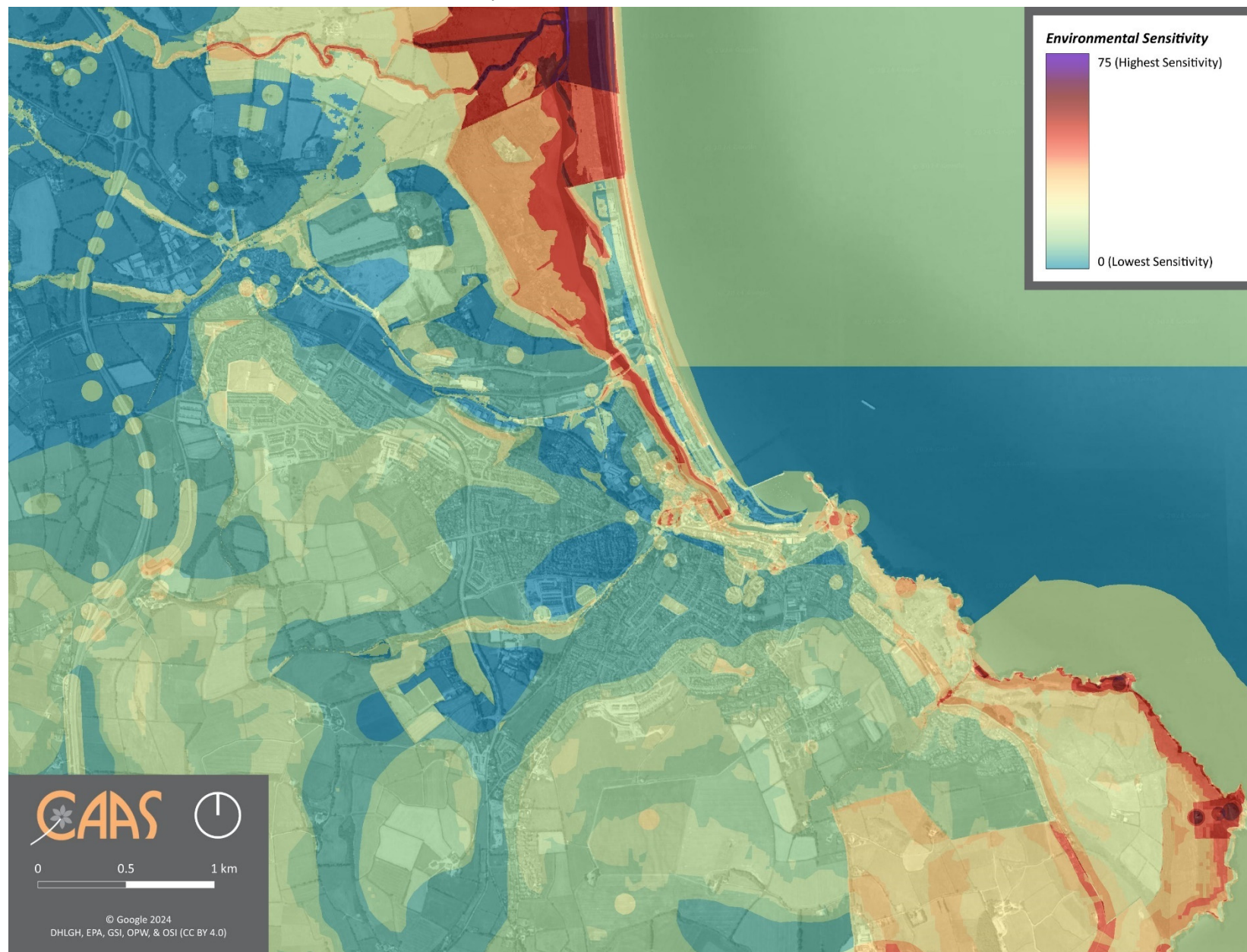


Figure 4.20 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity

Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), PM10 (particulate matter with diameter of 10 microns or less) and O₃ (Ozone) as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel
Climatic Factors⁵⁶	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy Share of renewable energy in transport Greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030) Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 51% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (helping to set Ireland

⁵⁶ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<p>on a path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the City using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment.

Five alternatives for the Local Area Plan are identified and presented here, and assessed in Section 7, under a number of different future development scenarios. The five alternatives are:

1. Maximum Environmental Protection
2. Sustainable Transportation
3. Compact Growth
4. Housing Market Driven
5. Community Driven

6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be consistent with the existing, already in force, Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are significantly limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, which are not wholly consistent with each other, including those of the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Minister Guidelines and the County Plan. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan, including on topics such as population, land use zoning and proper planning and sustainable development.

6.3 Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection

This alternative sets out a development strategy that aims to achieve the maximum level of protection to the environment. This alternative is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is consistent with the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below:

- Maximise the protection to European Sites (SAC and SPA) and NHAs. Include a significant conservation buffer surrounding all sites to enhance the protection of SAC, SPA and NHA sites.
- Maximise protection of the trees on the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) list and protect all other mature trees and hedgerows where they are not on the TPO list.
- Maximise protection of watercourses in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' 2020 and in particular zone all lands within 50m of watercourses for Natural Areas (OS2) only.
- Protection of landscape - all lands above the 80m contour are designated as Greenbelt to protect land at high gradients that is highly visible.
- Zone lands at Brideshead as Natural Areas (OS2) (Zoned Active Open Space in the 2013 plan).
- Enhance the protection of views and prospects with restricted development within the view/prospect.
- Restrict additional development to Protected Structures, with maintenance proposals considered.
- Restrict development at all designated archaeological sites.
- De-zone all lands on the Murrough that is north of Port Access Road bridge.

6.4 Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation

This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport. This alternative is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is consistent with the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below:

- Include high-density mixed-use zones within 15-minute walking distance of the Train Station.
- High density residential zones within 15-minute walking distance of all bus stop areas.
- Downzone all undeveloped greenfield land, including the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) that is not within 15-minute walking distance of public transport.
- Pedestrianisation in town and village centres
- Include enhanced pedestrian connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the Leitrim River from the north to the south quay.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the railway line at the train station connecting the lands to the north to Station Road/ Train Station.
- Enhanced cycle routes and connections throughout the settlement.
- Include 'Park and Ride' sites at Junction 16 and 17 to serve public transport on the M11.
- Include car parks on the edge of town centres to facilitate walking and cycling in the town / village centres.

6.5 Alternative 3: Compact Growth

This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on compact growth focusing on the existing settlement centres of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village. This alternative is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is consistent with the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below:

- Downzone all undeveloped greenfield land (the lands revert to open countryside), downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) (the lands revert to open countryside) beyond the established current built up area boundary.
- All Town Centre/ Village Centre Sites are zoned for high density mixed use.
- The Murrough area is zoned for mixed use, high density residential.

6.6 Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven

This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on residential development focusing on phased development of residential zoned land. This alternative has regard to the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and has regard to the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below:

- The life of this plan is in effect for 10 years as opposed to 6 years.
- Provide enough zoned land to meet the housing needs for 10 years in line with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan as priority 1 lands.
 - Provide for 10% extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2, on the next best lands.
 - Provide for an additional 10% extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2 and priority 3 lands.
- Densities of New Residential lands will be set at 20 units to the hectare, generally providing standard 3 and 4 bed family homes, detached and semi- detached, with generous private garden plots.
- Each housing development will have a minimum of 20% of the site dedicated to landscaped public open space areas.

- New access and distribution roads, throughout the settlement, will be included to serve the car-based occupants of the residential developments.
- All serviced land is zoned for residential development.
- Community & Education zones, Employment zones, Active Open Space Zones are on the periphery of the residential zoned lands.

6.7 Alternative 5: Community Driven

This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on healthy communities, where residents have all necessary facilities and services within short walking/cycling distance of their homes. This alternative is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is consistent with the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below:

- Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for new schools are zoned close to residential areas.
- Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for recreational/ sports / community facilities are zoned for Tourism / Recreation (TR), Community Education (CE) and Active Open Space (AOS) (e.g. for playing pitches, community halls, theatres, cultural facilities, running tracks, landscaped parks, dog parks, all other recreation/ sports. etc).
- New walking routes / cycling routes are designated throughout the settlement, along with routes around the Murrough and Brideshead, routes to the coast and to the hills surrounding the settlement.
- Extra lands are zoned for employment to facilitate people working locally. These will include the development of co working hubs.
- There will be additional lands zoned for childcare facilities (Crèches, Montessori, playgrounds, etc) throughout the settlement.
- There will be additional lands zoned for healthcare facilities (extra GP's, health centres, dentists, holistic centres, etc) throughout the settlement.
- The town centre will be strengthened with a larger Town Centre zoning with more opportunity sites for redevelopment of brownfield sites. This will help to improve the retail offer in the area, facilitate outdoor dining, etc..

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

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

7.2 Methodology

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

The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 7.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

- Interactions that would be *likely to improve the status* of a particular SEO would be likely to contribute towards a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates, including in-combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Interactions that would *potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects; however, these effects could be mitigated by integrating measures into the Plan.
- Interactions that would probably *conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in a significant residual negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.

Effects considered include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

The degree of significance of effects occurring cannot be fully determined at this level of decision making due to the lack of exact detail available with regard to the type or scale of development that will be permitted under the Plan. However, a strategic assessment can be undertaken.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁵⁷

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species • Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function • Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species • Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets • To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital

⁵⁷ See also Section 5.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management • Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services • Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource • Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield • Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals - this includes transport infrastructure • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency • Promote continuing improvement in air quality • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Climatic Factors ⁵⁸	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 7.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of the Alternatives on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -
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7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

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

⁵⁸ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

Table 7.3 Effects common to Plans adopting each of the different alternatives

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

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation and reduction of overall emissions to air by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

7.3.2 Overall Comparative Assessment of Alternatives

An overall comparative assessment of the alternatives against SEOs is provided on Table 7.9. The basis of this assessment is provided under subsections 7.3.3 to 7.3.7 below. A localised assessment of the individual key components of each alternative under these subsections is also provided.

7.3.3 Assessment of Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection

Overall Assessment of Alternative 1

By limiting development within parts of the Plan area, including those that are most sensitive to development, this alternative would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development within the Plan area⁵⁹ (although this potential would remain, albeit to a reduced degree) and benefit the protection and management of following environmental components within the Plan area⁶⁰:

- Biodiversity and flora and fauna (including through application of a buffer around designated sites, the protection of all trees and mature hedgerows and zoning Bride's Head for Natural Areas)
- Population and human health (limiting development in certain locations would reduce potential for interactions with human health)
- Soil (as a result of limiting greenfield development in certain locations)
- Air (limits in increases in traffic as a result of limiting development in certain locations)
- Water (including as a result of limiting development in certain locations and zoning all lands within 50m of watercourses for Natural Areas only)
- Cultural heritage (through restricting additional development to Protected Structures and restricting development at all designated archaeological sites)
- Landscape (including as a result of designating all lands above the 80m contour as Greenbelt, protecting views and prospects with restricted development within the view/ prospect and zoning Bride's Head for Natural Areas).

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-serviced and less-well connected⁶¹. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited⁶².

By allowing for development targets to be met within the Plan area, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a moderate degree⁶³. New development would have to be accompanied by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services⁶⁴.

⁵⁹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶⁰ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶¹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶² See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶³ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶⁴ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PHH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 1

A localised assessment of key components of Alternative 1 "Maximum Environmental Protection" against SEOs is provided on Table 7.4. Once there is capacity to accommodate growth in less environmentally sensitive, well-served and well-connected areas within the Plan area, the key components of Alternative 1 would benefit both environmental protection and sustainable development (**BFF PPH S W A C CH L** interactions in the "Likely to Improve status of SEOs" column). However, by limiting new development, the key components of this alternative could limit use of infrastructure and services at a site-specific/local level, including associated interactions with population (**MA PPH** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column). Limiting development at designated cultural heritage sites could adversely affect the enhancement and long-term protection of these assets (**CH** interaction in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column).

Table 7.4 Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 1 against SEOs

Alternative 1 Key Components	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -
Maximise the protection to European Sites (SAC and SPA) and NHAs. Include a significant conservation buffer surrounding all sites to enhance the protection of SAC, SPA and NHA sites	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH
Maximise protection of the trees on the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) list and protect all other mature trees and hedgerows where they are not on the TPO list	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH
Maximise protection of watercourses in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' 2020 and in particular zone all lands within 50m of watercourses for Natural Areas (OS2) only	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH
Protection of landscape - all lands above the 80m contour are designated as Greenbelt to protect land at high gradients that is highly visible	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH
Zone lands at Brideshead as Natural Areas (OS2) (Zoned Active Open Space in the 2013 plan)	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH
Enhance the protection of views and prospects with restricted development within the view/prospect	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH
Restrict additional development to Protected Structures, with maintenance proposals considered	CH L BFF PPH S W A C	CH MA PPH
Restrict development at all designated archaeological sites	CH L BFF PPH S W A C	CH MA PPH
De-zone all lands on the Murrough that is north of Port Access Road bridge.	BFF PPH S W A C CH L	MA PPH

7.3.4 Assessment of Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation

Overall Assessment of Alternative 2

By focusing on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport, and by providing for higher densities, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services

efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a greater degree⁶⁵ and conflict with these efforts to a lesser degree⁶⁶.

Dezoning undeveloped greenfield lands, including parts of the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) that is not within 15-minute walking distance of public transport would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development at these locations⁶⁷ (although the potential would remain elsewhere, including as a result of new and enhanced transport infrastructure) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape⁶⁸.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected⁶⁹. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited⁷⁰.

Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 2

A localised assessment of key components of Alternative 2 "Sustainable Transportation" against SEOs is provided on Table 7.5. These components would generally benefit efforts to maximise both sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and the efficient use of transport infrastructure and services (including associated interactions with population) (**MA A C PPH** interactions in the "Likely to Improve status of SEOs" column). Down-zoning lands and limiting new development, would benefit the protection and management of various environmental components (**MA A C PPH BFF S W C L CH** interactions in the "Likely to Improve status of SEOs" column), while at the same time could limit use of infrastructure and services at a site-specific/local level, including associated interactions with population (**MA PPH** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column).

Potential conflicts between new development (residential, community, enterprise and employment or open space related development, for example) on zoned lands and the protection of and management of the environment would occur (**BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column). The development of new connections (cycling routes, paths and bridges) present a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas, along the coast or adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. New car parks and park and ride facilities can often take up significant space on greenfield sites and result in visual and other impacts.

⁶⁵ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶⁶ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶⁷ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶⁸ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁶⁹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷⁰ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

Table 7.5 Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 2 against SEOs

Alternative 2 Key Components	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -
Include high-density mixed-use zones within 15-minute walking distance of the Train Station	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
High density residential zones within 15-minute walking distance of all bus stop areas	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
Downzone all undeveloped greenfield land, including the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) that is not within 15-minute walking distance of public transport	MA A C PPH BFF S W C L CH	MA PPH
Pedestrianisation in town and village centres	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W CH L
Include enhanced pedestrian connections throughout the settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the Leirtrim River from the north to the south quay. - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the railway line at the train station connecting the lands to the north to Station Road/ Train Station. 	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W CH L
Enhanced cycle routes and connections throughout the settlement	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W CH L
Include 'Park and Ride' sites at Junction 16 and 17 to serve public transport on the M11	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C CH L
Include car parks on the edge of town centres to facilitate walking and cycling in the town / village centres	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C CH L

7.3.5 Assessment of Alternative 3: Compact Growth

Overall Assessment of Alternative 3

By allowing for development targets to be met within the Plan area, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a moderate degree⁷¹. New development would have to be accompanied by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services⁷².

Dezoning all undeveloped greenfield lands would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development at these locations⁷³ (although the potential would remain elsewhere, including as a result of town and village centre development and mixed use, high density

⁷¹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷² See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷³ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

residential development at the Murrough) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape⁷⁴.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected⁷⁵. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited⁷⁶.

Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 3

A localised assessment of key components of Alternative 3 "Compact Growth" against SEOs is provided on Table 7.6. These components would benefit efforts to maximise both sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and the efficient use of infrastructure and services (including associated interactions with population) (**MA A C PPH** interactions in the "Likely to Improve status of SEOs" column).

Down-zoning all undeveloped greenfield land and limiting new development, would benefit the protection and management of various environmental components (**MA A C PPH BFF S W C L CH** interactions in the "Likely to Improve status of SEOs" column), while at the same time could limit use of infrastructure and services at a site-specific/local level (including associated interactions with population) (**MA PPH** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column) while zoning these lands as open countryside would present reduced potential adverse effects from any developments occurring (**BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column).

Potential conflicts between new development (town centre, village centre, mixed use and residential, for example) on zoned lands and the protection of and management of the environment would occur (**BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column).

Table 7.6 Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 3 against SEOs

Alternative 3 Key Components	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -
Downzone all undeveloped greenfield land (the lands revert to open countryside), downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) (the lands revert to open countryside) beyond the established current built up area boundary.	MA A C PPH BFF S W C L CH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
All Town Centre/ Village Centre Sites are zoned for high density mixed use.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
The Murrough area is zoned for mixed use, high density residential.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L

⁷⁴ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷⁵ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷⁶ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

7.3.6 Assessment of Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven

Overall Assessment of Alternative 4

As a plan developed from this alternative would be in effect for ten as opposed to six years, a fully comparative evaluation cannot be provided.

By providing for

- excesses in zoned land (above current targets) and lower densities of housing development
- facilitating increases in car dependency and
- providing for community and education, employment and active open space uses on the periphery of the residential zoned land,

this alternative would:

- benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a lesser degree⁷⁷; and
- conflict with these efforts to a greater degree⁷⁸.

This alternative would provide zoning for ten years of housing needs, unlike the other alternatives that would make provisions over a six-year lifespan and be reviewed towards the end of this six-year period. Furthermore, demand would be met through lower densities, requiring a greater extent of lands to be zoned for development. The extent of greenfield development provided and the lack of a focus on infill/regeneration development would present a greater potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from such development within the Plan area under this alternative⁷⁹ and consequently benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape, in the Plan area to a lesser degree⁸⁰.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-serviced and less-well connected⁸¹. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited⁸².

Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 4

A localised assessment of key components of Alternative 4 "Housing Market Driven" against SEOs is provided on Table 7.7. All key components would result in potential conflicts between housing (and supporting) development and the protection of and management of the environment (**BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column).

The first key component of this alternative identified on the Table 7.7, to provide enough zoned land to meet the housing needs for 10 years in line with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan, would have the potential to benefit efforts to maximise both sustainable mobility (including

⁷⁷ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷⁸ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁷⁹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸⁰ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸¹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸² See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and the efficient use of transport infrastructure and services (including associated interactions with population) (**MA A C PPH** interactions in the “Likely to Improve status of SEOs” column). The sixth key component of this alternative, to zone all serviced land for development, would have similar interactions, although it would provide for additional headroom above that which would be provided by the first key component.

Most other components of this alternative (providing for excesses in zoned land, having regard to higher-level population targets, and lower densities of housing development, facilitating increases in car dependency and providing for community and education, employment and active open space uses in more peripheral areas) would hinder efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) (**MA A C PPH** interactions in the “Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated” column).

Table 7.7 Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 4 against SEOs

Alternative 4 Key Components	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -
Provide enough zoned land to meet the housing needs for 10 years in line with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan as priority 1 lands.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
Provide for 10% extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2, on the next best lands.		MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L
Provide for an additional 10% extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2 and priority 3 lands.		MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L
Densities of New Residential lands will be set at 20 units to the hectare, generally providing standard 3 and 4 bed family homes, detached and semi-detached, with generous private garden plots.		MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L
Each housing development will have a minimum of 20% of the site dedicated to landscaped public open space areas.		MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L
New access and distribution roads, throughout the settlement, will be included to serve the car-based occupants of the residential developments.		MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L
All serviced land is zoned for residential development.	MA A C PPH	MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L
Community & Education zones, Employment zones, Active Open Space Zones are on the periphery of the residential zoned lands.		MA A C PPH BFF S W CH L

7.3.7 Assessment of Alternative 5: Community Driven

Overall Assessment of Alternative 5

By focusing on healthy communities, where residents have all necessary facilities and services within short walking/cycling distance of their homes, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a greater degree⁸³ and conflict with these efforts to a lesser degree⁸⁴.

Providing for a strengthened town centre and more opportunity sites for the redevelopment of brownfield sites would help to reduce demand for greenfield development within the Plan area and associated potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from such development⁸⁵ (although the potential would remain) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape, especially in peripheral parts of the Plan area⁸⁶.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-serviced and less-well connected⁸⁷. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited⁸⁸.

Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 5

A localised assessment of key components of Alternative 5 "Community Driven" against SEOs is provided on Table 7.8. These components, which provide for community, retail and economic infrastructure, development and services close to existing and new communities, would benefit efforts to maximise both sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and the efficient use of infrastructure and services (including associated interactions with population) (**MA A C PPH** interactions in the "Likely to Improve status of SEOs" column).

Potential conflicts between new development on zoned lands and the protection of and management of the environment would occur (**BFF PPH S W A C MA CH L** interactions in the "Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated" column). The development of new walking routes and cycling routes present a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas, along the coast or adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams.

⁸³ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸⁴ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸⁵ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸⁶ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.











⁸⁷ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

⁸⁸ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PPH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 7.9.

Table 7.8 Localised Assessment of Key Components of Alternative 5 against SEOs


Alternative 5 Key Components	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -
Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for new schools are zoned close to residential areas.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for recreational/ sports / community facilities are zoned for Tourism / Recreation (TR), Community Education (CE) and Active Open Space (AOS) (e.g. for playing pitches, community halls, theatres, cultural facilities, running tracks, landscaped parks, dog parks, all other recreation/ sports. etc).	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
New walking routes / cycling routes are designated throughout the settlement, along with routes around the Murrough and Brideshead, routes to the coast and to the hills surrounding the settlement.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W CH L
Extra lands are zoned for employment to facilitate people working locally. These will include the development of co working hubs.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
There will be additional lands zoned for childcare facilities (Crèches, Montessori, playgrounds, etc) throughout the settlement.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
There will be additional lands zoned for healthcare facilities (extra GP's, health centres, dentists, holistic centres, etc) throughout the settlement.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L
The town centre will be strengthened with a larger Town Centre zoning with more opportunity sites for redevelopment of brownfield sites. This will help to improve the retail offer in the area, facilitate outdoor dining, etc.	MA A C PPH	BFF PHH S W A C MA CH L

Table 7.9 Overall Comparative Assessment of Alternatives against SEOs

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection	BFF PHH S W L CH - 	MA A C PPH		BFF PHH S W L CH - 	MA A C PPH	
Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation	MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -		MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -	
Alternative 3: Compact Growth	BFF PHH S W L CH 	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -		BFF PHH S W L CH 	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -	
Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven	BFF PHH S W L CH 		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -	BFF PHH S W L CH 		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -
Alternative 5: Community Driven	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -	

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area (directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to the potential for direct adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated (arising from development within the Plan area)

 = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area (as a result of providing development within the Plan area)

 = These interactions relate to adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, (arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area)

7.4 Selected Alternative for the Plan

The 'Selected Alternative' for the Plan integrates the following components from the five above evaluated alternative scenarios for the Plan:

- from "Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection"
 - The protection of European Sites (SAC and SPA) and NHAs.
 - The protection of the trees on the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) list and protect all other mature trees and hedgerows.
 - The protection of watercourses in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' 2020.
 - The protection of the landscape.
 - The zoning of lands at Brideshead as Natural Areas (OS2).
 - The enhancement of protection of views and prospects.
- from "Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation"
 - High-density mixed-use zones within 15-minute walking distance of the Train Station.
 - Downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB).
 - Include enhanced pedestrian connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the Leitrim River from the north to the south quay.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the railway line at the train station connecting the lands to the north to Station Road/ Train Station.
 - Enhanced cycle routes and connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include 'Park and Ride' sites at Junction 16.
- from "Alternative 3: Compact Growth"
 - Downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB).
 - All Town Centre/ Village Centre Sites are zoned for high density mixed use.
 - The Murrough (*south*) area is zoned for mixed use including high density residential.
- from "Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven"
 - Provide for extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2, on the next best lands (*with strict phasing criteria*).
- from "Alternative 5: Community Driven"
 - Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for new schools are zoned close to residential areas.
 - Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for recreational/ sports / community facilities are zoned for, Community Education (CE) and Active Open Space (AOS) (e.g. for playing pitches, community halls, theatres, cultural facilities, running tracks, landscaped parks, dog parks, all other recreation/ sports. etc).
 - New walking routes / cycling routes are designated throughout the settlement.
 - Extra lands are zoned for employment to facilitate people working locally.
 - There will be additional lands zoned for childcare facilities.
 - The town centre will be strengthened with a larger Town Centre zoning with more opportunity sites for redevelopment of brownfield sites.

These components emerged from the planning/SEA process having regard to both:

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

An assessment of the 'Selected Alternative' against SEOs is provided at Table 7.10. The 'Selected Alternative' will help to:

- Maximise the provision of land use zoning and the deliverance of associated travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies to a greater degree (improving SEO interactions for **MA A C PPH**), conflicting with these to a lesser degree (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **MA A C PPH**);
- Maximise positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area as a result of providing development within the Plan area (improving SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**), while helping to minimise adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**); and
- Maximise positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area as a result of directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area (improving SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**), while helping to minimise adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from development occurring within the Plan area (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**).

Table 7.10 Assessment of 'Selected Alternative' against SEOs

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Selected Alternative for the Plan	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH BFF PHH S W L CH			MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH BFF PHH S W L CH		

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area (directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to the potential for direct adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated (arising from development within the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area (as a result of providing development within the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, (arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area)

Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

8.1 Introduction

This section provides an assessment of environmental effects using the information on the current state of the environment (provided in Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 8.1) from implementation of the Plan.

The Plan provisions (and, in Section 7, the alternatives) are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 8.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the Plan provisions (and, in Section 7, the alternatives) are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

- Interactions that would be *likely to improve the status* of a particular SEO would be likely to contribute towards a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates, including in-combination with the existing statutory planning/decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Interactions that would *potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects; however, these effects will be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan, or associated County Development Plan, and residual effects would not be significant (see Table 8.3 of this report).
- Interactions that would probably *conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated* would be likely to result in a significant residual negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.

Effects considered include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

The degree of significance of effects occurring cannot be fully determined at this level of decision making due to the lack of exact detail available with regard to the type or scale of development that will be permitted under the Plan. However, a strategic assessment can be undertaken.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁸⁹

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals - this includes transport infrastructure Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids

⁸⁹ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended level
Climatic Factors⁹⁰	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 8.2 Criteria for appraising the effect of the Plan provisions on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated -	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs 0
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⁹⁰ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

8.2 Cumulative Effects⁹¹

Cumulative effects are one of the types of effects which have been considered by the assessment of the alternatives. Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

There are two types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered, namely:

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities (such as those identified under Section 4), future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.4 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.3 and Section 8.7.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.5 (and associated Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes"), Section 4 and Section 5. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjoining County Development Plans and Local Area Plans)
- Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1 and the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, Climate Action Plan 2025, the National Adaptation Framework 2024 and the Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029);
- Water services, waste management and transport infrastructure plans (e.g. Uisce Éireann's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 and the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2022-2042); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:
 - Sustainable compact growth;
 - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
 - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; and

⁹¹ The EPA's guidance note 'Good Practice Guidance note on cumulative effects assessment in SEA' has been considered in the assessment.

- Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of uses, within the Plan area and wider catchment, including housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to green infrastructure, including beyond the Plan boundary;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects are consistent with those described on Table 8.3. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

These effects would have the potential, if unmitigated, if they occurred, to result in changes in the environment within and beyond the Plan area.

A variety of the issues covered by the Plan provisions are regional and county issues which are considered: at Regional Assembly level, in the Eastern and Midland RSES and by planning authorities across the Region; and at County level, including through the Wicklow County Development Plan. The solutions to these issues are often regional solutions which are subject to their own consenting procedures. Works arising outside of the Plan area as a result of providing for new development within the Plan area, including works arising as a result of the cumulative provision of development in the wider County and region, would potentially conflict with a number of environmental components, across the wider County and region and beyond, including: ecology, soil function, the status of water bodies and the landscape. Some of these conflicts would be mitigated by measures which will be integrated into the Plan while some will be mitigated by measures arising out of separate consent procedures.

8.3 Overall Evaluation

Wicklow County Council has integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA process into the Plan (see Section 9). Table 8.3 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The Plan would contribute towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the Plan area and the wider County and the effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation integrated into both the Plan and the Wicklow County Development Plan – see Section 9.

Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors. Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO) codes are taken from Table 8.1.

Table 8.3 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.• Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.• Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.• Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).	BFF

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond • Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, such as air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under “Soil”, “Water” and “Air and Climatic Factors” below. 	PHH
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of soils and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Riverbank and coastal erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change. 	S

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	W
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	MA

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable compact growth; Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality⁹². Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors⁹³. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	AC
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	CH
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures. 	L

⁹² Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

⁹³ Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

8.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

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

The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.⁹⁴

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

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Area Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Local Area Plan.

8.5 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.

⁹⁴ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components

Component	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air and Climatic factors	Material assets
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Population and Human Health			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Soil				Yes	No	Yes
Water					No	Yes
Air and Climatic Factors						Yes
Material Assets						
Cultural Heritage						
Landscape						

8.6 Detailed Evaluation

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 81.

The following applies to each of the sub-sections 8.6.1 to 8.6.10 below:

The Plan is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the National Climate Action Plan 2025, the National Adaptation Framework 2024, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region, the Wicklow County Development Plan, the Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.5 "Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes" in this report).

These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and already provide for various measures that have been compiled into the Plan. The Plan aligns with these documents and will be incorporated into the review and preparation of these documents.

Lower tier plans and projects must be consistent and comply with the provisions of the Plan and of these other policies, plans etc. and will be subject to their own project level EIA and AA requirements as relevant. An assessment of cumulative effects is provided at Section 8.2 of this report.

8.6.1 Chapter 2: Overall Vision and Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 2 sets out the Vision for the Plan. With healthy placemaking, climate change and economic opportunity to the fore of the Plan, the vision for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan is:</p> <p>"For Wicklow Town-Rathnew to be a prosperous and growing community in the Garden County of Wicklow, offering a unique and high quality of life by providing for a sustainable and local work/life balance within a healthy environment for all who live, work and visit the settlement. To strengthen and consolidate Wicklow Town as the County Town. To protect the identity of Rathnew village. To recognise and protect, the unique character, built heritage, seaside location, maritime history and natural environment of the area."</p> <p>Chapter 2 also provides the Plan's Strategies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Development Economic Development and Employment Centres and Retail Community Development Tourism Development Infrastructure Heritage 	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				
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8.6.2 Chapter 3: Residential Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated -	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs 0
<p>Chapter 3 sets out the Plan's provisions relating to Residential Development, including those relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing new residential development into the serviced existing built envelope of the settlement; Development potential and density; Housing targets and extant planning permissions; Managing and phasing development to ensure that infrastructure is provided to match the need of new residents; and Compliance with the housing objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan. <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. 	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 				
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8.6.3 Chapter 4: Economic Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 4 sets out the Plan’s provisions relating to Economic Development, including those relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking advantage of the existing economic assets in order to stimulate employment opportunities • Promoting and facilitating healthy communities and a high quality of life • Reinforcing Wicklow Town Centre’s role with respect to retail provision and services industry • Supporting Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village Centres • Facilitating further development of Industrial / Business Parks • Supporting Wicklow County Campus with respect to its education and employment potential • Managing employment at Murrough North • Facilitating employment along the Wicklow Port Access Road and Hawkstown Road • Supporting the maritime sector and Wicklow Port • Facilitating and promoting entrepreneurial activity • Supporting home based economic activity • Supporting the growth of tourism and recreation 	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>An example of mitigation integrated into this Chapter is Employment Objective WTR14, which draws attention to the importance of having regard to the following on lands zoned for employment on the 'Murrrough North': (a) the need to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the European Sites arise from the intensification or change of use of this area for industry / employment; (b) the nature restoration goals of the Council; and (c) the available of significant areas of zoned employment land within the settlement away from the coast and other environmentally sensitive locations.</p>				
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8.6.4 Chapter 5: Key Regeneration Areas

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated -	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs 0
Chapter 5 sets out the Plan's provisions relating to Key Regeneration Areas. As identified in the Plan, Wicklow Town, Rathnew Village and the Waterfront are three areas within the settlement that have huge potential for regeneration, to further develop opportunity sites to enhance compact growth, while creating quality places and reinforcing the identity of the settlement. These three regeneration areas have the potential to be the heart of the settlement providing for healthy place-making and a mix of uses where people want to live, visit, shop and work. Enhancing the public realm, creating connectivity and linkages throughout these areas is vital to the success of their further development.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>The Wicklow Town Centre Strategy is provided under headings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the 'Public Realm' • Dereliction and Vacant Sites • Buildings, Features and Places of Heritage Value • Mix of Uses in the Core Area • Retail Role of the Core • Vehicular, Pedestrian and Cycling traffic movement • Car Parking • Enhancing access to public transport <p>The Rathnew Village Strategy is provided under headings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old Village • Wicklow County Campus to Tinakilly • North of the Glenealy Road <p>The Wicklow Town Waterfront Zone Strategy is provided under headings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow Port • Wicklow Harbour • The Murrough <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>An example of mitigation integrated into this Chapter is the Strategy for Wicklow Town Waterfront, which is to protect the natural heritage of this area ensuring that the conservation objectives of European sites are not adversely impacted upon, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively through any proposal.</p>				
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8.6.5 Chapter 6: Retail and Opportunity Sites

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 6 sets out the Plan's provisions relating to Retail and Opportunity Sites, including for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow Town; Rathnew Village; The neighbourhood centres of Wicklow Town Centre, Rathnew Village Centre and Ballynerrin (on the Marlton Link Road); and The Opportunity Sites of The Upper Mall (former Bayview Hotel site and adjoining properties), Greentree House (Fitzwilliam Square), Vacant Building and Site beside the Bridge Tavern and Site on Quarantine Hill. <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-served and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>An example of mitigation integrated into this Chapter is the following objective for the Greentree House (Fitzwilliam Square): "A development, that makes the best use of this serviced urban land will be expected and the original building facade onto Abbey Street is to be reconstructed or any alternative will have to show how the new façade conforms to the Architectural Conservation Area objectives".</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.6.6 Chapter 7: Community Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 7 sets out the Plan's provisions relating to Community Development, focusing on the provision of enhanced social infrastructure; open space and education.</p> <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

8.6.7 Chapter 8: Tourism

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 8 sets out the Plan's provisions relating to Tourism, focusing on: the appropriate management and enhancement of existing tourism and recreational assets; and support for the development of a wider range of facilities / attractions.</p> <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>An example of mitigation integrated into this Chapter is that which is part of Objective WTR73 ("...Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area").</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

8.6.8 Chapter 9: Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The purpose of Chapter 9 is to set out the specific objectives with regard to infrastructure and it should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan - the heritage strategies, objectives, schedules and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly across the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area.</p> <p>In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transportation • Water Supply & Demand • Wastewater Infrastructure • Storm and Surface Water Infrastructure • Flood Risk Management • Waste and Environmental Emissions • Energy and Information Infrastructure <p>It is not considered necessary to re-state the majority of the objectives for these areas in the Plan; however, the following priority physical infrastructure concerns in the Plan area are addressed: integration of land use and transportation; active and sustainable travel; and flooding and coastal erosion, and therefore these are addressed in this chapter.</p> <p>The provision of adequate infrastructure is critical to facilitate and sustain the growth of Wicklow Town-Rathnew over the lifetime of the plan and beyond.</p> <p>This Chapter will help to ensure that development takes place in line with the capacity of supporting infrastructure and requires the timely provision of infrastructure needed for planned sustainable development.</p> <p>Sustainable drainage, flood risk management and coastal erosion provisions, in this chapter, would contribute towards the protection and management of human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, water status and existing infrastructure and services. Flood risk management infrastructure (if required) has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas and adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams and along the coastline. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems can contribute towards the maintenance and improvement in the status of water bodies and flood risk management and positively interact with other environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <p>Objective WTR95 from this Chapter requires that "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."</p> <p>Sustainable transport and travel related provisions, including those arising from the Local Transport Assessment that accompanies the Plan, would contribute towards the planning framework for the future development of sustainable transport and movement, in combination with the implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans and programmes. Many of these provisions would primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health.</p> <p>The development of new, and enhancement of existing, walking and cycling routes has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components, including habitats, at certain locations. The development of sustainable transport and travel related infrastructure, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would,</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams and along the coast.

