

# APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

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## FOR THE WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

**for: Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

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**OCTOBER 2022**

# Table of Contents

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction and Background</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	Legislative Requirements in relation to AA .....	1
1.3	AA Conclusion Statement .....	1
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>How the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Consideration of Alternatives</b> .....	<b>12</b>
3.1	Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations .....	12
3.2	Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function .....	13
3.3	Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas .....	15
3.4	Assessment of Tier 4: Land Use Zoning .....	18
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>AA Determination</b> .....	<b>19</b>

## List of Tables

Table 1.1	Matters taken into account by the AA.....	1
Table 2.1	Mitigation relating to AA.....	2

# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Wicklow County Development Plan. The obligation to undertake AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed into Irish legislation by, inter alia, the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. 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 any European Site in view of its conservation objectives. This AA Conclusion Statement should be read in conjunction with the Plan and associated documents including the AA Natura Impact Report (NIR).

## 1.2 Legislative Requirements in relation to AA

In carrying out the AA for the Plan, Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, that the Council considers the matters arrayed in the first column on Table 1.1 below. The second column identifies how these issues have been addressed.

**Table 1.1 Matters taken into account by the AA**

Matter specified by the Regulations	How addressed by AA
(a) the Natura Impact Report	An AA NIR accompanies this AA Conclusion Statement and the Plan.
(b) any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report	This AA Conclusion Statement accompanies the NIR that provides additional detail on European Sites.
(c) if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Report	
(d) any information or advice obtained by the public authority	Submissions made during the Plan preparation/AA process that were relevant to the AA resulted in updates being made to the AA NIR.
(e) if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the public authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed plan or project	Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake Stage 2 AA (Stage 2 AA was undertaken on certain alterations).
(f) any other relevant information	

In addition to the above, the Regulations require that the Council makes available for inspection a determination regarding the outcome of the assessment with respect to whether or not the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site (a copy of this determination is provided at Section 4).

## 1.3 AA Conclusion Statement

Non-Statutory AA guidance (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009) states that (Section 4.14) it *"is recommended that planning authorities include a clear and discrete AA Conclusion Statement as a distinct section in the written statement of the plan separate to the SEA statement."* This guidance recommends that the following issues are addressed by the AA Conclusion Statement:

- Summary of how the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan (see Section 2);
- Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered as part of the AA process (see Section 3);
- A declaration that the Plan as adopted will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites (provided at Section 4); and
- The NIR (the AA NIR is accompanied by this AA Conclusion Statement and has informed the AA Determination – see Section 4).

As recommended, this AA Conclusion Statement addresses the above issues.

## Section 2 How the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at the Council in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The findings of the AA were integrated into the Plan through mitigation measures. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 2.1 below.

Furthermore, the detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high ecological sensitivity.

**Table 2.1 Mitigation relating to AA**

Topic	Plan measures, including:
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow’s identity – ‘The Garden of Ireland’. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County’s rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p><b>Tourism and Recreation</b></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>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><b>Environmental Protection</b></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><b>Corridor and Route Selection</b></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><b>Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity Objectives</b></p> <p><b>General</b></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>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p><b>Protected sites and species</b></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"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),</li> <li>• Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p><b>Sites &amp; Corridors of ecological &amp; biodiversity value</b></p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p><b>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</b></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 environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B &amp; C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high amenity value generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>CPO 17.21 To strongly discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling if such is essential to enable development to proceed.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p> <p>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><b>Recreation and Tourism</b></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"> <li>• 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 ;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.29 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><b>Light Pollution Objectives</b></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 &amp; 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><b>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</b></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</p>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>1</sup>.</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><b>Cell 2 Bray Head CPO 19.17</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To protect and enhance Bray Head, in accordance with the SAAO.</li> <li>2. To maintain and enhance amenity routes on Bray Head and in particular the cliff path from Bray to Greystones.</li> <li>3. To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps, while preserving the rugged and natural character of the area and its paths</li> <li>4. To protect all listed views and prospects to or from Bray Head as set out in the Local Area Plan for Bray MD and County Development Plan.</li> <li>5. Development, which would reduce existing areas of heathland, maritime grassland and wooded areas, will not normally be permitted except for reasons of overriding public interest.</li> <li>6. To facilitate existing agricultural usage of Bray Head, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitat diversity.</li> <li>7. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its amenity and green break function between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</li> <li>b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</li> <li>c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft or hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown) CPO 19.18</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its function as a green break between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</li> <li>b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</li> <li>c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. To maintain and enhance the cliff path from Bray to Greystones, while preserving its rugged and natural character.</li> <li>3. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</li> <li>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 4 Greystones Town CPO 19.19</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole, in particular to provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park. The development shall provide leisure, recreational, open space and marine facilities, and mixed form residential, commercial, civic and social amenities, centred around the harbour and marina. The development shall provide a link to the coastline with public access and coastal protection works provided to preserve the landscape from further erosion in the future.</li> <li>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage and changing / toilet facilities.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin) CPO 19.20</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</li> <li>2. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations.</li> <li>3. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</li> <li>4. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</li> <li>5. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</li> <li>6. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</li> <li>7. To facilitate and support the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities.</li> <li>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the ecological and amenity value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</li> <li>9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

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

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p><b>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites;</li> <li>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);</li> <li>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and</li> <li>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;</li> <li>e) automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</li> <li>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 9 Brittas Bay CPO 19.24</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</li> <li>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</li> <li>3. To protect, conserve and encourage the recovery of the beach-dune system at Brittas Bay, in accordance with the conservation objectives for which the SAC is designated, and as per site specific conservation management prescriptions prepared in 2018. Development that results in the erosion of the beach-dune system will not be permitted. In this respect, the Council will particularly ensure protection against erosion caused by amenity and recreational use of the dunes.</li> <li>4. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</li> <li>5. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</li> <li>6. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</li> <li>7. All services and facilities to serve the local community and tourists shall be located within the boundaries of Ballynacarrig Village. Notwithstanding this, one small-scale local service type development shall be considered in proximity to the South Beach car park. The development may comprise a shop/service garage/pub/restaurant/café development. The maximum floor area of the development shall be 200m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>8. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New tourist accommodation shall be directed into one of the three identified development clusters of Ballynacarrig Village, Brittas Bridge and Cornagower (as shown on Map XX.02), or to existing developed sites. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where the following criteria are complied with, will accommodation be considered on a greenfield site outside a cluster:                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the development shall be located in close proximity to the identified clusters and shall have or be provided with direct and high quality connections to the clusters and to the coast;</li> <li>ii. the development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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);</li> <li>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>f) f) The development of temporary camping/glamping sites may be considered strictly on the basis of: the use being seasonal only (March - October) and the full removal of all temporary structure and facilities at the end of each season, the highest quality of design and layout being employed, including excellent screening, strict adherence to environmental controls especially with regard to waste/wastewater disposal.</p> <p>9. To limit the size of existing public car parks to the present levels and to support the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the road at Cornagower East.</p> <p>10. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>11. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>12. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 10 Mizen Head to Arklow (Sallymount / Johnstown) CPO 19.25</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>a) New tourist accommodation shall be limited to suitable sites west of the coast road that are served by high quality road network and are or can be provided with direct and proximate access to the coast.</p> <p>b) Permission will only be considered for new tourist accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc).</p> <p>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design.</p> <p>d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types.</p> <p>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>7. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>8. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the coast road, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>9. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>10. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water and energy infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p><b>Cell 11 Arklow Environs CPO 19.26</b></p> <p>1. To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Arklow coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the Arklow Town and Environs Local Area Plan.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>3. To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour / marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone jetty.</p> <p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 12 Arklow Head / Clogga CPO 19.27</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>3. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>4. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>6. New tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing developed cluster at Clogga or to existing developed sites;</p> <p>a) permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</p> <p>b) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited;</p> <p>d) automated gates will not be permitted on any development; and</p>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>e) new development shall have or be provided with high quality direct access to the main traffic routes;</p> <p>f) development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</p> <p>7. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>8. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>CPO 17.34 Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to: Peatland stability; Carbon emissions balance; and Hydrology and ecology.</p>
<b>Water</b>	<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 9.39 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><b>Strategic Objective</b> 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><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></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>CPO13.2 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>CPO13.3 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>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 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><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <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><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow - Blessington – Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> </ul>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council’s Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency “Waste Water Treatment Manuals”; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></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; <b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></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><b>Flood Risk Management Objectives</b></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 of a significant conveyance capacity 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><b>Water Systems</b></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>
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution Objectives</b></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><b>Noise Pollution Objectives</b></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><b>Climatic Factors</b></p> <p>CPO 12.7 To facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles types, including the roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations.</p>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>CPO 12.9 To seek to ensure all new or upgraded transport infrastructure is climate resilient.</p> <p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape, Views &amp; Prospects</b></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>PO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>
<b>More detailed provisions from Settlement and Town Plans</b>	<p><b>Level 4 – Introduction</b> To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.</p> <p><b>European Sites Objectives</b></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 plan<sup>2</sup>.</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 as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 4 - Rathdrum</b></p> <p>RT13 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><b>Level 4 - Baltinglass</b></p> <p><b>BALT11</b> 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><b>Level 4 - Newtownmountkennedy</b></p> <p><b>NK14</b> 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><b>NK22</b> 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><b>Level 5 Introduction: European Sites Objectives</b></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 plan<sup>3</sup>.</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 as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Carnew</b></p> <p>CAR1 New residential development shall comply with the principles, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 5 -Tinahely:</b></p> <p>AA1 Objectives: Any proposal shall have regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC which is in close proximity to this site.</p> <p>SLO 1 Integrated Employment — Churchland: Any proposal shall have regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC.</p> <p>TIN18 To protect the integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC, in light of the sites conservation objectives</p>

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

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

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>TIN1 New residential development shall comply with the principles, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 5 -Ashford</b>                      ASH12 To safeguard the integrity of streams and rivers in the plan area, in particular all watercourses that are hydrologically linked to The Murrough Natura 2000 site, including the use of adequate buffer zones between watercourses and proposed developments.</p> <p><b>Level 6 Introduction: European Sites Objectives</b>  <b>European Sites Objectives</b>                      To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.                      Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>4</sup>. 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.                      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 as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 6 – Donard</b>                      Specific Development Objectives                      1. To protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Browns Beck Brook</p> <p><b>Level 6 – Shillelagh</b>                      1. To safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed development.</p> <p><b>Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan</b>                      LG19 To have regard to the 'Management Plan for Wicklow Mountains National Park' regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation objectives of the park, or on issues regarding visitor access.                      LG20 No development will be permitted that adversely affects the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. All development proposals shall comply with the following objectives:                      (i) On lands designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' it is an objective of the Council to preserve and improve the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to prohibit development that adversely affects the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, in light of the site's conservation objectives. Land designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).                      (ii) Any proposed development with potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and 'Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland-Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2009).                      (iii) Avoid encroachment on a Natura 2000 site and implement an appropriate buffer zone on adjacent sites, as required, where feasible or as determined following consultation with NPWS or other relevant body.                      (iv) Ensure that recreational use is directed away from sensitive areas within the Natura 2000 site, in accordance with the Wicklow Mountains National Park Management Plan and in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).                      In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit.</p> <p>LG31 Development will be controlled to ensure that the overall landscape character of this area, and the ability to enjoy and experience same particularly on the route from Laragh to Glendalough is not diminished, and in particular vistas of Glendalough and the surrounding mountains and valley from the road shall be maintained and protected.</p>

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

## Section 3 Consideration of Alternatives

This section summarises the alternatives considered for the Plan during the preparation process. These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects (including those related to ecology and European sites) which are identified by the SEA (informed by the AA) and are detailed below; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Members.

### 3.1 Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

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

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

#### Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.**

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

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

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

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

## **3.2 Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function**

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

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

### **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

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

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

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

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

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

### 3.3 Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

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

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

#### **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

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

development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

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

### **Tier 3 (iii): Alternatives for Rural Clusters**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

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

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

development and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment, including those on:

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

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

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

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

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

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

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

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

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

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

#### **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.**

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

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

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

## **3.4 Assessment of Tier 4: Land Use Zoning**

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

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

Further detail is provided in the main SEA Environmental Report

## **Section 4 AA Determination**

# CONSOLIDATED NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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IN SUPPORT OF THE  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE

## WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

**for: Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper  
Dublin



**SEPTEMBER 2022**

# Table of Contents

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Background .....	1
1.2	Legislative Context .....	1
1.3	Approach.....	1
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Description of the Plan</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Screening for Appropriate Assessment</b> .....	<b>6</b>
3.1	Introduction to Screening .....	6
3.2	Identification of Relevant European Sites .....	6
3.3	Assessment Criteria and Screening .....	10
3.4	Other Plans and Programmes.....	16
3.5	AA Screening Conclusion.....	16
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment</b> .....	<b>18</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	18
4.2	Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected.....	18
4.3	Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects.....	18
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>Appendix I</b>	<b>Background information on European Sites</b>	
<b>Appendix II</b>	<b>Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes</b>	

## List of Tables

Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites .....	11
Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan .....	26
Table 5.1 Mitigation Measures that will contribute towards the protection of European Sites.....	33

## List of Figures

Figure 3.1 European Sites within 15 km buffer zone of County Wicklow .....	8
Figure 3.2 European Sites hydrologically linked to County Wicklow .....	9
Figure 3.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination .....	17

# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This consolidated Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared and made available, integrating relevant elements of the following [which support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> and the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended] into one document:

- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan (an earlier version of this consolidated document);
- The Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European Sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European Site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

## 1.3 Approach

The Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report was prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>2</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

Submissions received resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan. These alterations were subject to AA. Taking into account the measures that were integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations it was determined that the Proposed Material Alterations are not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>3</sup>.

Subsequently, the Chief Executive made Recommendations that may or may not be adopted as part of the Plan and Members proposed further modification. None of the Chief Executive's Recommendations or Members' further modification would introduce additional sources for effects that are not already provided for by the Plan through related and/or overarching provisions and they incorporate a number of relatively minor modifications that would not affect the integrity of any European site. It is concluded that, taking into account the measures that were integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations, the Recommendations and/or Members' further modification are not foreseen to give rise

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended)

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

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

to any significant effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>4</sup>.

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature<sup>5</sup> was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycles).

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Plan comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European Sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathway links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15 km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European Sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

**Stage One: Screening**

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European Site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European Site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of European Sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European Site.

**Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain**

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any potential significant adverse effects to the integrity of European Sites by identifying possible sources for effect early in the plan-making process and avoiding such effects. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse effects on the site(s) remain. If potential effects on European Sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>6</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European Site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan.

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

<sup>5</sup> Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

<sup>6</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

The AA exercise has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission Environment DG, 2002;
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission, 2000; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

This evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

## Section 2 Description of the Plan<sup>7</sup>

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

The Plan consists of three Volumes as follow:

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

The Vision of the Plan is:

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

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

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

### SCO1 Sustainable Settlement Patterns & Compact Growth

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

### SCO2 Resilient Town and Village Centres – Regeneration & Renewal

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

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<sup>7</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and any Chief Executive's Recommendations from 2022 included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other further modification considered by the AA process; and any other Chief Executive's Recommendations from 2022. 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.

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

#### SCO3 Strong Rural Communities and Sustainable Rural Development

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

#### SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities

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

#### SCO5 Sustainable Mobility

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

#### SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

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

#### SCO7 Climate Resilience and the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

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

#### SCO8 A Strong Economy

Strengthen and broaden the economic base, harness opportunities for economic growth to build economic resilience, strengthen enterprise ecosystems and create quality jobs that align with population growth, ensure a good standard of living and reduce the need for long-distance commuting. Support placemaking improvements that will generate economic confidence and in turn make settlements more attractive to employers and a skilled workforce.