The facilitation of journeys by car, in particular, would give rise to emissions to air. Although interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases in traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels. As identified by Plan Objective WTR75: "The detail associated with new transport or green/blue infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and accompanying Transport Assessment, including locations and associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements." Note that a Corridor and Route Assessment is provided for by CPO 12.10 from the Wicklow County Development Plan.

The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.6.9 Chapter 10: Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The purpose of Chapter 10 is to set out the specific objectives with regard to the heritage of the settlement and it should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan - the heritage strategies, objectives, schedules and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan will apply directly across the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Plan area.</p> <p>In particular, the County Development Plan addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology & National Monuments • Architectural heritage, including the Record of Protected Structures, vernacular structures, and Architectural Conservation Areas • Historical & Cultural Heritage • Protected habitats • Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows • Water systems & wetlands • Soils & Geology • Landscape • Views & Prospects • Green Infrastructure • Recreational Use of Natural Resources • Public Rights of Way • Marine Spatial Planning • Coastal Zone Management <p>It is not considered necessary to re-state the majority of the objectives for these areas in the Plan; however, the following priority heritage concerns in the Plan area are addressed: Architectural heritage; Biodiversity and Natural Heritage, including protected sites; Maritime heritage and coast; and Green Infrastructure / Recreational Use of Natural Resources.</p> <p>These provisions generally focus on protecting the environment and facilitating sustainable development.</p> <p>The development of green infrastructure, including new or enhanced walking and cycling routes has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components, including habitats, at certain locations. The development of such infrastructure, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams and along the coast.</p> <p>The Plan notes that Irish Rail is in the early stages of the East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Project to protect the coast and Dublin/Wicklow rail line from further erosion. The Plan commits to facilitating the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.6.10 Chapter 11: Zoning and Land Use

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>Chapter 11 sets out the Plan's provisions relating to Zoning and Land Use, covering issues including Zoning Objectives, Phasing and Specific Local Objectives.</p> <p>Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.</p> <p>Zoning has been applied in a way that, in general, primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) (for exceptions to this approach please refer to Section 8.7).</p> <p>The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning contained within the Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, where feasible, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone, for example: at Bollarney North, the provision of an open space land use zoning objective will contribute towards the protection of potentially valuable areas as part of the ecological integrity of the adjoining European sites; and at Wicklow Head and environs, the provision of open space and natural areas land use zoning objectives will contribute towards maintaining the role of the area in providing ecological linkage to relevant European sites. This approach to zoning is explained in the Plan as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No lands within the actual European Site have been zoned. 2. Where there is existing developed areas, the lands have been zoned for their existing use, which will essentially allow for the continuation of the existing use and its enhancement. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning & Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment; 3. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, the lands have only be zoned for new development where it can be justified that such zoning and development arising therefrom is essential for the town to achieve its development vision and strategic objectives. In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and the Planning & Development Act, any proposed development with potential to impact upon the integrity of a European Site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment; 4. Where there is existing undeveloped lands, and the development of these lands is not essential for the achievement of the development vision and strategic objectives for the town, the land will be zoned 'OS2' – natural areas. The only developments that will be considered in such area are those which contribute to the objective of the natural areas zone (detailed in this plan) and that can be shown to not diminish the role and function of such areas, will not result in adverse impacts on the integrity of any EU protected site and will not diminish the biodiversity value of the lands or the ability of plants and animals to thrive and move through the area. <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO's BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.5 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focus on directing compact,</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live, work and visit. Compatible sustainable development in sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The provisions identified in this Chapter would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities and sustainable development of the Plan area, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating provisions for environmental protection and management into the Plan, Wicklow County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

8.7 Instances whereby environmental considerations were not fully integrated into the Plan

Against the advice of the Executive, the Members decided to adopt certain Proposed Material Amendments as part of the Plan. The Material Amendments that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Plan, together with the advice to Members provided in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display, are detailed on Table 8.5 below.

With respect to Proposed Material Amendment No. 41, it is noted that this Amendment was subject to a further modification that allowed for the integration of a local objective that was recommended by the SEA/AA processes⁹⁵ in order to contribute towards the protection of European sites.

Table 8.5 Material Amendments that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Plan and associated SEA commentary

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
20	<p>Proposed Material Alteration No. 20 includes amending c. 0.6ha of land use zoning from OS2 to RN2 at southern end of SLO (Glenealy Road).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive, this additional residential zoning proposed would conflict with the protection of the riverine environment and the protection of mature vegetation, notwithstanding the 25m set back from the river edge.</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); • Increased loadings on water bodies; • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur).

⁹⁵ This wording was integrated into the Plan as a local objective relating to the lands that were the subject of Material Amendment No. 41:

"All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:

- Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including:
 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole.
 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations.
 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species.

And

- Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted.

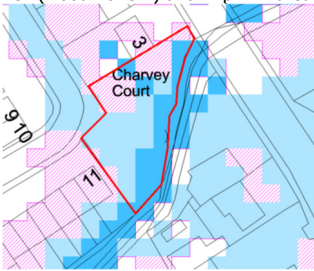
To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment."

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
22	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.22 includes zoning of land measuring c. 6.9ha at SLO4 (Bollarney North) from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
26	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.26 includes changing c. 1.4ha of zoning at Glebe – Fernhill House from 'CE Community/Education' to 'RN1 New Residential' (Priority 1) (0.7ha) and 'RN2 New Residential' (Priority 2) (0.7ha)</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In particular, the key design aim in delivering sustainable communities is to reduce, as far as possible, the need to travel, particularly by private car, by facilitating mixed-use development and by promoting the efficient use of land. The sequential approach specifies that zoning shall extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped serviced lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference, encouraging infill opportunities, and that areas to be zoned shall be contiguous to existing zoned development lands. The urban form and pattern of development in Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village was carefully analysed as part of the plan crafting process, as detailed in the draft plan and associated appendices. This analysis determined the need to capitalise on the potential of the town and villages centres, on regeneration areas such as Wicklow waterfront, and on infill opportunities with the existing built footprint of the settlements, with a small number of edge of centre, serviced, greenfield lands being identified for new residential development.</p> <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use as detailed in this submission would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) • Result in a reduction in CE 'Community & Education' zoned lands. These are essential zonings that are necessary to support the sustainable development of the plan area, and the location and area of these zones has been carefully determined in order to meet Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and sustainable development principles. It should be noted that CE zones are not identified or so zoned solely for the potential development of new schools; a range of social and community infrastructure is required to support any growing settlement. <p>In addition, the CE is concerned with the overall reduction in 'CE' zoned land which is essential in order to meet community development objectives, at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population."</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p>

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility (loss of potential Community and Education services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population) and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); and Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur). Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); Occurrence of visual impacts (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); and Increased loadings on water bodies (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites).
27	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.27 is to create a new SLO 10 area including lands zoned RN and AOS (1ha) and amend zoning of land measuring c3.5ha from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and Increased loadings on water bodies.
28	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 27 includes creating a new SLO 11 area – Specific Local Objectives' at Marlton - Ballynerrin Lower and changing land use zoning of: c.3.6ha from CE to RN1; c.3.82ha from E / OS1 to CE; and c.0.5 Ha from E / RN1 to CE.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p>


Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>"The CE has no objection to the new CE zone at the 'Grain Store' as proposed.</p> <p>While the CE has no objection to the relocation of the larger CE zone as proposed, the CE does not support to the proposal to zone additional lands (3.5ha) for new residential use.</p> <p>The CE does not support this element of the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, in particular:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use would exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p>In addition, the CE is concerned with the overall reduction in 'Employment' zoned land which is essential in order to meet employment growth objectives, at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population."</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility (including with reference to loss of potential employment development at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population) and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur). • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Occurrence of visual impacts (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); and • Increased loadings on water bodies (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites).
29	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 29 includes creating a new SLO 12 area – Specific Local Objectives' at Broomhall and changing land use zoning of: c. 7.35ha from RN2 to RN1; and c. 1.7ha from 'unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity.</p> <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
30	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 30 includes creating a new SLO 13 area – Specific Local Objectives’ at Broomhall – Hawks Bay and changing land use zoning of: c. 2.7ha from RN2 to RN1; and c. 2.8ha from ‘unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>“The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines ‘Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre.” <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan’s zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
32	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 32 involves amending zoning of lands from ‘VC Village Centre’ to ‘WCC-Wicklow County Campus’ in Rathnew Village Centre.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including a small area areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>However, the SFRA identifies that “Only a very minor part of the overall proposed zone is located within an area identified as at risk of flooding (south east corner close to a watercourse). The zoning objective does not prescribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the County Campus zone is sufficiently large to provide for the development of desired uses while avoiding development in the at risk area. Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan and Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.”</p> <p>Potentially significant effects arising from this Amendment relating to flood risk would be mitigated to this effect.</p>

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
38	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 38 involves amending zoning of lands measuring c0.06ha from OS2 to RN1 at Charvey Court, Rathnew.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including significant areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>A flood risk corridor has been identified along the Rathnew stream in this area. Any lands identified as flood zones A or B are appropriately zoned OS2, which limits development and aims to leave the lands in their natural state. Furthermore, when one considers the OPW 'future scenarios' maps of flood risk, the entire area is potentially at risk.</p> <p>The image below shows: in dark blue – area currently at 1:100 risk (Flood Zone A), in light blue - area currently at 1:1000 risk (Flood Zone B) and in pink - areas of future potential risk.</p>  <p>In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, residential use is identified as a 'high vulnerable' land use. Such land should not be zoned where located in an area identified at risk of flooding unless the 'Plan Making Justification Test' is satisfied. In the case of these lands, this test is not satisfied as:</p> <p><i>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is NOT required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:</i></p> <p><i>(i)The zoning of the land for residential use is NOT Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;</i></p> <p><i>(ii)The land do NOT comprise significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;</i></p> <p><i>(iii)The development of the lands would NOT be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and</i></p> <p><i>(iv)There ARE suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.</i></p> <p>In addition, all of these undeveloped lands that are within 25m of the river and are appropriately zoned OS2 in order to be consistent with Wicklow County Development Plan objective 17.26 i.e.</p> <p><i>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."</i></p> <p>Although the written provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan would be likely to limit the development of this site, significant inconsistencies with these written provisions would be present if this Proposed Material Amendment was adopted as part of the Plan. Development of this site would potentially result in significant adverse effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk – with associated adverse effects including on residents and people affected by any flood event and buildings and other material assets; • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and <p>Increased loadings on water bodies.</p>
39	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 39 involves changing c. 0.673ha of lands at Ballyguile Beg from 'Unzoned' to 'RN1 – New Residential (Priority 1)'.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft plan boundary at this location is intended to follow the boundary of existing developed lands, and as these lands are not developed, they are not included. This is in order to manage the spatial expansion of the settlement, particularly in peripheral and visually elevated areas, such as this. It is noted that there have been no applications for permission on these lands since 1996-97, when permission was refused, nor recent pre-planning inquiries. <p>In addition, the CE draws attention to the following:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>the Wicklow Core Strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In particular, the key design aim in delivering sustainable communities is to reduce, as far as possible, the need to travel, particularly by private car, by facilitating mixed-use development and by promoting the efficient use of land. The sequential approach specifies that zoning shall extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped serviced lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference, encouraging infill opportunities, and that areas to be zoned shall be contiguous to existing zoned development lands. The urban form and pattern of development in Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village was carefully analysed as part of the plan crafting process, as detailed in the draft plan and associated appendices. This analysis determined the need to capitalise on the potential of the town and villages centres, on regeneration areas such as Wicklow waterfront, and on infill opportunities with the existing built footprint of the settlements, with a small number of edge of centre, serviced, greenfield lands being identified for new residential development.</p> <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use as detailed in this submission would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) • Support the continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
40	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 40 involves amending of lands measuring c.3ha at Ballyguile More from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur);

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
41	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 involves amending of lands measuring c. 1ha at The Murrough from 'OS2- Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment'.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including significant areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support this proposed amendment due to concerns about the impact of development on the adjacent European Sites and flood risk.</p> <p>European Sites – Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>The lands in question are zoned OS2 'Natural Areas' in the draft LAP having regard to their location vis-a-vis the adjacent European Site and its conservation objectives and sensitivities.</p> <p>As detailed in the SEA Environmental Report (Section 8) that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan, environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning contained within the Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Draft Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, where feasible, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone, protecting potentially valuable ecological areas including contributing towards maintaining ecological linkage.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning followed for the Draft Plan remains relevant and it is recommended that the OS zoning objective at any natural/semi-natural lands remains unchanged.</p> <p>The members' attention is drawn to a recent (2024) application for the development of these lands. This application was withdrawn following a recommendation for refusal for the following reasons:</p> <p><i>1. Having regard to the location of the development in proximity to the Murrough SPA, and the Murrough Wetlands SAC, the location of part of the works in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B, the qualifying interests of these Natura 2000 sites and their conservation objectives, the direct / indirect pathways to these Natura 2000 sites, the absence of sufficient details in respect to the nature and scale of the construction works and ongoing operations the lack of information on the subterranean conditions, the Planning Authority cannot be satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the proposed development would not have significant effects on these Natura 2000 sites, and therefore the development would require Appropriate Assessment. Therefore, to permit the proposed development would be contrary to the Habitats Directive, the Objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Wicklow Town Rathnew Development Plan 2013, and proper planning and sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>2. Having regard to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of details in respect to construction/ operation</i> • <i>Lack of details in respect to the subsoil composition.</i> • <i>Partial location within a Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B</i> • <i>The provisions 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Planning Authorities Nov 2009.</i> • <i>Lack of justification demonstrating the development is necessary on grounds of wider sustainability through the Justification Test outlined in section 3.9 of the guidelines,</i> <p><i>It is considered that the proposed development would contravene objectives CPO 14.26 and Objective CPO 17.26 of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, and the provisions of the Wicklow Town –Rathnew Development Plan 2013, is contrary to the "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines", would set an undesirable precedent for similar types of development on floodplains, would be prejudicial to public health, and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</i></p> <p>The members attention is also drawn to the following assessment of this proposal from the Council's ecological consultants:</p> <p><i>This amendment would present a potential, likely significant effect on the Murrough SPA and SAC. As a result it would need to be subject to a more detailed Stage 2 AA, also requiring full SEA.</i></p> <p><i>Although the area defined appears to be outside the boundary of the European site, it would create a direct (or near direct) connection onto the site and, as such, would remove any level of buffering offered by the existing undeveloped space. Buffering helps to protect against noise and light disturbance and emissions (such as surface water). The amendment would have the potential to affect the ecological functioning and integrity of the SPA by potentially impacting on aspects such as flight lines, predator risk and lighting effects on birds using the site. The amendment would also have the potential to affect species such as Otter using the SAC.</i></p> <p><i>The amendment would be contrary to Objective WTR14 from the Draft Plan, which seeks to facilitate the continued</i></p>

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p><i>operation of existing business/commercial activities in this area while ensuring the protection of European sites.</i></p> <p><i>The Stage 2 AA process that would need to be undertaken would recommend the application of Objective WTR14 to this area i.e. to resist further expansion / intensification of existing development in this area.</i></p> <p>Should the members decide to proceed with this proposed amendment against the advice of the CE, as detailed above, it will be necessary to carry out a full Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and SEA of the proposal.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 20 (g) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) the CE is afforded additional time to carry out such assessments prior to the publishing of any proposed material amendments for public display (such display normally being commenced within 3 weeks of the making of the proposed material amendments).</p> <p>Within 2 weeks of the date of the Council meeting of 10 February 2025, the CE shall notify the members regarding how much additional time is required to carry out the assessments prior to the publication of the proposed material amendments. At this time, the CE cannot advise with respect to the length of the period required.</p> <p>Flood Risk</p> <p>The majority of the lands are at high risk of present day flooding – Flood Zone A. Additional lands are within Flood zone B and the entire site is within the OPW future climate change scenarios areas at risk.</p>  <p>In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, Employment use is identified as a 'less vulnerable' land use. Such land should not be zoned where located in an area identified at high risk of flooding unless the 'Plan Making Justification Test' is satisfied. In the case of these lands, this test is not satisfied as:</p> <p><i>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is NOT required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The zoning of the land for employment use is NOT essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;</i> <i>ii. The land do NOT comprise significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;</i> <i>iii. The development of the lands would NOT be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and</i> <i>iv. There ARE suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement."</i> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>Although the written provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan would be likely to limit the development of this site, significant inconsistencies with these written provisions would be present if this Proposed Material Amendment was adopted as part of the Plan. This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); Flood risk – with associated adverse effects including on residents and people affected by any flood event and buildings and other material assets; Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and Increased loadings on water bodies. <p>As this amendment could potentially result in likely significant effects on a European site(s), Stage 2 AA was required to be undertaken. The Stage 2 AA demonstrates that the approach to land use zoning followed for the Draft Plan remains relevant and the OS zoning objective at these lands would help to ensure the protection of European sites.</p> <p>However, if this approach to zoning for the subject lands is abandoned, and Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 incorporated into the Plan, Amendment No. 41 would need to be modified in order to allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final AA Natura Impact Report to demonstrate that, following the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures, the Plan to be adopted will not result in any adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European site; and For the Plan, incorporating the Amendment, to be adopted in compliance with the Habitats Directive.