#### SCO9 Tourism

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

#### SCO10 Education & Skills

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

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European Sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “conservation objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European Sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>8</sup> or species<sup>9</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological/ hydrogeological links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European Sites that occur within 15 km of the County are provided in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. Details of European Sites that occur outside the 15 km buffer zone of the County, but are hydrologically/hydrogeologically connected are also provided in Table 3.1, and mapped on Figure 3.2. European Sites and Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) documents:

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [IE0000396] Version 7.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Red Bog, Kildare SAC [IE0000397] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Bray Head SAC [IE0000714] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Deputy’s Pass Nature Reserve SAC [IE0000717] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [IE0000719] Version 7.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 7.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Buckrone-y-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC [IE0000729] Version 1.

<sup>8</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>9</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC [IE0000733] Version 7.  
NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [IE0000770] Version 1.  
NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [IE0000781] Version 1.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Glensmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 6.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC [IE0001398] Version 6.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [IE0001742] Version 1.  
NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Holdenstown Bog SAC [IE0001757] Version 1.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Magherabeg Dunes SAC [IE0001766] Version 1.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.  
NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for The Murrrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 7.  
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Reef SAC [IE0002274] Version 1.  
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 6.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [IE0004063] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Head SPA [IE0004127] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for The Murrrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 7.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Mouds Bog SAC [IE002331] Version 1.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Plan against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

Sites downstream and beyond 15 km are considered by the AA. With regard to SPAs within, within 15km of and downstream of the County, provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will protect these sites from the full range of potential effects. Other SPAs would not be impacted upon due to distances involved.



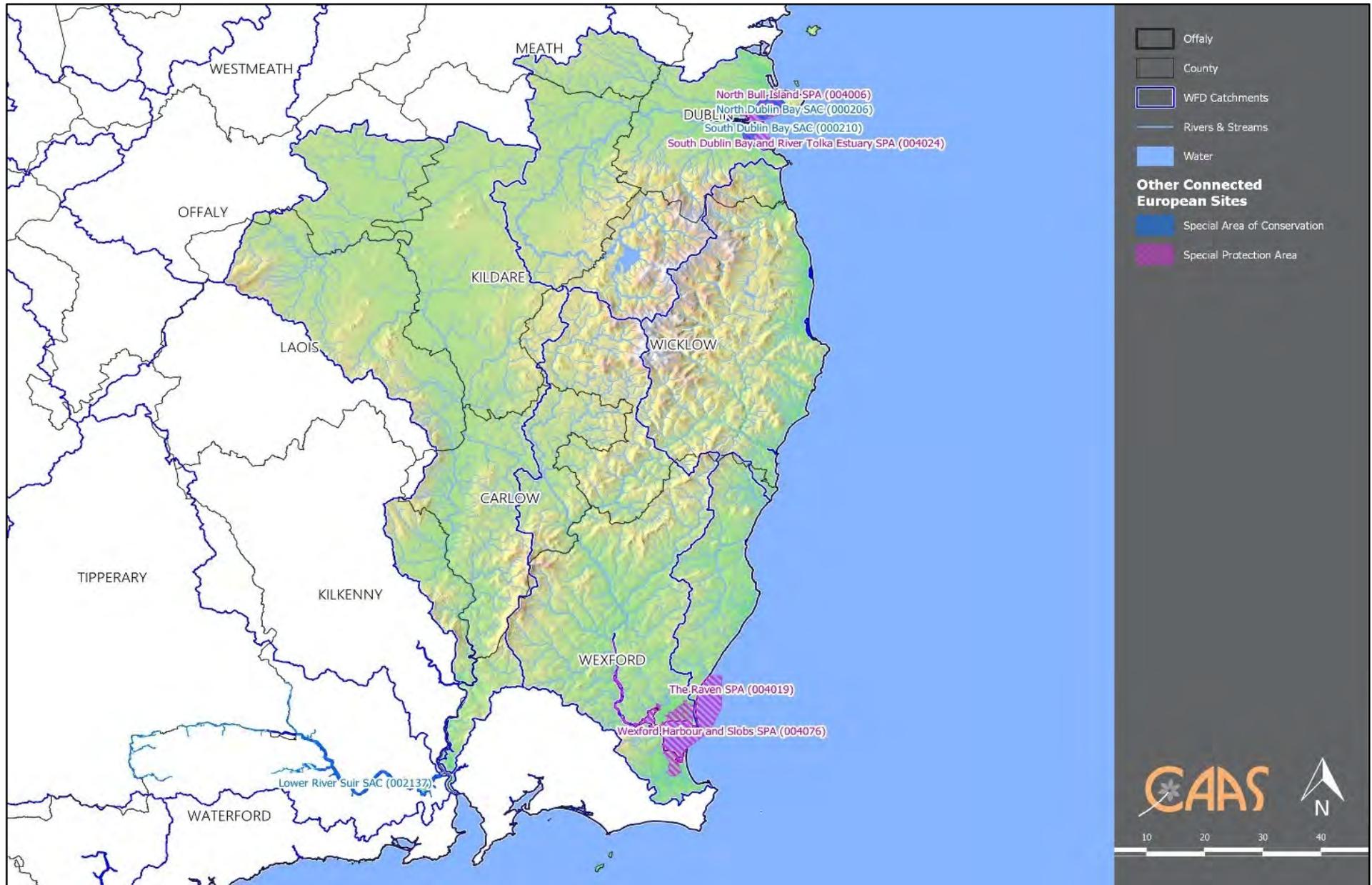


Figure 3.2 European Sites hydrologically linked to County Wicklow

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

#### 3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of Wicklow. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites.

#### 3.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Wicklow area. Plan elements that could potentially the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions, such as those relating to settlement, placemaking, housing, community, built heritage, economic, retail, tourism and recreation, transport, water services, flood risk management, waste and environmental infrastructure, energy and information infrastructure, green infrastructure and marine/coastal development, that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational and tourism developments.

The elements of the Plan with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are generally associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the Plan. The operational phase elements of the Plan are generally consistent with the existing condition of the area; however, these will also need to be carefully considered. All Plan provisions are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European Sites identified. The assessment considers the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified, potential effects are assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

#### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European Sites considering information provided above, including Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- The existence of potential for pathways for significant effects, such as hydrological links, Plan proposals and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the County boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential adverse effects that may arise from the Plan.

**Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	0	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000714	Bray Head SAC	0	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	0	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	0	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	0	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000729	Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC	0	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") [2120], Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) [2170], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Humid dune slacks [2190], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150], Alkaline fens [7230], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	0	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) [91A0]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	0	Estuaries [1130], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Common seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	0	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetia</i> ) [2150], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	0	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	0	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetia</i> ) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	0	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], European dry heaths [4030], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) [6230], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	0	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Atlantietalia maritima</i> ) ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	0	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098], Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	0	Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Lesser black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	0	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004186	The Murrrough SPA	0	Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001] Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within the County boundary, therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	0.43	Reefs [1170]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within 1 kilometre of the County boundary, and within a receiving catchment of the Wicklow Mountains (WFD catchment ID: 10, EPA maps), therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	0.45	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within 1 kilometre of the County boundary, and within a receiving catchment of the Wicklow Mountains (WFD catchment ID: 09, EPA maps), therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	1.78	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within 2 kilometres of the County boundary, and within a receiving catchment of the Wicklow Mountains (WFD catchment ID: 09, EPA maps), therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	4.19	Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351], Reefs [1170]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists within 5km of the coastal boundary of Wicklow County. Considering the significant role that Wicklow plays in source freshwater and catchment run off from the Wicklow Mountains, and the extensive natural range of the species designated as this SAC's qualifying feature, there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	6.55	Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SPA. Furthermore, at this scale – given the availability of resources within the landscape – it is not anticipated that significant effects to ex-situ foraging areas are likely. As there are no sources with pathways for significant effects foreseen, no further assessment is required.	No	No

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	8.57	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SAC, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for significant effects foreseen, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	8.57	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144] Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	This site is hydrologically connected to the County boundary, however due to distance and dilution effects, and lack of direct management by the council for the SPA, it is deemed that the Plan will not introduce any sources for effects to the habitats and species contained therein, or the land use of this SPA. Furthermore, at this scale – given the availability of resources within the landscape – it is not anticipated that significant effects to ex-situ foraging areas are likely. As there are no sources with pathways for significant effects foreseen, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	10.72	European dry heaths [4030], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	This site is designated for terrestrial habitat and species. They are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management etc. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	12.89	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0] Vertigo moulinsiana ( <i>Desmoulin's Whorl Snail</i> ) [1016] Margaritifera margaritifera ( <i>Freshwater Pearl Mussel</i> ) [1029] Austropotamobius pallipes ( <i>White-clawed Crayfish</i> ) [1092] Petromyzon marinus ( <i>Sea Lamprey</i> ) [1095] Lampetra planeri ( <i>Brook Lamprey</i> ) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis ( <i>River Lamprey</i> ) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax ( <i>Twaite Shad</i> ) [1103] Salmo salar ( <i>Salmon</i> ) [1106] Lutra lutra ( <i>Otter</i> ) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum ( <i>Killarney Fern</i> ) [1421] Margaritifera durrovensis ( <i>Nore Pearl Mussel</i> ) [1990]	This site is designated for terrestrial and freshwater species, covering a large expanse of the south-east of Ireland. However, the site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan as it is sourced from the Slieve Bloom and Blackstairs Mts., and as such, is contained within a separate catchment to the Wicklow Mts. receiving area (WFD catchment ID: 14, EPA maps). This in addition to the distance of over 12km from the Plan boundary, there are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	13.81	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Alkaline fens [7230], Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013]	This site is designated for terrestrial and freshwater species and hydrologically sensitive habitats. However, the site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan as it is sourced from the Slieve Bloom Mts., and as such, is contained within a separate catchment to the Wicklow Mts. receiving area (WFD catchment ID: 14, EPA maps). This in addition to the distance of over 12km from the Plan boundary, there are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
004006	North Bull Island SPA	14.01	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144] Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160] Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Due to distance, source waters, and dilution effects, this SPA is hydrologically isolated from the Plan area. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SPA. Furthermore, at this scale – given the availability of resources within the landscape – it is not anticipated that significant effects to ex-situ foraging areas are likely. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	14.03	Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120])	The site is designated for terrestrial and tidal habitats. There are no land use policies or sources for effects outside of Wicklow. Due to distance, source waters, and dilution effects, this SAC is hydrologically isolated from the Plan area. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	14.36	Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	This site is designated for terrestrial and freshwater species and hydrologically sensitive habitats. However, the site is hydrologically isolated from the Plan as it is sourced from the River Boyne (WFD catchment ID: 07, EPA maps), and as such, is fed from a separate catchment to the Wicklow Mts. receiving area (WFD catchment ID: 14, EPA maps). This in addition to the distance of over 14km from the Plan boundary, there are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required.	No	No
002331	Mouls Bog SAC	15.80	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. This European Site exists just outside of the 15km buffer zone from the County boundary. However, it is within a receiving catchment of the Wicklow Mountains (WFD catchment ID: 09, EPA maps), therefore there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site from the sources identified above. Therefore, further consideration is required under, Article 6(3), Stage 2 AA.	Yes	Yes

### 3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European Sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European Sites. These plans / programmes / strategies were considered throughout the assessment.

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

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

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional Policy Objectives, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions, such as the Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, Policy Objectives, 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.

All projects within the Plan area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Plan, it is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

Additional information on the relationship with other plans and programmes is provided at Appendix II.

### 3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The effects that could arise from the Plan have been examined in the context of several factors that could potentially affect the integrity of any European Site. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for AA, it is concluded that the Plan:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have adverse effects on the integrity on 23 (no.) European Sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Plan (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.3.



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL Mhantáin**  
**Wicklow County Council**

**Forbairt Pleanála agus Comhshaoil**  
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**Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

**Determination**

under  
the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,  
for the

**Emerging Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027**

In order to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Wicklow County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027 to have significant effects on European Sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the emerging Draft Plan). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening process assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have significant effects on any European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

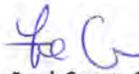
The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have adverse effects on the integrity of 23 (no.) European Sites.

Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions, such as those relating to settlement, placemaking, housing, community, built heritage, economic, retail, tourism and recreation, transport, water services, flood risk management, waste and environmental infrastructure, energy and information infrastructure, green infrastructure and marine/coastal development, that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational and tourism developments.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Report) is required for the emerging Draft Plan.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have a likely adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site and therefore an AA is required.

**Signatory:**   
**Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council**

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

*Tá an doiciméad seo ar fáil i bhformáidí eile ar iarratas.  
This document is available in alternative formats on request.*

Ba chóir gach comhfhreagras a sheoladh chuig an Stúráthóir Seirbhíse, Forbairt Pleanála agus Comhshaoil.  
All correspondence should be addressed to the Director of Services, Planning Development & Environment.



Figure 3.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination

## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 23 European Sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3.1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 23 (no.) European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 23 (no.) European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites’ vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website<sup>10</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects<sup>11</sup>

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>12</sup>:

**Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a Plan/Project.

**Magnitude** - Magnitude measures the size of an impact, which is described as high, medium, low, very low or negligible.

**Extent** - The area over that the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.

**Duration** - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

- Temporary: Up to 1 Year;
- Short Term: The effects would take 1-7 years to be mitigated;
- Medium Term: The effects would take 7-15 years to be mitigated;
- Long Term: The effects would take 15-60 years to be mitigated; and
- Permanent: The effects would take 60+ years to be mitigated.

**Likelihood** – The probability of the effect occurring taking into account all available information.

- Certain/Near Certain: >95% chance of occurring as predicted;
- Probable: 50-95% chance as occurring as predicted;
- Unlikely: 5-50% chance as occurring as predicted; and
- Extremely Unlikely: <5% chance as occurring as predicted.

**Ecologically Significant Impact** - An impact (negative or positive) on the integrity of a defined site or ecosystem and/or the conservation status of habitats or species within a given geographic area.

**Integrity of a Site** - The coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

The Habitats Directive requires the focus of the assessment at this stage to be on the integrity of the site as indicated by its Conservation Objectives. It is an aim of NPWS to draw up conservation management plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. These plans will, among other things, set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest within a site.

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCOs aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes that define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

*Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: ‘population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.’*

<sup>10</sup> Last accessed September 2022 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) “Guidelines for ecological impact assessment”; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) “Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements”; and National Roads Authority (2009) “Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes”.

*Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.*

**Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:**

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species that the SAC has been selected.

**Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:**

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

**4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects**

Assessment of potential adverse effects on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

**4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area**

The Plan provides for development across the County with specific settlements identified to facilitate more intensive development in these areas.

As identified above County Wicklow has several European Sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European Sites as a result of the Plan; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat

necessary for the ecological integrity of any European Site, such as CPO 17.4<sup>13</sup>, 17.5<sup>14</sup>, 17.6<sup>15</sup>, 17.7<sup>16</sup>, 17.8<sup>17</sup>, 17.9<sup>18</sup>, 17.10<sup>19</sup> and 17.11<sup>20</sup>.

These Policy Objectives will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European Sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

#### 4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

As previously stated, the Plan provides for developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss and/or removal of stepping stone habitats, for example. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European Site.

The Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European Sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources in measures such as : CPO 17.7<sup>21</sup> and CPO 17.8<sup>22</sup>. The Plan provides Policy Objectives to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones through mitigation such

<sup>13</sup> To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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\*. \* = Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 10.16 in Plan) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.

<sup>21</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

as mitigation measures such as CPO 17.12<sup>23</sup>, CPO 17.13<sup>24</sup>, CPO 17.14<sup>25</sup>, CPO 17.15<sup>26</sup>, CPO 17.16<sup>27</sup>, CPO 17.17<sup>28</sup> (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Inappropriate lighting will be minimised through the implementation of Policy Objectives set out in Chapter 10 of the Plan, such as CPO 15.17<sup>29</sup>, CPO 15.19<sup>30</sup> and CPO 15.20<sup>31</sup>.

Further to these provisions there are policy objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways: CPO13.1<sup>32</sup> and CPO13.3<sup>33</sup>, wetlands: CPO 17.25<sup>34</sup> and CPO 17.26<sup>35</sup>, peatlands CPO 17.33<sup>36</sup> etc. These policies apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation, including barrier effects, will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

#### 4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation in general, from the perspective that many of the tourism destinations or attractions in the area are in or adjacent to European Sites. In this regard, Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1<sup>37</sup>, CPO 11.4<sup>38</sup>, CPO

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>25</sup> 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 Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.

<sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> 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.

<sup>34</sup> 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.

<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.

<sup>37</sup> To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.

<sup>38</sup> 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.

11.47<sup>39</sup>, CPO 11.48<sup>40</sup> and CPO 11.49<sup>41</sup> ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected.

Various Plan provisions support the development of walking routes and/or tourism in potentially sensitive locations. Such developments in these locations, including the construction and operation of infrastructure and associated land use activities, could potentially impact upon various European sites.

The Plan accounts for noise pollution effects through Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.12<sup>42</sup> and CPO 15.13<sup>43</sup>, thereby affording protection to European Sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Plan avoid or minimise noise - in accordance with the EPA Noise Regulations (2006), and the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. The Plan also provides for measures around lighting (CPO 15.17<sup>44</sup>, CPO 15.19<sup>45</sup>, CPO 15.20<sup>46</sup>) and air (CPO 15.9<sup>47</sup>). Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality due to anthropocentric sensitivities for species such as the hen harrier (which is known to occur within Wicklow). Policies to ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the Plan; identified above, further details see Section 5).

These measures are robust, ensuring that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted. Relevant objectives are identified in Section 5.

#### **4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density**

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

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<sup>39</sup> Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to 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.

<sup>40</sup> 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.

<sup>41</sup> 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.

<sup>42</sup> 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.

<sup>43</sup> To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.

<sup>44</sup> 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.

<sup>45</sup> To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.

<sup>46</sup> 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.

<sup>47</sup> To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).

the Habitats and Birds Directives – such as CPO 17.4<sup>48</sup>, 17.5<sup>49</sup>, 17.6<sup>50</sup>, 17.7<sup>51</sup>, 17.8<sup>52</sup>, 17.9<sup>53</sup>, 17.10<sup>54</sup> and 17.11<sup>55</sup>. Overall, this Plan identifies the rigorous approach that will be taken when assessing the ecological impacts of a proposed development and the precautions surrounding this approach.

Furthermore, the Plan contains provisions to protect and management of biodiversity, including non-designated biodiversity, such as CPO 17.12<sup>56</sup>, CPO 17.13<sup>57</sup>, CPO 17.14<sup>58</sup>, CPO 17.15<sup>59</sup>, CPO 17.16<sup>60</sup> and CPO 17.17<sup>61</sup>. Similarly, the Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of species diversity overall through connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources

<sup>48</sup> To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), 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.

<sup>49</sup> 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\*. \* = Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>50</sup> 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.

<sup>51</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>52</sup> 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.

<sup>53</sup> The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.

<sup>54</sup> 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.

<sup>55</sup> To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 10.16 in Plan) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.

<sup>56</sup> 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.

<sup>57</sup> 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.

<sup>58</sup> 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 Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

<sup>59</sup> 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.

<sup>60</sup> Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.

<sup>61</sup> 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.

in developments (e.g., 17.6<sup>62</sup>, 17.7<sup>63</sup>, 17.8<sup>64</sup>). Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as: woodlands: CPO 17.18<sup>65</sup>, hedgerows: CPO 17.23<sup>66</sup>, soils: CPO 17.27<sup>67</sup> and pollinators: CPO 17.16<sup>68</sup>. These Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5). In addition to this the Plan identifies Policy Objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards. Further details in relation to relevant mitigation measures are in Section 5 below.

#### 4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Plan contains many robust Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Abstractions for drinking water could individually and/or cumulatively could impact upon ecology, including European Sites. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European Sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European Sites. Policy Objectives that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European Sites include: CPO 17.24<sup>69</sup>; CPO 17.25<sup>70</sup>; and CPO 17.26<sup>71</sup>.

Similarly, emissions to air and hazardous waste have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European Sites; however, the Plan contains Policy Objectives such as CPO 15.9<sup>72</sup>, which accounts for this. Increased development pressures could place additional loadings onto the existing waste water treatment plant facilities. Section 4 of the SEA identifies the currently loadings for Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) in the County, indicating there is additional capacity within the existing infrastructure at most locations (see Table 4.3 of the associated SEA Environmental Report for further details).

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<sup>62</sup> Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora (Article 10, EU Habitats directive). An Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive will be required in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

<sup>63</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>64</sup> 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.

<sup>65</sup> To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.

<sup>66</sup> To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).

<sup>67</sup> 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.

<sup>68</sup> Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.

<sup>69</sup> 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.

<sup>70</sup> 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.

<sup>71</sup> 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.

<sup>72</sup> To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).

Additionally, policies such as CPO13.3<sup>73</sup>, CPO 9.49<sup>74</sup>, CPO 17.14<sup>75</sup>, CPO 17.24<sup>76</sup> and CPO 17.25<sup>77</sup> provide broader scope to ensure the protection of wildlife corridors, and the wider catchment zones associated with riparian habitats and areas sensitive to hydrological interactions.

#### **4.3.1.6 Climate change**

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Policy Objective CPO 17.5 provides that “Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>78</sup>”. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

#### **4.3.2 Additional Commentary on Settlement Plans contained in Volume 2**

In Volume 2, the Plan provides settlement plans containing local and land use zoning objectives. These settlement plans must comply with provisions for the protection and management of European Sites contained in the Written Statement (Volume 1) of the Plan (these measures are identified throughout the subsections under 4.3.1 above and in Section 5 of this Natura Impact Report).

The settlement plans have been assessed as part of this Stage 2 AA and provide for no additional sources of effects outside those described under Section 4.3.1 above for which mitigation is already provided for by the main Written Statement of the Plan (see 4.3.1 above and Section 5). Further mitigation is provided within the settlement plans in Volume 2 and examples of these measures are provided in Section 5.

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<sup>73</sup> 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) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.

<sup>74</sup> 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.

<sup>75</sup> 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 Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

<sup>76</sup> 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.

<sup>77</sup> 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.

<sup>78</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan<sup>79</sup>**

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are hunting, leisure fishing, dispersed habitation, grazing, sand and gravel extraction and fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: fisheries, extraction of materials, agricultural practices, and tourism and recreational activities. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan also provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration with extraction of natural materials within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, cultivation, groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, discontinuous urbanisation, continuous urbanisation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, forest planting on open ground, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, other point source pollution to surface water, roads, motorways, grazing and sand and gravel extraction.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, extraction of materials, hydrological impacts, direct land take, waste disposal, and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000714	Bray Head SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are erosion, urbanised areas, human habitation, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, burning down, motorised vehicles, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, non intensive cattle grazing, species composition change (succession) and vandalism.</p> <p>These threats relate to: direct land use management, tourism and recreation, direct land take and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>The Plan supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. The Plan also further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These provisions would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Plan would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing, species composition change (succession), raising the groundwater table or artificially recharge groundwater, forest planting on open ground, dispersed habitation, fertilisation, non-intensive horse grazing, landfill and land reclamation and drying out.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, hydrological interactions, agricultural practices and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National</p>

<sup>79</sup> 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.