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>The modification to Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 would be to add the following local objective for the subject lands⁹⁶:</p> <p>"All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole. 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations. 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species. <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. <p>To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment."</p>

⁹⁶ Note: This modification was integrated into the adopted Plan.

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. By integrating related recommendations into the Plan, the Council has helped to ensure that both the beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan have been and will be maximised and that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Mitigation was achieved through:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan;
- The integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan;
- The integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Local Area Plan; and
- The integration of individual provisions into the text of the existing, already in force, County Development Plan.

9.2 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning

In preparing the Plan, information relating to various sectors, from different Departments within the Councils and from different bodies and organisations, was gathered and analysed, contributing towards the development of evidence-led Plan provisions. This work included undertaking a Local Transport Assessment (Plan Appendix 1) and a Social Infrastructure Audit (Plan Appendix 2) and preparing details on an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, Phasing and Implementation (Plan Appendix 3).

The undertaking of the SEA process was part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed under Table 9.1.

9.3 Consideration of Alternatives

Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 6), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process alternatives for the Plan were considered.

These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process (see Section 7) and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of alternatives for the Plan, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared, placed on public display and adopted.

9.4 Integration of environmental considerations into the Plan's Zoning provisions

Environmental considerations, including those relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, were integrated into the Local Area Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach which was informed by the environmental considerations identified by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Zoning has been applied in a way that, in general, primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) (for exceptions to this approach please refer to Section 8.7).

Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the County Development Plan and related provisions have been integrated into the LAP. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Plan has been informed by the SFRA process and associated delineation of flood risk zones. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that helps to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk.

9.5 Integration of individual provisions into the text of the Plan

Various provisions have been integrated into the text of the Plan through the Plan-preparation and SEA, SFRA and AA processes. Both the Planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation which was developed over multiple iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Table 9.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

9.6 Integration of individual provisions into the text of the County Development Plan

In addition to the individual provisions integrated into the text of the Local Area Plan, individual provisions relating to environmental protection and management have been integrated into the existing, already in force, Wicklow County Development Plan. These measures, which must be complied with by development under the Local Area Plan, are identified alongside the Local Area Plan measures on Table 9.1.

Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan⁹⁷

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>Tourism Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect Wicklow Town – Rathnew’s principal strengths and capitalise on the distinct tourism attractions that are on offer; To ensure a focus on high quality tourism products; To work with tourism bodies to increase the number of tourists visiting the settlement, to increase the length of stay of tourists and to help secure the tourism sector as key economic driver; To preserve the character and distinctiveness of scenic landscapes that are of high amenity value; To protect the conservation objectives of European sites, controlling development with the potential to cause adverse impacts on these, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively, is subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive. <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. ‘Leapfrogging’ to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR9 To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the settlement 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.</p> <p>WTR14 On lands zoned for employment on the ‘Murrough North’, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the continued operation of established / permitted existing business / commercial activities subject to ensuring they operate in a manner which is respectful of the local environment, use environmentally friendly / innovative technologies and improve the visual amenity of the area; To resist further expansion / intensification of the existing industries / businesses and consideration will only be given to development that enhances nature conservation; To ensure that no development is permitted which would give rise to significant adverse impacts upon the conservation objectives of European sites. To encourage site operators to improve the overall visual amenity of the area including the provision of additional landscaping using native species appropriate to this natural coastal setting. <p>While the Council acknowledges that these industries are established, permitted and operating businesses / commercial activities, it is important to have regard to (a) the need to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the European Sites arise from the intensification or change of use of this area for industry / employment and (b) the nature restoration goals of the Council and (c) the availability of significant areas of zoned employment land within the settlement away from the coast and other environmentally sensitive locations.</p> <p>WTR42 To enhance the amenity value of the Rathnew Stream and</p>	<p>SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity</p> <p>Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow’s identity – ‘The Garden of Ireland’. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County’s rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit or current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p>Tourism and Recreation</p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>Environmental Protection</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Corridor and Route Selection</p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives</p> <p>General</p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all</p>

⁹⁷ Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

SEA Environmental Report for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>to facilitate improved access, subject to the protection of its environmental and ecological value.</p> <p>WTR46 To enhance and protect the built and natural heritage of Rathnew and to facilitate improved access to these amenities.</p> <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p> <p>WTR52 To ensure that all proposals for development have cognisance of European sites in the area and that no development is allowed which would have a significant adverse effect on the conservation interests of these sites.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR73 To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p>WTR84 To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that contribute greatly to this character.</p> <p>WTR90 To facilitate the development and enhancement of green infrastructure resources, including access to, connectivity between areas of interest and linkages between green spaces including the coast, where feasible within the plan settlement boundary.</p> <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>European Sites Objectives</p> <p>To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Protected sites and species</p> <p>CPO 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019) • National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015. • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010); • Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same), • Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan; • Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>Sites & Corridors of ecological & biodiversity value</p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>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 plan⁹⁸.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP and LAP as it sees fit.</p> <p>Text from SLO4: "All proposed projects within zoning area SLO4 – Bollamey North shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant: be informed by appropriately targeted ecological surveys of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA; and give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation, including additional visitor management plans)."</p> <p>Local Objective at The Murrough:</p> <p>All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:</p> <p>Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole. 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations. 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species. <p>And</p> <p>Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted.</p> <p>To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and</p>	<p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem amenity or the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To strongly discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling if such is essential to enable development to proceed.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to</p>

⁹⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment.</p>	<p>existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p> <p>In particular, to support the development of existing and examine the feasibility of new walking, cycling, horse riding and water based routes and trails along the following routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way; • the extension of the 'Blessington Greenway' walk around the Phoulaphuca reservoir; • the expansion of a lakeshore walk around the Vartry reservoir; • the extension of the old Shillelagh branch recreational trail - railway walk from Arklow to Shillelagh; • the development of a route along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass. • the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road; • the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes). • the Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells. • 'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle. <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Recreation and Tourism</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes; • Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16. <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>relating to sustainable development.</p> <p>Light Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development & Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan⁹⁹.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon. 2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats. 3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla. 4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations. 6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline. 7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective. 8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell. 9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area. 10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line. <p>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew. 2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively. 3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs. 4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port. 5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south. 6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.

⁹⁹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head. 2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon. 3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures. 4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. 5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites; b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc); c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and d) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types; e) automated gates will not be permitted on any development. 6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding. 7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations. 8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay. 9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Residential Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure sufficient zoned and serviced land is available at appropriate locations capable of meeting the housing needs of the targeted population of the settlement over the plan period in a sustainable manner. Notwithstanding the zoning of land for residential purposes, the Planning Authority shall monitor and implement the population targets as set out in the County Development Plan and shall phase and restrict, where necessary, the granting of residential planning permissions to ensure these targets are not exceeded; • To promote and facilitate in-fill housing developments, the use of under-utilised / vacant sites and vacant upper floors for residential use and facilitate higher residential densities at appropriate locations, subject to a high standard of design, layout and finish; • To promote and facilitate the redevelopment of sites in the town and village centres, including identified opportunity sites, where development will positively contribute to the commercial and residential vitality of the town centre; <p>Economic Development and Employment Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and facilitating to the highest degree possible (subject to environmental and other relevant planning considerations) all forms of employment generation; • Support the enhanced role and function of Wicklow as the County Town as a hub for employment, training and education; 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Seveso Sites</p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the "COMAH Regulations", (SI No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, b) public health and safeguarding of public health, and c) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation and development of existing settlement assets to act as a catalyst for major employment growth in the settlement, county and region. To ensure that the appropriate framework and services are in place to allow these assets to be developed to their full employment potential • To attract inward investment / growth in indigenous and foreign industry by providing the infrastructure and zoned land necessary and promoting a healthy community with a high quality environment; • Fostering entrepreneurial activity by promoting and supporting opportunities for training and education, and business start-up and incubator facilities; • Support Wicklow-Rathnew's role in the provision of third level education at the Wicklow County Campus Rathnew (in association with SETU) and in particular, to support the development of the campus as a hub for the Film Industry (Screen Content Creation Sector), the renewable energy sector and the food sector; • To facilitate more intensive economic activity and job creation in the existing town / village centres, in retail and retail services, professional services, tourism and accommodation; • Promote a high quality built and natural environment that is attractive to indigenous and foreign industry and employees; • To facilitate the development of opportunities to capitalise particularly on the settlement's coastal location and to support enhancement and expansion of Wicklow Port and Harbour. <p>Infrastructure Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of safe and accessible pedestrian, cycling and traffic routes and excellent public transport facilities; • Facilitate and promote the delivery of reliable and effective water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure to service the existing and future development needs of the settlement. <p>Heritage Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the natural, architectural, archaeological and maritime heritage of the Wicklow Town – Rathnew area; • To enhance the quality of the natural and built environment, to enhance the unique character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew as a place to live, visit and work; • To promote greater appreciation of, and access to, local heritage assets. <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Soils & Geology</p> <p>CPO 17.27 Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>CPO 17.29 To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail 'significant' ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.</p> <p>CPO 17.30 To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of "agreed access" subject to</p>

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		<p>flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.31 To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a "Wicklow Rock Trail", Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 17.32 To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design & Development standards of this plan.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR51 To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.</p> <p>WTR95 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.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective: To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p>Water Quality Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO 13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO 13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p>

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			<p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity. CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>Flood Management Objectives 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. CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures , and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time. CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy. CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development. CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular: - Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme; - Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme; - Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme; - Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows; and - Ensure that development proposals support, and do not impede or prevent, progression of such schemes. CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009). CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary. CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines). CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding. Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed. Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines. Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA. Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied. 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'. CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving. CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments</p>

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			<p>and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Water Systems</p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive 	<p>As detailed at the beginning of the Plan: It is also important to note that the land-use objectives of this plan aim to support other plans and strategies prepared by Wicklow County Council, including the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan, the Wicklow Climate Action Plan, Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan, Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan, Wicklow Heritage Plan etc., all which have a wider remit than this LAP.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR32 To maintain the Main Street as a principal vehicular route through the town centre and to exploit any opportunities that arise to improve safety for both vehicles and pedestrians / cyclists.</p> <p>WTR33 To improve the pedestrian and cyclist environment and to promote ease of movement throughout the town centre and avail of any opportunities to improve footpaths, pedestrian routes, road crossings and the quality of service for cyclists including the provision of safe and secure cycle parking at key locations throughout Wicklow town centre.</p>	<p>Air Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p>Noise Pollution Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p>

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	<p>receptors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>WTR34 To facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of new linkages from the town centre to car/bike parks, amenity areas, to South Quay and to the port / Murrough areas and to the town's environs.</p> <p>WTR37 To continue to facilitate the improvement of public transport user facilities including, inter alia, shelters, covered bicycle parking, information points with maps, routes, timetables, real-time information and designated taxi ranks.</p> <p>WTR38 To facilitate improved access to bus stops particularly crossing points for passengers.</p> <p>WTR39 To facilitate the regeneration of Rathnew Village centre, by improving the public realm, facilitating road, footpath and cycling improvement works, creating urban spaces with hard and soft landscaped areas within the centre of the village. The regeneration of the centre will be further enhanced following the construction of the RIRR, and the new link road to the Glenealy Road, which will bring about a significant reduction in vehicular traffic travelling through the centre.</p> <p>WTR43 To improve pedestrian movement around the centre by facilitating the provision of pedestrian crossings at appropriate locations, including across the Glenealy Road to the 'Old Village' and across the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (from the VC zoning) to the Wicklow County Campus.</p> <p>WTR44 To encourage the development of a transport hub around the existing bus stops, including improved accessibility, car-parking, bus stop facilities, shelters and covered bicycle parking</p> <p>WTR45 To facilitate the delivery of the remainder of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road.</p> <p>WTR47 To require the vacant lands between the R752 and Charvey Lane to be developed as a single comprehensive development, with a masterplan, that provides for new frontage on the R752 and Charvey Lane, and which addresses all traffic movement issues arising from any development.</p> <p>WTR56 To facilitate the development of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the waterfront zone and to the town centre and train station. To consider the feasibility of a new pedestrian/ cycling bridge connecting the Port to the town centre.</p> <p>WTR61 To facilitate the improvement of pedestrian/cyclist/transport movement and access to the Waterfront zone, by facilitating the provision of appropriate directional and information signage that increases access to and the legibility of the routes between attractions and facilities in the Waterfront zone. In the Waterfront area, no development will be considered that would reduce or remove existing public amenity access to the coast, river banks or port/harbour quays. Any development proposals will be required to show how existing access is to be maintained, improved or new access is to be provided.</p> <p>WTR74 To support the development of linkages to connect Wicklow Town-Rathnew with adjoining towns / villages via cycle and walking</p>	<p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>Climate change action is one of three cross-cutting key principles of the Plan and has been integrated into the Plan in a proactive way with the inclusion of relevant policies and objectives; strategic policy outcomes incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into land-use planning, supported by land-use policies and objectives that where relevant incorporate objectives that both mitigate against the source of the causes of climate change and adapt to reduce the impacts of climate change. Climate change action informs objectives in relation to all chapters of the Plan, including the town and settlement plans and the Plan appendices.</p> <p>Given the Plan's remit as a land use framework not all sources and impacts are addressed in the Plan objectives (e.g. impact on insurance costs). The Plan's role in addressing climate change is part of a combined overall effort by Wicklow County Council to fulfil its role in addressing the climate change challenge. Climate change poses a real threat to ecosystems, however these ecosystems including wetlands and woodlands, are important for their role as carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection. As it noted in the RSES, careful land management is needed to ensure that land use changes do not impact on the ability of the natural environment to absorb climate impacts. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment also have a key role to play in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The approach taken in crafting the Plan is to identify what are the impacts and sources of climate change, identify the key sectors of the sources of impacts that are relevant to the County Plan as a land use plan and to ensure that these are considered in the crafting of all policies and objectives.</p> <p>Under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Local Authorities are required to prepare local Climate Action Plans outlining how they are implementing their adopted Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation strategies. Wicklow's is Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is adopted and being implemented.</p> <p>Building on existing climate action policies, the RSES identifies the following five areas where Climate Change Action should be targeted in the region namely Built Environment, Sustainable Transport, Energy and Waste, Flood Resilience and Water, and Green Infrastructure and Eco-system services. Provisions relating to these areas have been integrated throughout the County Development Plan.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>trails.</p> <p>WTR75 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of new regional/distributor roads and road improvements¹⁰⁰, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road including reconfiguration of road network between Junction 16 and Rathnew Village to re-direct Wicklow Town-bound flows away from the Aldi-Tinakilly traffic lights and the village centre; • A new link road between Tighe's Avenue and the R752 (for Glenealy – Rathdrum bound traffic); • The improvement of the road connections between the Wicklow Town – Rathnew and M11 Junctions 17 and 18, namely the L-1099 and R751, and; • To facilitate and support the improvement of the operational efficiency of the regional / local road network to ensure that the M11 is not utilised as a 'local' route for trips internal to the settlement. <p>WTR76 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of road improvements, including pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, to the existing road network, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading the Rocky Road • Upgrading access roads to schools and public transport services. <p>WTR77 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to active travel and public transport measures, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major public realm improvements in Wicklow Town and Rathnew village centres; • Active Travel Bridge Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route; • Ballyguilemore footpath; and • Providing improved, safer sustainable transport linkages (including permeability linkages in existing areas) to schools, public transport facilities, shops and services. <p>WTR78 To continue to work with Iarnrod Eireann and the NTA on the improvement of mainline train services to Wicklow Town station and to extend the DART services to Wicklow Town station and to provide for the significant enhancement of facilities and infrastructure at Wicklow train station, including but not limited to enhanced pedestrian and cycling connectivity and enhanced car / bike / bus parking.</p> <p>WTR79 To 'future proof' the development of rail services to reserve land at (a) Rathnew (in the area west of the former Rathnew station) and (b) Merrymount for possible future halts / stations.</p> <p>WTR80 To facilitate the upgrading of the Rocky Road, from Junction 17 of the M11 to Wicklow town centre.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of</p>	

¹⁰⁰ The detail associated with new transport or green/blue infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and accompanying Transport Assessment, including locations and associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
		<p>flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR91 To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p>	
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use Zoning provisions.</p> <p>Community Development Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate the development of a range of high quality community, educational, open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the local population. To require new community, open space and recreational facilities be developed in tandem with new housing. To facilitate healthy place-making with a well-designed public realm which includes public spaces, parks, playgrounds and safe streets with access for all. <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR81 To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>WTR82 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.</p> <p>WTR83 Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>Strategic Objective: To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG); 'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)', EPA 2006; 'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009; 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and 'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009. <p>Strategic Objective: To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>Water Supply Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <p>- Newtownmountkennedy</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
	<p>and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. 	<p>mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>WTR91 To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk <p>WTR92 To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors/ Open Space/ Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, brideways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.</p> <p>WTR93 To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.</p> <p>WTR94 To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rathdrum Dunlavin The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>Water Demand Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of water efficient equipment; Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping; In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers. <p>Waste Water Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arklow Blessington Aughrim Tinahely Avoca Laragh – Glendalough Lakes area around Blessington Large and Small Villages <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area; the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003); the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents. <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:</p> <p>Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p>

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			<p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p>Storm & Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p>Solid Waste Management Objectives</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development & Design Standards of this plan).</p> <p>CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.</p> <p>CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste.</p> <p>CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area.</p> <p>CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Hazardous Waste Objectives</p> <p>CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites. <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of open space amenities, • sustainable management of water, • protection and management of biodiversity, • protection of cultural heritage, and • protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and • the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment) <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption),

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority, the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow, the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area, <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrough Coastal Protection Study, the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<p>WTR22 To positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures within the town centre so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to retention of any special features with use of suitable design, materials and construction methods.</p> <p>WTR23 Proposals to significantly alter or demolish Protected Structures, or special features which contribute to the character of an ACA, only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>WTR30 To facilitate and support suitable proposals to merge or assemble multiple buildings / sites in order to develop modern retailing formats, including department stores or malls, having due regard to the protection of architectural heritage within the Town Centre.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR62 To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational and amenity areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.</p> <p>WTR63 To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.</p> <p>WTR86 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its 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.</p> <p>WTR87 To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow quay side through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that are of architectural merit and/or contribute greatly to this character.</p> <p>WTR88 To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.</p> <p>WTR89 To facilitate the development of initiatives to highlight Wicklow's maritime heritage in the public realm.</p>	<p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p> <p>Archaeology Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules 08.01 & 08.02 and Maps 8.01 & 8.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate new or improved public access to and erection of appropriate interpretive signage at National Monuments, archaeological sites, castles, sites of historic interest and archaeological landscapes in State or private ownership, as identified in Schedule 08.02 and Map 8.02 of this plan, in co-operation with landowners.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			<p>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p>Other Structures & Vernacular Architecture Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA. The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line. The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings. Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible. A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required. The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used. Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA. <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p>Historical & Cultural Heritage Objectives</p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Wicklow County Development Plan measures, including:
			public safety issues associated with such sites. CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>WTR2 Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</p> <p>WTR53 To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.</p> <p>WTR62 To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational and amenity areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.</p> <p>WTR63 To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.</p> <p>WTR73 To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.</p> <p>WTR85 To protect the listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>WTR86 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its 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.</p> <p>WTR88 To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p>Landscape, Views & Prospects</p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> <p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

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

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

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

10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Local Area Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Wicklow County Development Plan, the measures identified in that County Development Plan SEA has been used as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the

further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

10.3 Sources

The Plan forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework, Eastern and Midland RSES, and Wicklow County Development Plan is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. Individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

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

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

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*¹⁰¹ basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the development to be permitted are identified, such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

¹⁰¹ The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. Documenting any identified effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

10.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. Monitoring frequencies of indicators tend to change although where they are consistent frequencies are identified. This report should address the indicators set out on Table 10.1.

The methodology for monitoring set out below will be undertaken by the Council. Where monitoring beyond existing sources is to be undertaken, it is recommended that industry standard methods are used where they exist and where appropriate.

Reporting may be undertaken in conjunction with the monitoring reporting on other plans, such as the County Development Plan and other Local Area Plans.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ¹⁰²
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans Confirmation of compliance with Plan provisions relating to the protection of European Sites and sustaining resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)¹⁰³ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 6 years)¹⁰⁴ Internal review of local land use plans Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the County Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see County Development Plan Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see County Development Plan Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems

¹⁰² Where remedial action is required, consultations with government agencies (e.g. DECC, DT, EPA, HSE, NPWS, Regional Assembly, Uisce Éireann) may be undertaken in order to confirm causes of any identified changes in the environment and in order to develop appropriate responses.

¹⁰³ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

¹⁰⁴ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ¹⁰²
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by County Development Plan Chapter 9 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by County Development Plan Chapter 9 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of published information from the Health Service Executive and EPA Internal consultations with the Council's Environment Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ¹⁰²
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive, not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance ¹⁰⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

¹⁰⁵ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available
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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ¹⁰²
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), PM10 (particulate matter with diameter of 10 microns or less) and O₃ (Ozone) as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data EPA Air Quality Monitoring Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of progress in implementing of Wicklow County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting Internal review of implementation of Plan provisions relating to renewable energy in transport, including facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 51% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (helping to set Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050) 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the City using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ¹⁰²
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor or development pressure is causing negative effects on designated archaeological or architectural heritage, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and the National Monuments Service and other stakeholders, as relevant, to address pressures through additional mitigation.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution. 	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. 	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments. 	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complementary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk 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. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. 	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Bali Road Map (2007)	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced 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 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 	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. <p>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030. <p>Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.</p>	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea; • Launching an EU nature restoration plan; • Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and • Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU (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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; • Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; • Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and • Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NEC Directive 2016/2284/EU	Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants.	National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive (2016/2284/EU) entered into force on 31 December 2016. Replacing earlier legislation, (Directive 2001/81/EC), the new NEC Directive sets 2020 and 2030 emission reduction commitments for five main air pollutants.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC)	<p>Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p>	<p>The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)	<p>Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.</p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National			
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. • Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To reduce overall travel demand. ○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. ○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. ○ To reduce transport emissions. ○ To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ○ ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking ○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies <p>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland	<p>The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland • Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	<p>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</p> <p>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. • By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fueled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets <p>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. • The First Revision to the National Planning Framework was adopted in 2025. 	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	<p>The PLUTO seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European 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.	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (SI 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (SI No. 366 of 2016)	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to SI No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 31 of 2014)	These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3 rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	The Regulations include measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <p>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. 	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and <p>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and <p>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Action Plans	<p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the 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 legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 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.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Clean Air Strategy 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy 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 and this is a theme of the Strategy. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1	The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1 is to outline how we can make the grid ready so that 80% of Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity can come from renewable sources, like the wind and sun, by 2030. These targets, and new limits to carbon emissions, are the product of updates to climate change policy across the island in 2022.	<p>Key goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the delivery of renewable electricity. Find problems, gaps, opportunities, potential collaborations, or areas of duplication in the deployment of renewable electricity projects. Help to find and resolve potential regulatory, administrative and/or legal barriers to the faster deployment of renewable electricity projects. Increase alignment across the energy sector to support the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects. Recommend appropriate investment conditions for electricity projects. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Island Grid Study 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO₂ emissions compared to portfolio 1 All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	Vision: <i>"Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</i>	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i> 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: 1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste; 2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts; 3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste. 4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities; 5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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, child care 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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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2030 Climate and Energy Framework	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	Key targets for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels). At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018. At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	<p>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.</p> <p>The 4th NBAP strives for a "whole of government, whole of society" approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to "act for nature".</p>	<p>This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <p>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</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Broadband Plan (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. 	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. 	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Uisce Éireann's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. 	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <p>Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</p>	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity generation on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways. The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023	10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways. Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.	At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation Development & Governance • Sustainable Funding Model • Asset Portfolio Management • Participation and Reputation • Sustainable Development • Climate Action, Environment and Heritage	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly; Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and Collecting evidence to track change and measure success. 	This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
SI No. 232/2018 – European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), nitrogen oxides (NO _x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH ₃), and fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5})), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions. The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Town Centre First: A Policy Approach for Irish Towns	The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural	The policy will align other Government policies and target our investment programmes to deliver the best outcomes for town centres.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 2012)	The Guidelines have five key policy objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that retail development is plan-led; Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development; Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations; Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and Delivering quality urban design outcomes.	The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)	The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements.	The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)	Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.	Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024)	The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended) and National Marine Planning Framework	The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 is one component of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) which was published in summer 2021. Parallel to the National Planning Framework, the NMPF illustrates the vision for Ireland's maritime area.	<p>The legislation seeks to ensure that the consent mechanism for offshore renewable energy projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complies with EU environmental assessment obligations; complies with Aarhus Convention on public participation; and enables Ireland to deliver projects conducive to national climate targets for 2030. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997)	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 11 constituent local authorities: Dublin City Council; Dún Laoghaire County Council; South Dublin County Council; Longford County Council; Louth County Council; Wicklow County Council; Offaly County Council; Laois County Council; Meath County Council; Fingal County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable; • Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. • This Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022- 2042 (Transport Strategy) replaces the previous framework, titled the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016- 2035, which was approved by the then Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2016. • The vision is: “<i>To provide a sustainable, accessible and effective transport system for the Greater Dublin Area which meets the region’s climate change requirements, serves the needs of urban and rural communities, and supports the regional economy.</i>” • Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy. 	<p>Strategy Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Enhanced Natural and Built Environment - To create a better environment and meet our environmental obligations by transitioning to a clean, low emission transport system, reducing car dependency, and increasing walking, cycling and public transport use, and reducing car dependency. • Connected Communities and Better Quality of Life - To enhance the health and quality of life of our society by improving connectivity between people and places, delivering safe and integrated transport options, and increasing opportunities for walking and cycling. • A Strong Sustainable Economy - To support sustainable economic activity and growth by improving the opportunity for people to travel for work or business where and when they need to, and facilitating the efficient movement of goods. • An Inclusive Transport System - To deliver a high quality, equitable and accessible transport system, which caters for the needs of all members of society. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2024-2029	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans including those in force in County Wicklow (including the overarching Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin, Kildare, Carlow, and Wexford; and local plans for settlements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport and tourism objectives). Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)	The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistence of the County Development Plan with the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP.	The purpose of the Variation is to ensure consistence of the County Development Plan with the draft and final Wicklow Town-Rathnew LAP.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022	To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.	<p>Strategic Objectives and Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage; 2. Increase understanding of value of Wicklow's heritage 3. Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage 4. Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions 5. Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate existing information 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028	Under the EU Environmental Noise Directive, which was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (as amended), Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans are required to be made or revised every five years. The Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024 - 2028 has been prepared jointly by the local authorities of the Dublin Agglomeration (Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Wicklow County Council and Kildare County Council).	<p>The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to:</p> <p>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029	The Plan is developed around 5 thematic areas for actions: 1. Governance and Leadership 2. Built Environment and Transport 3. Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure 4. Communities: Resilience and Transition 5. Sustainability and Resource Management	The Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 strategic goals are: 1. Adopt climate focused governance, provide leadership, and build partnerships for climate action. 2. Achieve carbon emissions reduction of 51% and energy efficiency improvement of 50% in our operations by 2030, creating a pathway to net zero by 2050. 3. Support decarbonisation of transport and modal shift from cars to active travel and public transport. 4. Deliver on climate adaptation, biodiversity resilience and enhanced capacity for our environment to adapt to changing conditions. 5. Mobilise and empower climate action in local communities. 6. Achieve a 'just transition' particularly for communities that may be economically disadvantaged by decarbonising projects or impacted by climate change. 7. Mobilise climate action in enterprise and agriculture supporting the transition to an inclusive, net zero and circular economy. 8. Test the scope and scale of decarbonisation in Arklow with the aim of creating a vibrant town which has low carbon living at its core	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wicklow Town Public Realm Plan	Based on these findings, 4 principal aims for the public realm were identified as follows: A Enhance the environmental quality of Wicklow for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors B Strengthen the physical, social and economic identity of Wicklow Town by fully maximising existing assets C Provide a positive physical framework for future development, complementary to the existing historic urban core D Strengthen the role of Wicklow Town as a tourism destination	14 specific objectives were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality streetscapes; • Town centre frontage programme; • Gateways • Dublin road • Marilton road linkage • Church lands • Harbour and bay area • The Murrough • Leirim River and Broad Lough corridor • Seafront enhancement • Interpretation and orientation strategy • Lighting strategy • Open space and linkage strategy • Hill to sea greenways • Economic and tourism strategy 	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020-2025	The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for realising the potential of Wicklow's outdoor recreation assets in a manner which prioritises environmental sustainability.	The Strategy identifies five outdoor recreations hubs / clusters – Glendalough, Rathdrum, Blessington/Baltinglass, Tinahely/Shillelagh and East Coast maritime. Objectives identified include: Expansion of the trails network, preparation of an outdoor recreation transport plan and increase awareness of environmental and cultural responsibilities	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East, Regional Tourism Development Strategies and Destination Experience Development Plans	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land on or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT APPENDIX II – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

FOR THE

WICKLOW TOWN-RATHNEW LOCAL AREA PLAN 2025

for: Wicklow County Council



by: CAAS Ltd.



JUNE 2025

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Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan (LAP) 2025. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan. The Environmental Report has been prepared as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for the Plan.

What is SEA?

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

Why is SEA needed? The Benefits

SEA is the Council's and the public's guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the Plan area.

SEA enables the Council to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the Plan area – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible development in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas, in the Plan area and beyond.

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

An overlay of individual environmental sensitivities (those summarised under Section 3 of this report) for the Plan area is shown at Figure 1.1. The mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the Plan area. Most of the Plan area is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the Plan area include:

- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village, mainly on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Coastal areas and estuarine areas, including the Murrough and Wicklow Head, and areas adjacent to rivers and streams – mainly on account of ecological and visual sensitivities and elevated levels of flood risk.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the Plan area and focuses on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the Plan area will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the Plan area to become a more desirable place to live – so that it maintains populations and services.

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

How does the SEA work?

All of the main environmental issues in the area were assembled and considered by the team who prepared the Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that contributes towards the protection and management of environmental sensitivities. It also helped to identify wherever potential conflicts between the Plan and the environment exist and enabled these conflicts to be mitigated.

The SEA was scoped in consultation with designated environmental authorities.

What is included in the Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan?

- A description of the environment and the key environmental issues;
- A description and assessment of alternatives for the Plan;
- An assessment of the provisions of the Plan; and,
- Mitigation measures, which will avoid/reduce the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and will contribute towards compliance with important environmental protection legislation.

Difficulties Encountered during the SEA process

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

What happens at the end of the process?

An SEA Statement is prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

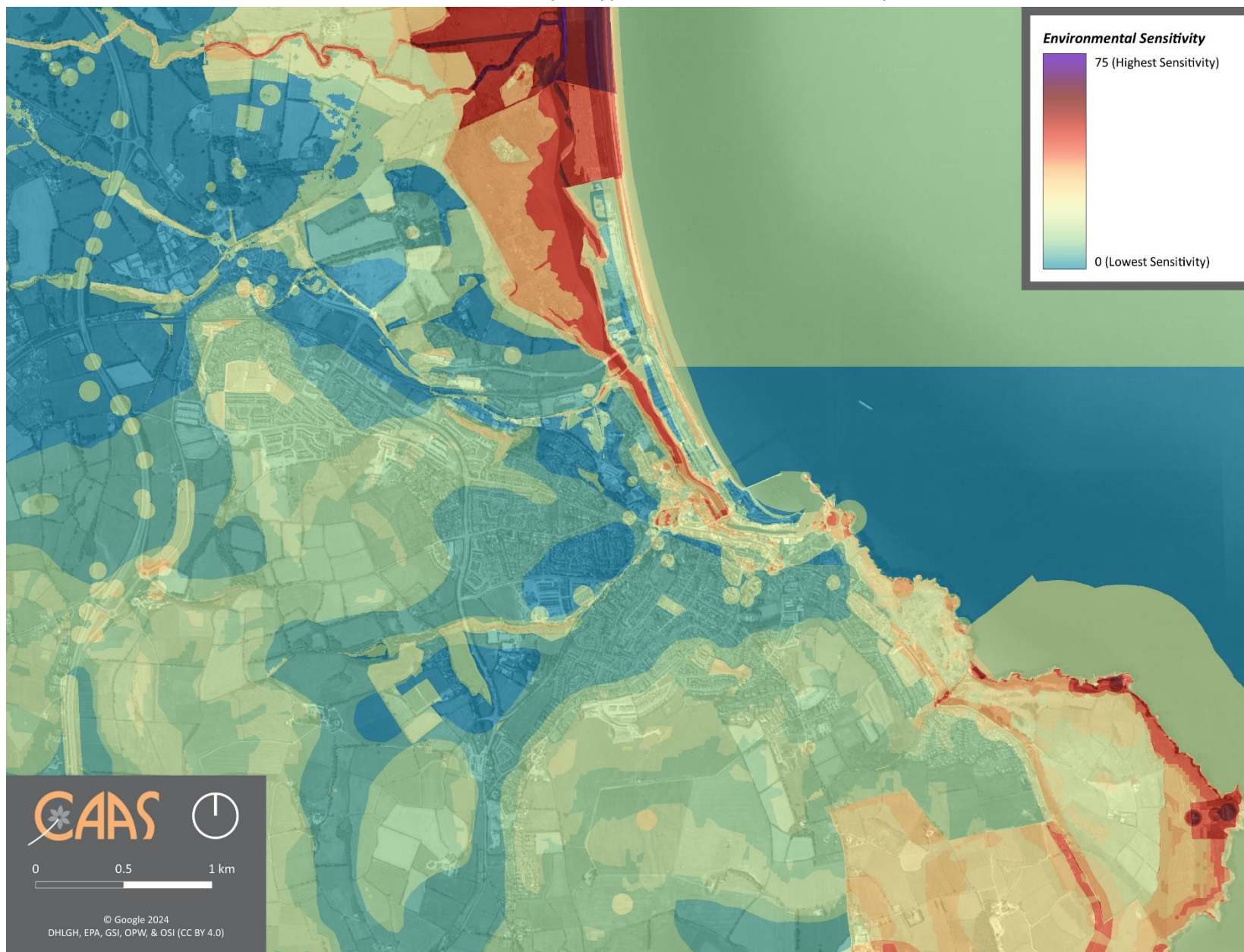


Figure 1.1 Environmental Sensitivities that the Plan directs incompatible development away from

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Introduction and Content

The Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 has been prepared and adopted pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The purpose of the Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area. The Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

2.2 Plan Format

The Plan 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.

The Plan is accompanied by a number of appendices, including this SEA Environmental Report. All of these documents have informed the crafting of the Plan.

The Plan sets out an Overall Vision and Strategy followed by objectives under the following headings:

- Residential development
- Economic development
- Key regeneration areas
- Centres and Retail
- Community development
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
- Zoning and Land Use

2.3 Plan Vision

A key aim of a Local Area Plan is to set out the vision and development strategy for the future development of the area and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision. The vision and development strategy must be consistent with the 'Core Strategy' of the County Development Plan and reflect the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the area.

With healthy placemaking, climate change and economic opportunity to the fore of the Plan, the vision for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan is:

"For Wicklow Town-Rathnew to be a prosperous and growing community in the Garden County of Wicklow, offering a unique and high quality of life by providing for a sustainable and local work/life balance within a healthy environment for all who live, work and visit the settlement.