<sup>80</sup> For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

<sup>81</sup> Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019)

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
		<p>Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are grazing in forests or woodland, grazing, attraction park, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, vandalism, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, silviculture, forestry and forest replanting (native trees).</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, waste disposal, invasive species, recreational and tourism activities and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, roads, motorways, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, attraction park, grazing, golf course, burning down, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees and vandalism.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, direct land use management, tourism and recreational activities, direct land take and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, improved access to site, removal of forest undergrowth, camping and caravans, interpretative centres, invasive non-native species, grazing, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, discontinuous urbanisation, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), forest planting on open ground, roads, motorways, vandalism, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, paths, tracks and cycling tracks.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, direct land use management, tourism and recreational activities, direct land take and agricultural practices, extraction of materials and direct land take. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000729	Buckronegy-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are stock feeding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, fertilisation, erosion, camping and caravans, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, species composition change (succession), non intensive grazing, airport, intensive cattle grazing, vandalism, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, non intensive mowing, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, golf course, trampling, overuse, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, invasive non-native species, discontinuous urbanisation and hunting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: Tourism and recreation, agricultural practices, direct land management, land take, pollution, waste disposal, invasive species and hydrological impacts. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
		<p>such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are dispersed habitation, forest replanting (native trees), taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), poaching, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), invasive non-native species, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), damage caused by game (excess population density), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles. These pressures relate to: direct land take and management, agricultural practices, extraction of materials, tourism and recreational use. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for Rathdrum Plan (level 4) such as: RT13, aims to protect natural heritage in accordance with the overarching objectives set out in Volume 1. The Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan includes policies such as: LG19 and LG20 to mitigate against tourism and development pressures that are heightened in this area due to the sensitive ecological location within the Wicklow Mountains. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are cultivation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, storage of materials, forest and Plantation management &amp; use, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, invasive non-native species, irrigation, modifying structures of inland water courses, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, erosion, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, bridge, viaduct, bait digging or collection, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish), fertilisation, fishing harbours, discharges, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, sand and gravel extraction, predator control, water abstractions from surface waters, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, bottom culture and surface water abstractions for agriculture. These pressures relate to: direct land take and management, agricultural practices, extraction of materials, tourism and recreational use, invasive species, hydrological impacts and fisheries. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for Tinahely Plan (level 5) such as: AA1; TIN18 and TIN19 aim to protect the Slaney River Valley SAC relative to local development. The Shillelagh Plan specifies an objective to “safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed development.” The Donard Plan includes an objective to “protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Browns Beck Brook”. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, leisure fishing, abandonment or lack of mowing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, non-intensive sheep grazing, forest planting on open ground (native trees), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, forest replanting (non-native trees), artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), roads, paths and railroads, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered communities, non-intensive cattle grazing, non-intensive horse grazing, car parks and parking areas, peat extraction, mowing or cutting of grassland, discontinuous urbanisation and grazing. These pressures relate to: direct land take and management, agricultural practices, extraction of materials, tourism and recreational use, invasive species, hydrological impacts and fisheries. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
		<p>sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are problematic native species, burning down, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, species composition change (succession), off-road motorized driving, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, erosion, outdoor sports and leisure activities and recreational activities.</p> <p>These pressures relate to tourism and recreational activities, direct land use management, and flood and coastal defences. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. Policy objectives such as CPO 19.15 and CPO14.02, CPO14.03, CPO14.04 and CPO14.05 ensure that where flood and coastal management is required that it is done in the most sustainable manner and with regard to sensitive biodiversity and retention of areas of valuable ecosystem services where possible.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are grazing, suspended electricity and phone lines, cultivation, forest planting on open ground, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, agricultural practices and hydrological impacts. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, non-intensive grazing, vandalism, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, species composition change (succession), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, erosion and pollution to surface waters by industrial plants.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, agricultural practices, hydrological impacts, tourism and recreational activities. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, Fences, fencing, Wildlife watching, Damage by herbivores (including game species), trampling, overuse, grazing in forests or woodland, Stock feeding, Burning down, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, collapse of terrain, landslide, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, vandalism, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, urbanised areas, human habitation, military manoeuvres, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), erosion, peat extraction, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, off-road motorized driving, grazing, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched) and taking from nest (e.g. falcons).</p> <p>These pressures relate to invasive species, direct land use management, hydrological interactions, tourism, recreational use, agricultural practices and waste disposal and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
		<p>for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19.</p> <p>Additional policies for Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan such as: LG19 and LG20 aim to mitigate against tourism and development pressures that are heightened in this area due to the sensitive ecological location within the Wicklow Mountains National Park and SAC. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, Disposal of industrial waste, Silviculture, forestry, Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, sand and gravel extraction, modification of water flow (tidal &amp; marine currents), erosion, railway lines, TGV, paths, tracks and cycling tracks and fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, hydrological interactions, tourism, recreational use, agricultural practices and waste disposal and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for the Ashford Plan (Level 5) such as: ASH12 aims to provide support county level mitigation in protecting watercourses within the Plan area that are hydrologically linked to the Murrough Wetlands European Sites. Newcastle Plan (Level 6) also specifies policy objectives for the river running through the Plan that is hydrologically linked to the Murrough European Sites that aims to: "protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrough Wetlands SAC / SPA". Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>The Plan supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. The Plan also further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These provisions would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Plan would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are netting, Date mussel-fishing, leisure fishing, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, scuba diving, snorkelling, potting, benthic dredging and benthic or demersal trawling.</p> <p>These pressures relate to fisheries, waste disposal, tourism and recreational activities and land use management. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The plan also provides for the sustainable development and management of the fishing and aquaculture industry via Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.49 and CPO 9.50.</p> <p>The Plan further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. This would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures have been integrated into the Plan that would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are silviculture, forestry, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, interpretative centres and peat extraction.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, tourism, recreational use, agricultural practices and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
		<p>of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are leisure fishing, forest planting on open ground, nautical sports, bridge, viaduct and hunting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, tourism, recreational use and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. The plan also provides for the sustainable development and management of the fishing and aquaculture industry via Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.49 and CPO 9.50. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, tourism and recreational activities. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004186	The Murrrough SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are railway lines, TGV, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles and fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use, tourism and recreational activities and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for the Ashford Plan (Level 5) such as: ASH12 aims to provide support county level mitigation in protecting watercourses within the Plan area that are hydrologically linked to the Murrrough Wetlands European Sites. Newcastle Plan (Level 6) also specifies policy objectives for the river running through the Plan that is hydrologically linked to the Murrrough European Sites that aims to: "protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrrough Wetlands SAC / SPA".</p> <p>The Plan supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. The Plan also further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These provisions would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Plan would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are discharges, noise nuisance, noise pollution, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, utility and service lines, professional active fishing, removal of sediments and shipping lanes.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use, pollution, waste disposal, fisheries and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The plan also provides for the sustainable development and management of the fishing and aquaculture industry via Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.49 and CPO 9.50. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan also provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration with extraction of natural materials within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name <sup>80</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>81</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning, overgrazing and conversion to forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, agricultural practices and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

## Section 5 Mitigation Measures

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above. The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites are identified in Table 5.1 below. Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current 2016-2022 Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated. All mitigation measures apply to all developments and European sites, as relevant, to be determined at project level, when the nature, location, size, layout and operational processes associated with individual and combinations of projects are known.