To strengthen and consolidate Wicklow Town as the County Town.

To protect the identity of Rathnew village.

To recognise and protect, the unique character, built heritage, seaside location, maritime history and natural environment of the area."

2.4 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning

In preparing the Plan, information relating to various sectors, from different Departments within the Councils and from different bodies and organisations, was gathered and analysed, contributing towards the development of evidence-led Plan provisions. This work included undertaking a Local Transport Assessment (Plan Appendix 1) and a Social Infrastructure Audit (Plan Appendix 2) and preparing details on an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, Phasing and Implementation (Plan Appendix 3).

The undertaking of the SEA process was part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as summarised in Section 6 of this report.

2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is important to note that when reading the Plan, the policy objectives of the County Development Plan are relevant and, in this regard, both documents should be read in tandem with each other. As detailed at the beginning of the Plan:

“This Local Area Plan is consistent with the objectives of the Wicklow County Development Plan. The County Development Plan sets out the overall strategies, objectives and standards for the county. The strategies, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan apply directly in this settlement and shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this Local Area Plan.”

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The First Revision of the National Planning Framework sets out Ireland’s planning policy direction up to 2040. The National Planning Framework is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 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, as relevant and appropriate, be implemented through the Wicklow County Development Plan, that sets out the overarching development strategy for the County, and the Local Area Plan.

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

Section 3 The Environmental Baseline

3.1 Introduction

The summary of the environmental baseline of the Plan area is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 3.11, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

3.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of a new Local Area Plan, the framework for development across the Plan area would be provided by the County Development Plan and other related documents. There would be no Local Area Plan to provide additional detail beyond that provided already through the existing planning framework as how to achieve sustainable development and environmental protection and management in the Plan area.

As a result, there would be both:

- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of the positive environmental effects identified by this assessment occurring; and;
- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of the adverse environmental effects identified by this assessment occurring.

3.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Key ecological sensitivities within and surrounding the Plan area include:

- Sites designated adjacent to the Plan area, comprising:
 - The Murrough Special Area of Conservation (SAC)¹ - sensitive features of this site include: annual vegetation of drift lines; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; calcareous fens; and alkaline fens;
 - The Murrough Wetlands Special Protection Area (SPA)² - sensitive features of this site include: red-throated diver; greylag goose; light-bellied brent goose; wigeon; teal; black-headed gull; herring gull; little tern; and wetland and waterbirds;
 - Wicklow Head SPA - sensitive features of this site include kittiwake; and
 - Wicklow Reef SAC - sensitive features of this site include reefs.

SACs and SPAs are mapped at Figure 3.1.

- Non-statutorily proposed sites partially within/ adjacent to the Plan area, comprising:
 - The Murrough proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA)³ - this wetland site provides an important flood control role and supports a range of coastal and freshwater habitats, some of which contain threatened flora and fauna;
 - The Wicklow Town Sites pNHA - this site comprises the Leirtrim River (river bank) and Black Castle (landward side of the cliffs); and
 - Wicklow Head pNHA - sensitive features of this site include kittiwake.
- Locally important, non-designated habitats within the Plan area, including coastal, transitional and marine areas, various woodlands, parks, gardens, hedgerows, old buildings/stone walls and lands used for agriculture within and surrounding the Plan area, providing habitats for flora and fauna and facilitating linkages and corridors to the surrounding countryside for the wildlife; and

¹ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (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.

² SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

³ Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

- Aquatic and riverine ecology associated with rivers and streams and their tributaries and riparian buffer zones, including the River Leitrim, River Vartry, Burkeen Stream, Rathnew Stream, Marlton Stream and Dunbur Stream. The River Vartry to the north of the Plan area is an important Salmonid River.

Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface. The CORINE 2018⁴ mapping (shown on Figure 3.2) identifies the land cover of central parts of the Plan area as urban fabric with adjacent areas of industrial or commercial units, port areas, sport and leisure facilities and road and rail networks and surrounding lands identified as pastures, non-irrigated arable land and complex cultivation patterns. Areas of coastal lagoon, salt marshes and inland marshes are identified along the coastal parts of the Plan area. Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for sensitive 'Annex I habitats' identified by the EU Habitats Directive partially situated within and adjacent to the Plan area comprise coastal lagoons and marshes.

Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Ireland's Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

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

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna; however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with. The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

3.4 Population and Human Health

The results of Census 2022 within the CSO settlement boundary of Wicklow Town-Rathnew recorded a The results of Census 2022 within the CSO boundary of Wicklow Town-Rathnew recorded a population of 16,500 persons.

The Core Strategy in Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) provides for a population growth in Wicklow Town-Rathnew up to 18,515 persons by 2028 and 19,400 persons by 2031.

Wicklow Town-Rathnew is a 'Core Region Key Town' as identified in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The settlement's role and function is as follows:

- The County Town;
- Home to a Healthy Community;
- A Major Employment Hub;
- Provides Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education;
- Provides Higher Order Health;
- Facilitates An Active Regional Port and Harbour;
- A Recreational and Tourism Hub;
- An Attractive Retail Town Centre;
- Provides Social and Community; Facilities; and
- A Base for Public Transport.

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

- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Contribution towards increase in demand for waste water treatment at the municipal level;

⁴ The CORINE (Co-ordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

- Contribution towards increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

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

Existing Problems

The number of homes within the Plan area with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country.

Parts of the Plan area are vulnerable to adverse effects from changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events and associated flooding from surface water. Flooding in certain circumstances could pose a risk to human health. There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding within the Plan area.

3.5 Soil

Main soil types surrounding the built-up areas⁵ of Wicklow Town-Rathnew are: brown earths (well-drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility); and alluvial soils (associated with alluvial clay, silt or sand river deposits). An area of outcropping rock is identified partially within the south-east of the Plan area at Wicklow Head.

Geological Survey Ireland coordinate the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, whereby an objective has been set to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. County Geological Sites (CGSs) do not receive statutory protection like Natural Heritage Areas but receive an effective protection from their inclusion in the planning system. The audit of CGSs in County Wicklow was completed in 2014, which identified 62 CGSs in County Wicklow. There is one designated County Geological Site occurring partially within the north of the Plan area, namely Wicklow-Greystones Coast CGS (Site Code: WW060).

A number of previous landslide events have been recorded within the northern parts of the Plan area⁶. The GSI have identified the Plan area as having mainly low, moderately low and moderately high levels of landslide susceptibility.

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species. As is the case with other urban, semi-urban and port areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past, in the absence of environmental protection legislation.

Following a coastal protection study carried out in 2007, covering the area between Five Mile Point and Wicklow Pier, coastal erosion in this area was found to be significant. Limited intervention undertaken on foot of this study involved works to protect the existing railway bridge and the Port Access Road Bridge.

In 2013, the OPW completed the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study, which provides a strategic assessment of the extent of coastal erosion and coastal flooding along the south-east coastline of the County. The East Coast Erosion Study, commissioned by Irish Rail and completed in 2020 further recommends the use of offshore islands and beach nourishment for soft coastline and extension and enhancement of the existing coastal protection works.⁷

⁵ The built-up areas are mainly made up of urban soils. Urban soils are soils, which have been disturbed, transported or manipulated by human activity in the urban environment and are often overlain by a non-agricultural, man-made surface layer that has been produced by mixing, filling or by contamination of land surfaces in urban and suburban areas.

⁶ Wicklow Town Parish Church (c.1990); Bollorney, Train Station Wicklow Town minor event on railway line north of Inch County Wicklow (2009); Vartry River landslide, Wicklow Town, large landslide of the east facing valley slope, partially blocking the river (2015).

⁷ Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

3.6 Water

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

Surface water at and around the Plan area is channelled by rivers, streams and their tributaries. The Plan area is traversed by the Vartry River and the Rathnew, Burkeen, Dunbur and Marlton Streams and associated tributaries, flowing from west to east towards the Irish Sea.

The Murrough wetlands are centred around Broad Lough, immediately north of Wicklow town. This coastal wetland complex stretches for 15 km from Ballygannon to north of Wicklow Town, and in parts, extends inland for up to 1 km. Broad Lough is a large estuarine lake that is cut off from the Irish Sea by a long, thin shingle ridge, which carries the mainline Dublin-Wexford railway. Various rivers and streams flow into Broad Lough to the north of Wicklow Town, including the Vartry River and the Rathnew Stream.

The current WFD (2016-2021) status⁸ of the rivers and streams draining the Plan area is:

- *moderate* (identified by the EPA as 'Vartry_040');
- *good* (identified by the EPA as Rathnew Stream_010, Wicklow_010, Inchanappa_010, Three Mile Water_010, and Kilpoole Lower_010); and
- *high* (identified by the EPA as Three Mile Water_020).

The status of the transitional water body (2016-2021) of Broad Lough within the Plan area is identified as *moderate*.

The status of coastal water bodies (2016-2021) within and adjacent to the Plan area is identified as being *high* (identified by the EPA as Southwestern Irish Sea – Killiney Bay).

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, some of these water bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

The transitional water body of Broad Lough is currently identified in the combined 2016-2021 data as being at risk of not meeting the WFD's objectives due to damage caused by significant pressures related to⁹:

- **Agricultural pressures**, which may include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters; and
- **Urban run-off pressures**, which can include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.

Figure 3.3 illustrates the WFD surface water status within and surrounding the Plan area.

The WFD status (2016-2021) of groundwater underlying the Plan area is currently identified as being of *good status*, meeting the objectives of the WFD.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) document accompanies this SEA Environmental Report and the Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and related provisions have been integrated into the LAP. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Plan has been informed by the SFRA process and associated delineation of flood risk zones. Historical flooding is documented by the Office of Public Works. Recurring flood events are identified within the Plan area. Predictive flood risk mapping is also available from the Office of Public Works. The most significant source of flood risk within the Plan area is from fluvial

⁸ As per EPA's WFD Status 2016-2021 classification (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>).

⁹ <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>

(from rivers and streams) and coastal sources. There are other sources of flooding present including from pluvial (rainwater) and from surface drainage systems sources.

Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data, the recorded status of certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD. The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial and coastal sources at various locations across the Plan area. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.



Figure 3.1 European Sites within and within 15 km buffer of the Plan area
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

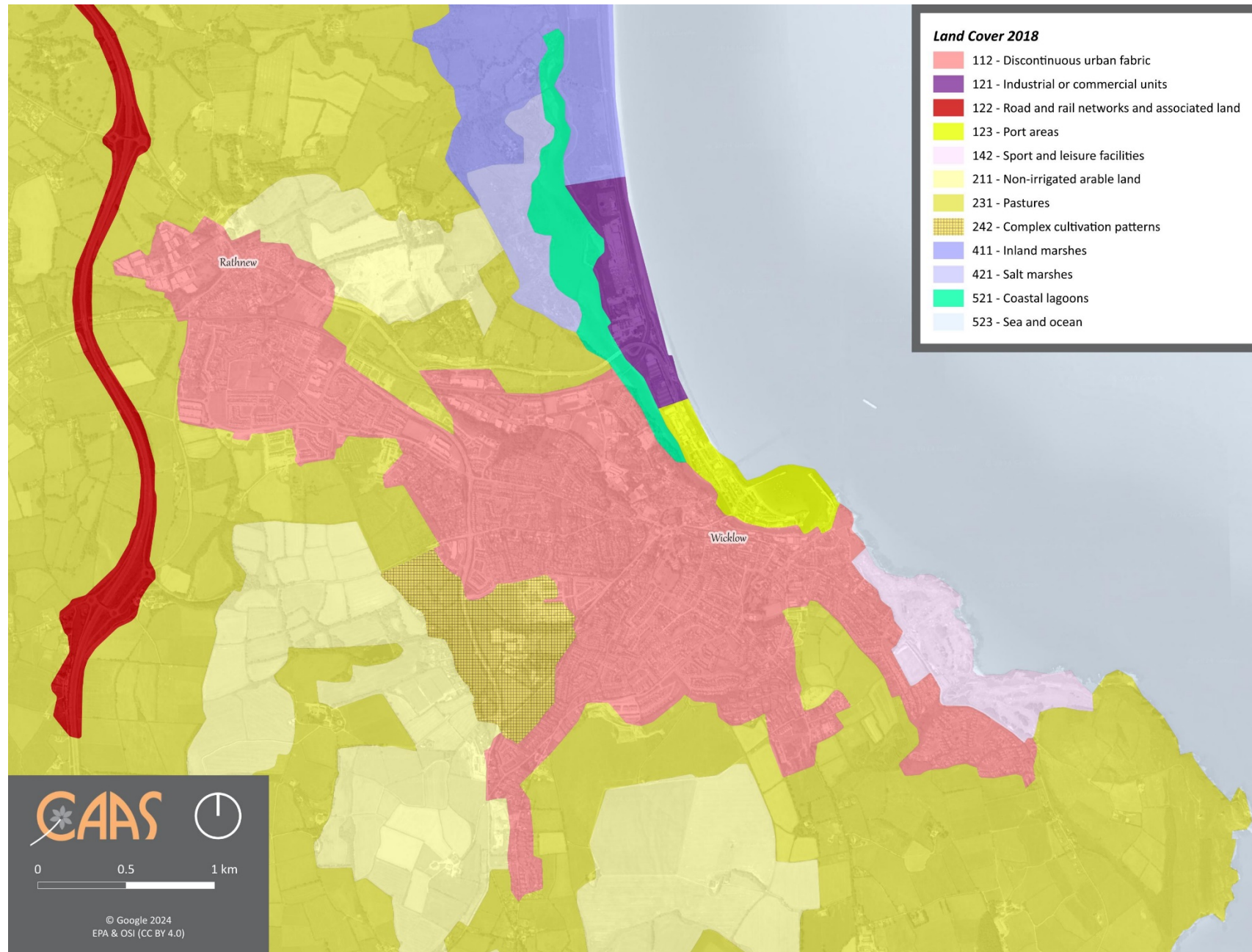


Figure 3.2 CORINE Land Cover Mapping 2018

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



Figure 3.3 Surface Water Status (2016-2021)

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

3.7 Air and Climatic Factors

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

In 2023, Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 55.01 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq), which is 6.8% lower (or 4.00 Mt CO₂ eq) than emissions in 2022 (59.00 Mt CO₂ eq) and follows a 2.0% decrease in emissions reported for 2022. Emissions are 1.2% below the historical 1990 baseline for the first time in 33 years. In 2023, emissions in the stationary EU Emissions Trading System emissions (covering emissions from sectors including Agriculture, Transport, Energy, Industries, Residential, Manufacturing Combustion and Industrial Processes) decreased by 17%. When land use, land-use change and forestry is included, total national emissions decreased by 3.8%. Emissions under the Effort Sharing Regulation (covering emissions from the electricity and heat generation, industrial manufacturing and aviation sectors) decreased by 3.4%. Decreased emissions in 2023 compared to 2022 were observed in the largest sectors except for transport which showed an increase of 0.3%.

The Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 provides information on the breakdown of emissions from County Wicklow:

- In 2018, the baseline year, Ireland's national greenhouse gas emissions were approximately 70,235 ktonnes CO₂ eq.
- Emissions within the Wicklow County Council area are estimated to have been 1,101 ktonnes CO₂ eq in 2018.
- Of total emission in County Wicklow, the agriculture sector accounted for 40%, the residential sector for 25%, the transport sector for 24%, the Commercial and Public Sector for 9%, the Municipal sector for 1% and the Waste sector for 1%.

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

The National Climate Action Plan 2024 is the second statutory update to the plan since the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law, committing Ireland to 2030 and 2050 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It builds on Climate Action Plan 2023, outlining how Ireland will accelerate the actions required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan. Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the 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 legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 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.

Climate adaptation is a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts. The National Adaptation Framework (2024) aims to create a unified approach involving both government and society to adapt to climate change. It outlines how various sectors and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland's vulnerability to climate change's adverse effects while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The Framework emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development, and local planning.

The Wicklow Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 will contribute towards addressing the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptation, and strengthening the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of local climate action. The local objectives of Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 are grouped under five thematic areas as follows:

- Governance and Leadership
- Built Environment and Transport
- Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure
- Communities: Resilience and Transition
- Sustainability and Resource Management

The EPA's (2023) *Air Quality in Ireland 2022 Report* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues.
- Ireland met all of its EU legal requirements in 2022 but it did not meet the more stringent health-based World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines.
- Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from vehicle emissions are the main pollutants.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 1,300 premature deaths annually in Ireland due to poor air quality from PM_{2.5}.
- The choices people make in how they heat their homes and how they travel directly impact the quality of the air they breathe.
- Ireland's ambition in the Clean Air Strategy is to move towards the WHO Air Quality guidelines.

The report further identifies the critical role of local authorities in the enforcement and implementation of existing plans and investment in infrastructure to encourage cleaner and healthier air quality choices, including:

- Local authorities must provide more resources to increase air enforcement activities and implement the new solid fuel regulations.
- Investment in clean public transport infrastructure across the country must be maintained and increased.
- More safe footpaths and cycle lanes must be created to continue to increase active travel as a viable and safe alternative to car use and associated NO₂ emissions.

Existing Problems

Significant progress is being made in the reduction of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA's 2024 publication Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2023-2040 identifies that Ireland's emissions, under the Emissions in the 'Planned Additional Measures' scenario, which includes most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures, are projected to be 29% lower in 2030 (compared with 2018). However, this would not meet the 51% emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections.

In the Climate Change Advisory Council's *Annual Review 2024*, the findings of an assessment of the degree to which progress is being made solely in the implementation of adaptation policy and increasing resilience for the period April 2023 to March 2024 is provided. The Review details that four sectors (Transport, Flood Risk Management, Built and Archaeological Heritage and Local Government) demonstrated good overall progress, six showed moderate progress (Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood, National Adaptation Framework, Communications Networks, Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure, Health and Electricity and Gas Networks) and one (Biodiversity) showed no progress and supplied insufficient evidence. This was a slight improvement compared with the results in 2023.

Air quality and noise can present challenges, especially in urban areas, as detailed under the relevant sub-sections above. With regard to air quality, air pollution from transport is dominated by NO_x emissions. Of these, NO₂ is particularly impactful from a health perspective. The Plan will help to facilitate reductions in emissions and a transition from dependence on fossil fuel combustion powered transport.

3.8 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those referred to below, covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 3.9) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 3.6 and 3.7).

Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

Land

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

Coastline

The County's coastline, including that which is within and adjacent to the Plan area, is amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in County Wicklow, in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries.

Waste Water

Uisce Éireann, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is making investments to undertake essential upgrade works to waste treatment plants in towns and villages across the County. The upgrading of infrastructure will contribute towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Drinking Water Regulations and will help to protect human health and maintain the quality of surface and ground waters. The Wicklow WWTP has a design capacity of 34,000 Population Equivalent (PE)¹⁰, with current load of 19,617 PE.¹¹ As indicated by Uisce Éireann, there is spare capacity available. The Wicklow WWTP (Registration No. D0012-01) is currently fully compliant with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence in the most recent available Annual Environmental Report 2023 (published in April 2024).

Water Supply

Uisce Éireann is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout County Wicklow. Wicklow is located within the Greater Dublin Area Water Resource Zone¹² and as identified by Uisce Éireann, there is capacity available to meet targeted population growth by 2032, although an improvement in level of service is required.¹³ The Water Supply Schemes for the Plan area include the Wicklow Regional Water Supply Scheme (WSS). The Wicklow Regional WSS is serviced by Vartry Water Treatment Plant, which produces approximately 4,495 m³/day of water, serving a population of 15,598¹⁴.

Waste Management

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024) sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030. The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.

Transport

Wicklow Town-Rathnew is well served by the M11, which bypasses the area and provides transport links to Dublin, Arklow, Gorey and Wexford. The Plan area is also served by daily trains along the Dublin Connolly – Rosslare Europort line. In addition, bus services are provided by Bus Éireann and Local Link with daily services to Dublin Airport, Glendalough and Arklow. National, regional and local roads provide vital links between Wicklow Town-Rathnew and retail, service and employment centres throughout the County and to adjoining counties. A Local Transport Assessment has been integrated into the Plan to help ensure a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport.

Existing Problems

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

The provision of infrastructure and supporting services for development, particularly water and wastewater services, is critical.

¹⁰ Population Equivalent (PE) is a measurement of the organic biodegradable load. A population equivalent of 1 (1 PE) means the organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) of 60 g of oxygen per day; the load is calculated on the basis of the maximum average weekly load entering the treatment plant during the year, excluding unusual situations such as those due to heavy rain.

¹¹ https://www.water.ie/docs/aers/2023/D0012-01_2023_AER.pdf

¹² A Water Resource Zone (WRZ) is an independent water supply system serving a region, city, town or village and is governed by topography or the extent of the water distribution network in an area. A WRZ may include multiple Water Treatment Plants and/or sources.

¹³ This may take the form of leakage reduction and/or capital investment to maintain/improve levels of service as the demand increases. Proposed solutions will be developed and prioritised through the National Water Resources Plan and investment planning process. <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/water-supply-capacity-register/wicklow/> (Published in June 2023).

¹⁴ Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

3.9 Cultural Heritage

Archaeological Heritage

The Record of Monuments and Places is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. It is available from the National Monuments Service and at archaeology.ie. There are various entries to Record of Monuments and Places within the Plan area. These Recorded Monuments are identified within Wicklow Town (including along the Varty River and at Wicklow Harbour), along the coast and in the centre of Rathnew village. Parts of the centre of Wicklow Town are identified as an Area of Archaeological Significance or Potential.

Architectural Heritage

Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. There are a total of 41 entries in the Record of Protected Structures within the Plan area, as set out in Appendix 4 of Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). Clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within Wicklow town centre. Notable Protected Structures include: Clermont House, Rathnew Village; Dominican Convent; Black Castle; the Courthouse; Wicklow Gaol; and ecclesiastical buildings such as the Church of Ireland (Wicklow Parish Church at Church Hill) and the Catholic Church (St. Patrick's Catholic Church). Many of these Protected Structures are located within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure. An ACA may or may not include Protected Structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. There are currently five ACAs designated within the Plan area, all within Wicklow Town: Town Centre ACA; Leirim Place ACA; Bachelors Walk and Church Street ACA; Bay View Road ACA; and Brickfield Lane ACA.

Existing Problems

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

3.10 Landscape

Wicklow is a coastal harbour town with neighbouring village of Rathnew situated c. 3 km to the east of the town. The surrounding area is predominantly agricultural land with an area of marshes (the Murrough) to the north of the Plan area. The River Vartry is the main river flowing through Wicklow Town. The eastern coastal strip includes Wicklow Bay and a stone beach. The harbour and the coast provide important recreational and commercial amenities in the Plan area.

There are a range of different landscapes found in the Plan area, each with varying visual and amenity values, topography, exposure levels and each containing a variety of habitats. Each landscape type has varying capacity to absorb development related to its overall sensitivity.

The existing Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) identifies 15 Landscape Character Areas within six Landscape Categories across the Council's administrative area. The Plan area is located within the 'Urban Areas' Landscape Category, adjacent to the 'Corridor Areas' and 'Coastal Areas of Natural Beauty' Landscape Categories. The Plan area is located within the 'Urban Areas' Landscape Character Area, adjacent to the 'Coastal Areas Northern and Southern' and 'N11 Corridor Area' Landscape Character Areas. Other landscape designations within the Plan area are:

- Prospects/Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest - the views and prospects within the Plan area are mainly views and prospects associated with the coastline; and
- Trees and Woodlands with Existing Preservation Orders - there are four trees/group of trees within the Plan area protected under the Order.

Existing Problems

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

3.11 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics (see Table 3.1) and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if – in the case of adverse effects – unmitigated.

Table 3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals - this includes transport infrastructure Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gases Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
		environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Section 4 Alternatives

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Summaries of the alternatives for the Plan and their assessment are provided below.

Five alternatives for the Local Area Plan are identified and considered under a number of different future development scenarios, as follow:

1. Maximum Environmental Protection
2. Sustainable Transportation
3. Compact Growth
4. Housing Market Driven
5. Community Driven

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be consistent with the existing, already in force, Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are significantly limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, which are not wholly consistent with each other, including those of the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Minister Guidelines and the County Plan. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan, including on topics such as population, land use zoning and proper planning and sustainable development.

4.3 Alternatives Description and Assessment Summary

An overall comparative assessment of the alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 3.1 in subsection 3.11) is provided on Table 4.1. The basis of this assessment is provided under subsections 4.3.1 to 4.3.5 below.

4.3.1 Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection

By limiting development within parts of the Plan area, including those that are most sensitive to development, this alternative would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development within the Plan area¹⁵ (although this potential would remain, albeit to a reduced degree) and benefit the protection and management of following environmental components within the Plan area¹⁶:

- Biodiversity and flora and fauna (including through application of a buffer around designated sites, the protection of all trees and mature hedgerows and zoning Bride's Head for Natural Areas)

¹⁵ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** • SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

¹⁶ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** • SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

- Population and human health (limiting development in certain locations would reduce potential for interactions with human health)
- Soil (as a result of limiting greenfield development in certain locations)
- Air (limits in increases in traffic as a result of limiting development in certain locations)
- Water (including as a result of limiting development in certain locations and zoning all lands within 50m of watercourses for Natural Areas only)
- Cultural heritage (through restricting additional development to Protected Structures and restricting development at all designated archaeological sites)
- Landscape (including as a result of designating all lands above the 80m contour as Greenbelt, protecting views and prospects with restricted development within the view/ prospect and zoning Bride's Head for Natural Areas).

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected¹⁷. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited¹⁸.

By allowing for development targets to be met within the Plan area, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a moderate degree¹⁹. New development would have to be accompanied by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services²⁰.

4.3.2 Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation

By focusing on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport, and by providing for higher densities, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a greater degree²¹ and conflict with these efforts to a lesser degree²².

Dezoning undeveloped greenfield lands, including parts of the Strategic Land Bank (SLB) that is not within 15-minute walking distance of public transport would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development at these locations²³ (although the potential would remain elsewhere, including as a result of new and enhanced transport infrastructure) and benefit the

¹⁷ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

¹⁸ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

¹⁹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²⁰ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PHH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²¹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²² See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PHH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²³ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape²⁴.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected²⁵. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited²⁶.

4.3.3 Alternative 3: Compact Growth

By allowing for development targets to be met within the Plan area, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a moderate degree²⁷. New development would have to be accompanied by appropriate levels of infrastructure and services²⁸.

Dezoning all undeveloped greenfield lands would reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from development at these locations²⁹ (although the potential would remain elsewhere, including as a result of town and village centre development and mixed use, high density residential development at the Murrough) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape³⁰.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected³¹. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited³².

²⁴ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²⁵ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²⁶ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²⁷ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²⁸ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

²⁹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³⁰ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³¹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PHH S A W L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³² See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

4.3.4 Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven

As a plan developed from this alternative would be in effect for ten as opposed to six years, a fully comparative evaluation cannot be provided.

By providing for

- a. excesses in zoned land (above current targets) and lower densities of housing development
- b. facilitating increases in car dependency and
- c. providing for community and education, employment and active open space uses on the periphery of the residential zoned land,

this alternative would:

- benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a lesser degree³³; and
- conflict with these efforts to a greater degree³⁴.

This alternative would provide zoning for ten years of housing needs, unlike the other alternatives that would make provisions over a six-year lifespan and be reviewed towards the end of this six-year period. Furthermore, demand would be met through lower densities, requiring a greater extent of lands to be zoned for development. The extent of greenfield development provided and the lack of a focus on infill/regeneration development would present a greater potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from such development within the Plan area under this alternative³⁵ and consequently benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape, in the Plan area to a lesser degree³⁶.

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected³⁷. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited³⁸.

³³ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³⁴ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³⁵ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³⁶ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³⁷ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

³⁸ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PPH MA L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

4.3.5 Alternative 5: Community Driven

By focusing on healthy communities, where residents have all necessary facilities and services within short walking/cycling distance of their homes, this alternative would benefit efforts to maximise sustainable mobility (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies (including associated interactions with population) to a greater degree³⁹ and conflict with these efforts to a lesser degree⁴⁰.

Providing for a strengthened town centre and more opportunity sites for the redevelopment of brownfield sites would help to reduce demand for greenfield development within the Plan area and associated potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from such development⁴¹ (although the potential would remain) and benefit the protection and management of environmental components such as biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and landscape, especially in peripheral parts of the Plan area⁴².

This alternative would allow for development targets to be met within the Plan area, reducing demand and associated potential for dispersed adverse environmental effects to occur as a result of development occurring outside of the Plan area, in areas that are potentially more sensitive, less well-served and less-well connected⁴³. As a result, the protection and management of environmental components beyond the Plan area would be benefited⁴⁴.

³⁹ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

⁴⁰ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **MA A C PPH** SEO interactions in Table 4.1.











⁴¹ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

⁴² See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.

⁴³ See potentially significant adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **BFF PPH S A W L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.


⁴⁴ See significant positive environmental effects, likely to occur common to all alternatives in Table 7.3 and **A C S BFF W PPH MA L CH** - SEO interactions in Table 4.1.


Table 4.1 Overall Comparative Assessment of Alternatives against SEOs⁴⁵

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection	BFF PHH S W L CH - 	MA A C PPH		BFF PHH S W L CH - 	MA A C PPH	
Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation	MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -		MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -	
Alternative 3: Compact Growth	BFF PHH S W L CH 	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -		BFF PHH S W L CH 	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -	
Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven	BFF PHH S W L CH 		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -	BFF PHH S W L CH 		MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH -
Alternative 5: Community Driven	MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -		MA A C PPH 	BFF PHH S W L CH -	

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area (as a result of directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to the potential for direct adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated (arising from development within the Plan area)

 = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area (as a result of providing development within the Plan area)

 = These interactions relate to adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, (arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area)

⁴⁵ For more detail on Strategic Environmental Objectives refer to Section 3.11.

4.4 Selected Alternative for the Plan

The 'Selected Alternative' for the Plan integrates the following components from the five above evaluated alternative scenarios for the Plan:

- from "Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection"
 - The protection of European Sites (SAC and SPA) and NHAs.
 - The protection of the trees on the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) list and protect all other mature trees and hedgerows.
 - The protection of watercourses in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' 2020.
 - The protection of the landscape.
 - The zoning of lands at Brideshead as Natural Areas (OS2).
 - The enhancement of protection of views and prospects.
- from "Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation"
 - High-density mixed-use zones within 15-minute walking distance of the Train Station.
 - Downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB).
 - Include enhanced pedestrian connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the Leitrim River from the north to the south quay.
 - Include a new pedestrian/cycling bridge crossing over the railway line at the train station connecting the lands to the north to Station Road/ Train Station.
 - Enhanced cycle routes and connections throughout the settlement.
 - Include 'Park and Ride' sites at Junction 16.
- from "Alternative 3: Compact Growth"
 - Downzone the Strategic Land Bank (SLB).
 - All Town Centre/ Village Centre Sites are zoned for high density mixed use.
 - The Murrough (*south*) area is zoned for mixed use including high density residential.
- from "Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven"
 - Provide for extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on priority 2, on the next best lands (*with strict phasing criteria*).
- from "Alternative 5: Community Driven"
 - Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for new schools are zoned close to residential areas.
 - Extra lands, above the minimum requirement for recreational/ sports / community facilities are zoned for, Community Education (CE) and Active Open Space (AOS) (e.g. for playing pitches, community halls, theatres, cultural facilities, running tracks, landscaped parks, dog parks, all other recreation/ sports. etc).
 - New walking routes / cycling routes are designated throughout the settlement.
 - Extra lands are zoned for employment to facilitate people working locally.
 - There will be additional lands zoned for childcare facilities.
 - The town centre will be strengthened with a larger Town Centre zoning with more opportunity sites for redevelopment of brownfield sites.

These components emerged from the planning/SEA process having regard to both:

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

An assessment of the 'Selected Alternative' against SEOs is provided at Table 4.2. The 'Selected Alternative' will help to:

- Maximise the provision of land use zoning and the deliverance of associated travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport (including associated interactions with air, climate mitigation and human health) and infrastructural and services efficiencies to a greater degree (improving SEO interactions for **MA A C PPH**), conflicting with these to a lesser degree (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **MA A C PPH**);
- Maximise positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area as a result of providing development within the Plan area (improving SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**), while helping to minimise adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**); and
- Maximise positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area as a result of directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area (improving SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**), while helping to minimise adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from development occurring within the Plan area (potentially conflicting SEO interactions for **BFF PHH S W L CH**).

Table 4.2 Assessment of 'Selected Alternative' against SEOs⁴⁶

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs +			Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated -		
	to a Greater degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Moderate degree	to a Greater degree
Selected Alternative for the Plan	MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH BFF PHH S W L CH			MA A C PPH BFF PHH S W L CH BFF PHH S W L CH		

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area (directing incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas within the Plan area and focusing on directing compact, sustainable development within the existing envelope of the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to the potential for direct adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated (arising from development within the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to positive effects on the protection and management of the environment beyond the Plan area (as a result of providing development within the Plan area)

■ = These interactions relate to adverse environmental effects, if unmitigated, (arising from development occurring beyond the Plan area)

⁴⁶ For more detail on Strategic Environmental Objectives refer to Section 3.11.
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

Section 5 Summary of Effects arising from Plan

Table 5.1 summarises the overall environmental effects arising from Plan provisions. The Plan would contribute towards the proper planning and sustainable development of the Plan area and the wider County and the effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation integrated into both the Plan and the Wicklow County Development Plan – see Section 6.

Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors. Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors. Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO) codes are taken from Table 3.1.

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network⁴⁷.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Area Plan. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Local Area Plan.

Instances whereby environmental considerations were not fully integrated into the Plan are addressed after Table 5.1 below.

⁴⁷ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

(a) no alternative solution available;
(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan/programme/project to proceed; and
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 5.1 Overall Findings –Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. • Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation). 	BFF

SEA Environmental Report Appendix II: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond • Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, such as air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under “Soil”, “Water” and “Air and Climatic Factors” below. 	PHH
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of soils and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Riverbank and coastal erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change. 	S

SEA Environmental Report Appendix II: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. • Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. • Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	W
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. • Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. • Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. • Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. • Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. • Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	MA

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Wicklow County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to central locations within the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. • In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable compact growth; ○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; ○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality⁴⁸. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors⁴⁹. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. • Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	AC
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	CH
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures. 	L

⁴⁸ Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

⁴⁹ Although road transport interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

Instances whereby environmental considerations were not fully integrated into the Plan

Against the advice of the Executive, the Members decided to adopt certain Proposed Material Amendments as part of the Plan. The Material Amendments that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Plan, together with the advice to Members provided in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display, are detailed on Table 5.2 below.

With respect to Proposed Material Amendment No. 41, it is noted that this Amendment was subject to a further modification that allowed for the integration of a local objective that was recommended by the SEA/AA processes⁵⁰ in order to contribute towards the protection of European sites.

Table 5.2 Material Amendments that did not fully integrate environmental considerations into the Plan and associated SEA commentary

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
20	<p>Proposed Material Alteration No. 20 includes amending c. 0.6ha of land use zoning from OS2 to RN2 at southern end of SLO (Glenealy Road).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive, this additional residential zoning proposed would conflict with the protection of the riverine environment and the protection of mature vegetation, notwithstanding the 25m set back from the river edge.</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); • Increased loadings on water bodies; • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur).

⁵⁰ This wording was integrated into the Plan as a local objective relating to the lands that were the subject of Material Amendment No. 41:

"All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:

- Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including:
 1. Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole.
 2. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations.
 3. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species.

And

- Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted.