**Table 5.1 Mitigation Measures that will contribute towards the protection of European Sites<sup>82</sup>**

Topic	Plan measures, including:
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b>                      Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p><b>Tourism and Recreation</b></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>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><b>Environmental Protection</b></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><b>Corridor and Route Selection</b></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><b>Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity Objectives</b></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Protected sites and species</b></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>

<sup>82</sup> Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),</li> <li>• Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p><b>Sites &amp; Corridors of ecological &amp; biodiversity value</b></p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p><b>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</b></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 environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B &amp; 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>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal trails linking up with existing recreational trails, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.</p> <p>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><b>Recreation and Tourism</b></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"> <li>• 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 ;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.29 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><b>Light Pollution Objectives</b></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 &amp; 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><b>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</b></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 plan<sup>83</sup>.</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><b>Cell 2 Bray Head CPO 19.17</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To protect and enhance Bray Head, in accordance with the SAAO.</li> <li>2. To maintain and enhance amenity routes on Bray Head and in particular the cliff path from Bray to Greystones.</li> <li>3. To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps, while preserving the rugged and natural character of the area and its paths</li> <li>4. To protect all listed views and prospects to or from Bray Head as set out in the Local Area Plan for Bray MD and County Development Plan.</li> <li>5. Development, which would reduce existing areas of heathland, maritime grassland and wooded areas, will not normally be permitted except for reasons of overriding public interest.</li> <li>6. To facilitate existing agricultural usage of Bray Head, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitat diversity.</li> <li>7. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its amenity and green break function between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:</li> </ol>

<sup>83</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</p> <p>b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</p> <p>c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</p> <p>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft or hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown) CPO 19.18</b></p> <p>1. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its function as a green break between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:</p> <p>a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</p> <p>b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</p> <p>c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</p> <p>2. To maintain and enhance the cliff path from Bray to Greystones, while preserving its rugged and natural character.</p> <p>3. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 4 Greystones Town CPO 19.19</b></p> <p>1. To support the objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole, in particular to provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park. The development shall provide leisure, recreational, open space and marine facilities, and mixed form residential, commercial, civic and social amenities, centred around the harbour and marina. The development shall provide a link to the coastline with public access and coastal protection works provided to preserve the landscape from further erosion in the future.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage and changing / toilet facilities.</p> <p><b>Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin) CPO 19.20</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</p> <p>2. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>3. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</p> <p>4. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</p> <p>7. To facilitate and support the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities.</p> <p>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the ecological and amenity value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</b></p> <p>1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</p> <p>3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations.</p> <p>6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</p> <p>7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</p> <p>8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</p> <p>9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p>10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</b></p> <p>1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively.</p> <p>3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port.</p> <p>5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south.</p> <p>6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</b></p> <p>1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>a) The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites;</p>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>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);</p> <p>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and</p> <p>d) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>e) automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 9 Brittas Bay CPO 19.24</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. To protect, conserve and encourage the recovery of the beach-dune system at Brittas Bay, in accordance with the conservation objectives for which the SAC is designated, and as per site specific conservation management prescriptions prepared in 2018. Development that results in the erosion of the beach-dune system will not be permitted. In this respect, the Council will particularly ensure protection against erosion caused by amenity and recreational use of the dunes.</p> <p>4. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>7. All services and facilities to serve the local community and tourists shall be located within the boundaries of Ballynacarrig Village. Notwithstanding this, one small-scale local service type development shall be considered in proximity to the South Beach car park. The development may comprise a shop/service garage/pub/restaurant/café development. The maximum floor area of the development shall be 200m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>8. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>a) New tourist accommodation shall be directed into one of the three identified development clusters of Ballynacarrig Village, Brittas Bridge and Cornagower (as shown on Map XX.02), or to existing developed sites. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where the following criteria are complied with, will accommodation be considered on a greenfield site outside a cluster:</p> <p>i. the development shall be located in close proximity to the identified clusters and shall have or be provided with direct and high quality connections to the clusters and to the coast;</p> <p>ii. the development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</p> <p>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);</p> <p>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design;</p> <p>d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>f) The development of temporary camping/glamping sites may be considered strictly on the basis of: the use being seasonal only (March - October) and the full removal of all temporary structure and facilities at the end of each season, the highest quality of design and layout being employed, including excellent screening, strict adherence to environmental controls especially with regard to waste/wastewater disposal.</p> <p>9. To limit the size of existing public car parks to the present levels and to support the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the road at Cornagower East.</p> <p>10. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>11. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>12. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 10 Mizen Head to Arklow (Sallymount / Johnstown) CPO 19.25</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>a) New tourist accommodation shall be limited to suitable sites west of the coast road that are served by high quality road network and are or can be provided with direct and proximate access to the coast.</p> <p>b) Permission will only be considered for new tourist accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc).</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design.</p> <p>d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types.</p> <p>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>7. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>8. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the coast road, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>9. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>10. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water and energy infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p><b>Cell 11 Arklow Environs CPO 19.26</b></p> <p>1. To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Arklow coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the Arklow Town and Environs Local Area Plan.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>3. To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour / marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone Jetty.</p> <p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 12 Arklow Head / Clogga CPO 19.27</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>3. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>4. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>6. New tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing developed cluster at Clogga or to existing developed sites:</p> <p>a) permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</p> <p>b) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited;</p> <p>d) automated gates will not be permitted on any development; and</p> <p>e) new development shall have or be provided with high quality direct access to the main traffic routes;</p> <p>f) development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</p> <p>7. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>8. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</p>
Soil	<p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>CPO 17.34 Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to: Peatland stability; Carbon emissions balance; and Hydrology and ecology.</p>
Water	<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 9.39 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><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></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>CPO13.2 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>

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>CPO13.3 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>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 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><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <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><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow - Blessington – Aughrim - Tinahely - Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></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: <b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></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><b>Flood Risk Management Objectives</b></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 of a significant conveyance capacity 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><b>Water Systems</b></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>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution Objectives</b></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><b>Noise Pollution Objectives</b></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><b>Climatic Factors</b></p> <p>CPO 12.7 To facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles types, including the roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations.</p> <p>CPO 12.9 To seek to ensure all new or upgraded transport infrastructure is climate resilient.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape, Views &amp; Prospects</b></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>PO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>
<p><b>More detailed provisions from Settlement and Town Plans</b></p>	<p><b>Level 4 – Introduction</b> To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.</p> <p><b>European Sites Objectives</b></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 plan<sup>84</sup>.</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 as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 4 - Rathdrum</b></p> <p>RT13 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><b>Level 4 - Baltinglass</b></p> <p><b>BALT11</b> 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>

<sup>84</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Topic	Plan measures, including:
	<p><b>Level 4 - Newtownmountkennedy</b></p> <p><b>NK14</b> 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><b>NK22</b> 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><b>Level 5 Introduction: European Sites Objectives</b> To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development. Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>85</sup>. 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. 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 as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Carnew</b> CAR1 New residential development shall comply with the principles, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Tinahely:</b> AA1 Objectives: Any proposal shall have regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC which is in close proximity to this site. SLO 1 Integrated Employment — Churchland: Any proposal shall have regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC. TIN18 To protect the integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC, in light of the sites conservation objectives TIN1 New residential development shall comply with the principles, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Ashford</b> ASH12 To safeguard the integrity of streams and rivers in the plan area, in particular all watercourses that are hydrologically linked to The Murrough Natura 2000 site, including the use of adequate buffer zones between watercourses and proposed developments.</p> <p><b>Level 6 Introduction: European Sites Objectives</b> <b>European Sites Objectives</b> To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development. Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>86</sup>. 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. 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 as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 6 – Donard</b> Specific Development Objectives 1. To protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Browns Beck Brook</p> <p><b>Level 6 – Shillelagh</b> 1. To safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed development.</p> <p><b>Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan</b> LG19 To have regard to the 'Management Plan for Wicklow Mountains National Park' regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation objectives of the park, or on issues regarding visitor access. LG20 No development will be permitted that adversely affects the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. All development proposals shall comply with the following objectives: (i) On lands designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' it is an objective of the Council to preserve and improve the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to prohibit development that adversely affects the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, in light of the site's conservation objectives. Land designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). (ii) Any proposed development with potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and 'Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland-Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2009). (iii) Avoid encroachment on a Natura 2000 site and implement an appropriate buffer zone on adjacent sites, as required, where feasible or as determined following consultation with NPWS or other relevant body. (iv) Ensure that recreational use is directed away from sensitive areas within the Natura 2000 site, in accordance with the Wicklow Mountains National Park Management Plan and in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit. LG31 Development will be controlled to ensure that the overall landscape character of this area, and the ability to enjoy and experience same particularly on the route from Laragh to Glendalough is not diminished, and in particular vistas of Glendalough and the surrounding mountains and valley from the road shall be maintained and protected.</p>

<sup>85</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>86</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

## Section 6 Conclusion

Implementation of the Plan<sup>87</sup> to be adopted has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European Sites, if unmitigated.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 to be adopted is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>88</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the Plan.

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<sup>87</sup> Incorporating: the Draft Plan; all alterations and any Chief Executive's Recommendations from 2022 included in Section 5 "Mitigation Measures" in this report; any other further modification considered by the AA process; and any other Chief Executive's Recommendations from 2022. 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.

<sup>88</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

# Appendix I Background information on European Sites

List of European Sites considered by the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ) [1395], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> )) [1330], Humid dune slacks [2190]	F02.03.01, A04, J01.01, E02, H01.03, G01.01, G05.05, F02.03, G02.01, E03, K03.06, I01, H01.09, G01.02, E01	bait digging or collection, grazing, burning down, Industrial or commercial areas, Other point source pollution to surface water, nautical sports, Intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, leisure fishing, golf course, discharges, Antagonism with domestic animals, invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]	D01.02, F02.03.01, M01, H03, K02.02, E01, D01.01, E02, K02, G01.01.02, J02.01.02, G01.02, E03, G01.01	Roads, motorways, bait digging or collection, Changes in abiotic conditions, Marine water pollution, Accumulation of organic material, urbanised areas, human habitation, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, Industrial or commercial areas, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Non-motorized nautical sports, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, discharges, Nautical sports
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Desmoulin's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014], Alkaline fens [7230]	F02.03, C01.01, J01, E01.03, A04, F03.01, E03.01, D02.01, B	leisure fishing, sand and gravel extraction, fire and fire suppression, Dispersed habitation, grazing, hunting, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Electricity and phone lines, Sylviculture, forestry
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	F03.01, F02.03, E01.03, A04, C01.01, A08	hunting, leisure fishing, Dispersed habitation, grazing, sand and gravel extraction, fertilisation
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	A08, A01, H02.01, E01.02, E01.01, E03.01, B01, A10.01, H01.03, D01.02, A04, C01.01	fertilisation, cultivation, Groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, discontinuous urbanisation, Continuous urbanisation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, forest planting on open ground, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Other point source pollution to surface water, roads, motorways, grazing, sand and gravel extraction
000714	Bray Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	K01.01, E01, D01.01, J01.01, G01.03, A10.01, A04.02.01, K02.01, G05.04	erosion, urbanised areas, human habitation, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, Burning down, Motorised vehicles, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, non intensive cattle grazing, species composition change (succession), vandalism
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A04.03, K02.01, J02.08, B01, E01.03, A08, A04.02.03, J02.01	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, species composition change (succession), Raising the groundwater table or artificial recharge of groundwater, forest planting on open ground, Dispersed habitation, fertilisation, non intensive horse grazing, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0]	B06, A04, G02.06, E03.01, G05.04, I01, G01.02, B, B02.01.01	Grazing in forests or woodland, grazing, attraction park, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, vandalism, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Sylviculture, forestry and forest replanting (native trees)
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0]	I01, D01.02, G05.07, G01.02, G02.06, A04, G02.01, J01.01, G05.06, G05.04	invasive non-native species, roads, motorways, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, attraction park, grazing, golf course, Burning down, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees and vandalism
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	G01.02, D05, B02.03, G02.08, G03, I01, A04, G05.06, E03.01, E01.02, B01.02, B01, D01.02, G05.04, G05.07, D01.01	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, improved access to site, removal of forest undergrowth, camping and caravans, interpretative centres, invasive non-native species, grazing, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, discontinuous urbanisation, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), forest planting on open ground, roads, motorways, vandalism, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, paths, tracks and cycling tracks
000729	Buckroneys Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salicion arenariae</i> ) [2170], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Alkaline fens [7230], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190]	A05.02, E03.01, A08, K01.01, G02.08, G01.02, K02.01, A04.02, D04.01, A04.01.01, G05.04, A10.01, A03.02, J01, J02, G02.01, G05.01, H02.07, I01, E01.02, F03.01	Stock feeding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, fertilisation, erosion, camping and caravans, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, species composition change (succession), non intensive grazing, airport, intensive cattle grazing, vandalism, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, non intensive mowing, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, golf course, trampling, overuse, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, invasive non-native species, discontinuous urbanisation and hunting
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0]	E01.03, B02.01.01, F03.02, F05.04, B04, I01, F04.02, F03.01.01, G01.02	Dispersed habitation, forest replanting (native trees), taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), poaching, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), invasive non-native species, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), damage caused by game (excess population density), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030]	A04.02, B02, K01.01, A04.01.02, G01.02, J01.01, K02.01, G01.03.02, E03	non intensive grazing, forest and Plantation management & use, erosion, Intensive sheep grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Burning down, species composition change (succession), off-road motorized driving, discharges

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Estuaries [1130], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Common seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096]	A01, J02.11, E05, B02, J02.12.02, H01.05, I01, A09, J02.05.02, J02, K01.01, H01.08, D01.05, F02.03.01, H01.01, H01, A08, D03.01.03, E03, D01.01, C01.01, F03.02.04, J02.06, A10.01, F01.03, J02.06.01	cultivation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, storage of materials, forest and Plantation management & use, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, invasive non-native species, irrigation, modifying structures of inland water courses, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, erosion, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, bridge, viaduct, bait digging or collection, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), fertilisation, fishing harbours, discharges, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, sand and gravel extraction, predator control, water abstractions from surface waters, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, bottom culture and surface water abstractions for agriculture
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ) [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	I01, B02.02, F02.03, A03.03, H01.05, A08, A04.02.02, B01.01, J02, H01.08, B02.01.02, B01.02, D01, H02.07, A04.02.01, A04.02.03, D01.03, C01.03, A03, E01.02, A04	invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, leisure fishing, abandonment or lack of mowing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, non intensive sheep grazing, forest planting on open ground (native trees), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, forest replanting (non-native trees), artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), roads, paths and railroads, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, non intensive cattle grazing, non intensive horse grazing, car parks and parking areas, peat extraction, mowing or cutting of grassland, discontinuous urbanisation and grazing
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	Desmoulin's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ) [1014]	E01.03, A10.01, A04, D01.02, A08, E01.01, J02.05.02, B	Dispersed habitation, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, grazing, roads, motorways, fertilisation, Continuous urbanisation, modifying structures of inland water courses, Sylviculture, forestry
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ) [2150], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110]	I02, J01.01, J02.12.01, K02.01, G01.03.02, E03.01, K01.01, G01	Problematic native species, Burning down, Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, species composition change (succession), off-road motorized driving, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, erosion, outdoor sports and leisure activities and recreational activities.
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	A04, D02.01.01, A01, B01, J02.01.03, J02	Grazing, suspended electricity and phone lines, cultivation, forest planting on open ground, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Shifting dunes (Embryonic shifting dunes) [2110], Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ) [2150], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") [2120], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") [2130]	A04.03, H01.04, A04.02, G05.04, G05.07, K02.01, G01.02, K01.01, H01.01	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, non intensive grazing, vandalism, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, species composition change (succession), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, erosion and pollution to surface waters by industrial plants.
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) [6230], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	I01, G