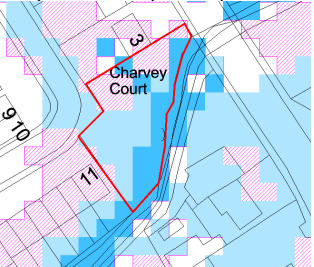
To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment."

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
22	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.22 includes zoning of land measuring c. 6.9ha at SLO4 (Bollorney North) from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
26	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.26 includes changing c. 1.4ha of zoning at Glebe – Fernhill House from 'CE Community/Education' to 'RN1 New Residential' (Priority 1) (0.7ha) and 'RN2 New Residential' (Priority 2) (0.7ha)</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In particular, the key design aim in delivering sustainable communities is to reduce, as far as possible, the need to travel, particularly by private car, by facilitating mixed-use development and by promoting the efficient use of land. The sequential approach specifies that zoning shall extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped serviced lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference, encouraging infill opportunities, and that areas to be zoned shall be contiguous to existing zoned development lands. The urban form and pattern of development in Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village was carefully analysed as part of the plan crafting process, as detailed in the draft plan and associated appendices. This analysis determined the need to capitalise on the potential of the town and villages centres, on regeneration areas such as Wicklow waterfront, and on infill opportunities with the existing built footprint of the settlements, with a small number of edge of centre, serviced, greenfield lands being identified for new residential development.</p> <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use as detailed in this submission would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) • Result in a reduction in CE 'Community & Education' zoned lands. These are essential zonings that are necessary to support the sustainable development of the plan area, and the location and area of these zones has been carefully determined in order to meet Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and sustainable development principles. It should be noted that CE zones are not identified or so zoned solely for the potential development of new schools; a range of social and community infrastructure is required to support any growing settlement. <p>In addition, the CE is concerned with the overall reduction in 'CE' zoned land which is essential in order to meet community development objectives, at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population."</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p>

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility (loss of potential Community and Education services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population) and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); and Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur). Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); Occurrence of visual impacts (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); and Increased loadings on water bodies (demand for community and education services development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites).
27	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No.27 is to create a new SLO 10 area including lands zoned RN and AOS (1ha) and amend zoning of land measuring c3.5ha from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and Increased loadings on water bodies.


Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
28	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 27 includes creating a new SLO 11 area – Specific Local Objectives’ at Marlton - Ballynerrin Lower and changing land use zoning of: c.3.6ha from CE to RN1; c.3.82ha from E / OS1 to CE; and c.0.5 Ha from E / RN1 to CE.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>“The CE has no objection to the new CE zone at the ‘Grain Store’ as proposed.</p> <p>While the CE has no objection to the relocation of the larger CE zone as proposed, the CE does not support to the proposal to zone additional lands (3.5ha) for new residential use.</p> <p>The CE does not support this element of the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, in particular:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines ‘Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (2022). <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use would exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p>In addition, the CE is concerned with the overall reduction in ‘Employment’ zoned land which is essential in order to meet employment growth objectives, at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population.”</p> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan’s zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility (including with reference to loss of potential employment development at locations such as this close to the town centre, close to existing services and within walking / cycling distance of the resident population) and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); and • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur). • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); • Occurrence of visual impacts (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites); and • Increased loadings on water bodies (demand for employment development would have to be met elsewhere, possibly on more peripheral and sensitive sites).
29	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 29 includes creating a new SLO 12 area – Specific Local Objectives’ at Broomhall and changing land use zoning of: c. 7.35ha from RN2 to RN1; and c. 1.7ha from ‘unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>“The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines ‘Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre.” <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan’s zoning through an interdisciplinary

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
30	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 30 includes creating a new SLO 13 area – Specific Local Objectives' at Broomhall – Hawks Bay and changing land use zoning of: c. 2.7ha from RN2 to RN1; and c. 2.8ha from 'unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space).</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
32	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 32 involves amending zoning of lands from 'VC Village Centre' to 'WCC-Wicklow County Campus' in Rathnew Village Centre.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including a small area areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>However, the SFRA identifies that "Only a very minor part of the overall proposed zone is located within an area identified as at risk of flooding (south east corner close to a watercourse). The zoning objective does not prescribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the County Campus zone is sufficiently large to provide for the development of desired uses while avoiding development in the at risk area. Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an</p>

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	<p>appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan and Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site."</p> <p>Potentially significant effects arising from this Amendment relating to flood risk would be mitigated to this effect.</p>
38	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 38 involves amending zoning of lands measuring c0.06ha from OS2 to RN1 at Charvey Court, Rathnew.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including significant areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>A flood risk corridor has been identified along the Rathnew stream in this area. Any lands identified as flood zones A or B are appropriately zoned OS2, which limits development and aims to leave the lands in their natural state. Furthermore, when one considers the OPW 'future scenarios' maps of flood risk, the entire area is potentially at risk.</p> <p>The image below shows: in dark blue – area currently at 1:100 risk (Flood Zone A), in light blue - area currently at 1:1000 risk (Flood Zone B) and in pink - areas of future potential risk.</p>  <p>In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, residential use is identified as a 'high vulnerable' land use. Such land should not be zoned where located in an area identified at risk of flooding unless the 'Plan Making Justification Test' is satisfied. In the case of these lands, this test is not satisfied as:</p> <p><i>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is NOT required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:</i></p> <p><i>(i)The zoning of the land for residential use is NOT Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;</i></p> <p><i>(ii)The land do NOT comprise significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;</i></p> <p><i>(iii)The development of the lands would NOT be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and</i></p> <p><i>(iv)There ARE suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.</i></p> <p>In addition, all of these undeveloped lands that are within 25m of the river and are appropriately zoned OS2 in order to be consistent with Wicklow County Development Plan objective 17.26 i.e.</p> <p><i>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."</i></p> <p>Although the written provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan would be likely to limit the development of this site, significant inconsistencies with these written provisions would be present if this Proposed Material Amendment was adopted as part of the Plan. Development of this site would potentially result in significant adverse effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk – with associated adverse effects including on residents and people affected by any flood event and buildings and other material assets; • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and <p>Increased loadings on water bodies.</p>
39	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 39 involves changing c. 0.673ha of lands at Ballyguile Beg from 'Unzoned' to 'RN1 – New Residential (Priority 1)'.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft plan boundary at this location is intended to follow the boundary of existing developed lands, and as these lands are not developed, they are not included. This is in order to manage the spatial expansion of the settlement, particularly in peripheral and visually elevated areas, such as this. It is noted that there have been no applications for permission on these lands since 1996-97, when permission was refused, nor recent pre-planning

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>inquiries.</p> <p>In addition, the CE draws attention to the following:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In particular, the key design aim in delivering sustainable communities is to reduce, as far as possible, the need to travel, particularly by private car, by facilitating mixed-use development and by promoting the efficient use of land. The sequential approach specifies that zoning shall extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped serviced lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference, encouraging infill opportunities, and that areas to be zoned shall be contiguous to existing zoned development lands. The urban form and pattern of development in Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village was carefully analysed as part of the plan crafting process, as detailed in the draft plan and associated appendices. This analysis determined the need to capitalise on the potential of the town and villages centres, on regeneration areas such as Wicklow waterfront, and on infill opportunities with the existing built footprint of the settlements, with a small number of edge of centre, serviced, greenfield lands being identified for new residential development.</p> <p>In these regards, the request for the zoning of additional land for residential use as detailed in this submission would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) • Support the continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
40	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 40 involves amending of lands measuring c.3ha at Ballyguile More from RN2 to RN1.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support the proposed amendment for the reasons already set out in the CE Report, namely:</p> <p>The residential zoning provisions of the draft plan have been carefully calibrated to ensure compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPF, RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan requirements and objectives, in particular consistency with the Wicklow Core Strategy; • Sound spatial principles in accordance in particular with the requirements of guidance set out in the NPF and Ministerial Guidelines 'Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2022). <p>In these regards, the proposal to alter the zoning from RN2 to RN1 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceed Core Strategy requirements, including likely longer term requirements, and therefore would be inconsistent with the Wicklow County Development Plan, which is precluded under Section 19(2) of the Planning Act 2000 (as amended); • Support short-term continued outwards expansion of the settlement, undermining efforts to consolidate and densify the centre." <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity.

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	<p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.
41	<p>Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 involves amending of lands measuring c. 1ha at The Murrough from 'OS2- Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment'.</p> <p>As identified by Addendum I to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan, which provides SFRA of Proposed Material Amendments, this amendment relates to the zoning of a site including significant areas of elevated flood risk that would fail the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>As previously identified by the Chief Executive:</p> <p>"The CE does not support this proposed amendment due to concerns about the impact of development on the adjacent European Sites and flood risk.</p> <p>European Sites – Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>The lands in question are zoned OS2 'Natural Areas' in the draft LAP having regard to their location vis-a-vis the adjacent European Site and its conservation objectives and sensitivities.</p> <p>As detailed in the SEA Environmental Report (Section 8) that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan, environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning contained within the Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of European sites. Development objectives / zoning for lands designated as European sites is not provided for by the Draft Plan, thereby avoiding direct 'land-take' within European sites. Furthermore, where feasible, land directly adjacent to European sites is zoned so as to form a buffer zone, protecting potentially valuable ecological areas including contributing towards maintaining ecological linkage.</p> <p>The approach to land use zoning followed for the Draft Plan remains relevant and it is recommended that the OS zoning objective at any natural/semi-natural lands remains unchanged.</p> <p>The members' attention is drawn to a recent (2024) application for the development of these lands. This application was withdrawn following a recommendation for refusal for the following reasons:</p> <p><i>1. Having regard to the location of the development in proximity to the Murrough SPA, and the Murrough Wetlands SAC, the location of part of the works in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B, the qualifying interests of these Natura 2000 sites and their conservation objectives, the direct / indirect pathways to these Natura 2000 sites, the absence of sufficient details in respect to the nature and scale of the construction works and ongoing operations the lack of information on the subterranean conditions, the Planning Authority cannot be satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the proposed development would not have significant effects on these Natura 2000 sites, and therefore the development would require Appropriate Assessment. Therefore, to permit the proposed development would be contrary to the Habitats Directive, the Objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, the Wicklow Town Rathnew Development Plan 2013, and proper planning and sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>2. Having regard to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of details in respect to construction/ operation</i> • <i>Lack of details in respect to the subsoil composition.</i> • <i>Partial location within a Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B</i> • <i>The provisions 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines for Planning Authorities Nov 2009.</i> • <i>Lack of justification demonstrating the development is necessary on grounds of wider sustainability through the Justification Test outlined in section 3.9 of the guidelines,</i> <p><i>It is considered that the proposed development would contravene objectives CPO 14.26 and Objective CPO 17.26 of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, and the provisions of the Wicklow Town –Rathnew Development Plan 2013, is contrary to the "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines", would set an undesirable precedent for similar types of development on floodplains, would be prejudicial to public health, and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</i></p> <p>The members attention is also drawn to the following assessment of this proposal from the Council's ecological consultants:</p> <p><i>This amendment would present a potential, likely significant effect on the Murrough SPA and SAC. As a result it would need to be subject to a more detailed Stage 2 AA, also requiring full SEA.</i></p> <p><i>Although the area defined appears to be outside the boundary of the European site, it would create a direct (or near direct) connection onto the site and, as such, would remove any level of buffering offered by the existing</i></p>

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p><i>undeveloped space. Buffering helps to protect against noise and light disturbance and emissions (such as surface water). The amendment would have the potential to affect the ecological functioning and integrity of the SPA by potentially impacting on aspects such as flight lines, predator risk and lighting effects on birds using the site. The amendment would also have the potential to affect species such as Otter using the SAC.</i></p> <p><i>The amendment would be contrary to Objective WTR14 from the Draft Plan, which seeks to facilitate the continued operation of existing business/commercial activities in this area while ensuring the protection of European sites.</i></p> <p><i>The Stage 2 AA process that would need to be undertaken would recommend the application of Objective WTR14 to this area i.e. to resist further expansion / intensification of existing development in this area.</i></p> <p>Should the members decide to proceed with this proposed amendment against the advice of the CE, as detailed above, it will be necessary to carry out a full Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and SEA of the proposal.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 20 (g) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) the CE is afforded additional time to carry out such assessments prior to the publishing of any proposed material amendments for public display (such display normally being commenced within 3 weeks of the making of the proposed material amendments).</p> <p>Within 2 weeks of the date of the Council meeting of 10 February 2025, the CE shall notify the members regarding how much additional time is required to carry out the assessments prior to the publication of the proposed material amendments. At this time, the CE cannot advise with respect to the length of the period required.</p> <p>Flood Risk</p> <p>The majority of the lands are at high risk of present day flooding – Flood Zone A. Additional lands are within Flood zone B and the entire site is within the OPW future climate change scenarios areas at risk.</p>  <p>In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, Employment use is identified as a 'less vulnerable' land use. Such land should not be zoned where located in an area identified at high risk of flooding unless the 'Plan Making Justification Test' is satisfied. In the case of these lands, this test is not satisfied as:</p> <p><i>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is NOT required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the urban settlement and, in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The zoning of the land for employment use is NOT Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;</i> <i>ii. The land do NOT comprise significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;</i> <i>iii. The development of the lands would NOT be essential in achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and</i> <i>iv. There ARE suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement."</i> <p>As has already been identified in the SEA Environmental Report that was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations have been integrated into the Draft Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. • Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan. • The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or areas of elevated cultural/built/maritime heritage, landscape, water or ecological sensitivity. <p>Although the written provisions of the Local Area Plan and the County Development Plan would be likely to limit the development of this site, significant inconsistencies with these written provisions would be present if this Proposed Material Amendment was adopted as part of the Plan. This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Flood risk – with associated adverse effects including on residents and people affected by any flood event and buildings and other material assets; • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies. <p>As this amendment could potentially result in likely significant effects on a European site(s), Stage 2 AA was required to be undertaken. The Stage 2 AA demonstrates that the approach to land use zoning followed for the Draft Plan remains relevant and the OS zoning objective at these lands would help to ensure the protection of European sites.</p> <p>However, if this approach to zoning for the subject lands is abandoned, and Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 incorporated into the Plan, Amendment No. 41 would need to be modified in order to allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Final AA Natura Impact Report to demonstrate that, following the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures, the Plan to be adopted will not result in any adverse effects to the ecological integrity of

Amendment No's.	Commentary from SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Proposed Material Amendments on public display
	<p>any European site; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Plan, incorporating the Amendment, to be adopted in compliance with the Habitats Directive. <p>The modification to Proposed Material Amendment No. 41 would be to add the following local objective for the subject lands⁵¹:</p> <p>"All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole. Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations. Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species. <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted. <p>To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment."</p>

⁵¹ Note: This modification was integrated into the adopted Plan.

Section 6 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

6.1 Mitigation

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. By integrating related recommendations into the Plan, the Council has helped to ensure that both the beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan have been and will be maximised and that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Mitigation was achieved through:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning ⁵²;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan⁵³;
- The integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan⁵⁴;
- The integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Local Area Plan; and
- The integration of individual provisions into the text of the existing, already in force, County Development Plan.

6.2 Monitoring

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified at Table 3.1 and used in the evaluation. Monitoring indicators, targets, sources and remedial action is provided at Table 6.1 overleaf.

⁵² In preparing the Plan, information relating to various sectors, from different Departments within the Councils and from different bodies and organisations, was gathered and analysed, contributing towards the development of evidence-led Plan provisions. This work included undertaking a Local Transport Assessment (Plan Appendix 1) and a Social Infrastructure Audit (Plan Appendix 2) and preparing details on an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, Phasing and Implementation (Plan Appendix 3).

The undertaking of the SEA process was part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as summarised in Section 6 of this report.

⁵³ Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 4), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process alternatives for the Plan were considered. These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of alternatives for the Plan, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared, placed on public display and adopted.

⁵⁴ Environmental considerations, including those relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, were integrated into the Local Area Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach which was informed by the environmental considerations identified by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Zoning has been applied in a way that, in general, primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF, Eastern and Midland RSES and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) (for exceptions to this approach please refer to "Instances whereby environmental considerations were not fully integrated into the Plan" under Section 5).

Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the County Development Plan and related provisions have been integrated into the LAP. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Plan has been informed by the SFRA process and associated delineation of flood risk zones. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that helps to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high flood risk.

Table 6.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁵⁵
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans Confirmation of compliance with Plan provisions relating to the protection of European Sites and sustaining resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)⁵⁶ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 6 years)⁵⁷ Internal review of local land use plans Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the County Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see County Development Plan Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see County Development Plan Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by County Development Plan Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC

⁵⁵ Where remedial action is required, consultations with government agencies (e.g. DECC, DT, EPA, HSE, NPWS, Regional Assembly, Uisce Éireann) may be undertaken in order to confirm causes of any identified changes in the environment and in order to develop appropriate responses.

⁵⁶ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁵⁷ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on European sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

SEA Environmental Report Appendix II: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁵⁸
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of published information from the Health Service Executive and EPA Internal consultations with the Council's Environment Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive, not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance⁵⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.

⁵⁸ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available
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Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁵⁵
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), PM10 (particulate matter with diameter of 10 microns or less) and O₃ (Ozone) as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data EPA Air Quality Monitoring Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of development management / grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of progress in implementing of Wicklow County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions 	

SEA Environmental Report Appendix II: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action ⁵⁵
		may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030)	reporting • Internal review of implementation of Plan provisions relating to renewable energy in transport, including facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure	
	• Greenhouse gas emissions	• Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions of at least 51% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (helping to set Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050)		
	• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating	• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating		
	• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels	• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the City using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels • Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel	• CSO data • Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	• Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures • Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	• CSO data • Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	• Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	• Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Internal review of development management / grants of permission	• Where monitoring reveals visitor or development pressure is causing negative effects on designated archaeological or architectural heritage, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and the National Monuments Service and other stakeholders, as relevant, to address pressures through additional mitigation.
	• Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	• Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	• Internal review of development management / grants of permission	
Landscape	• Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Internal review of development management / grants of permission	• Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation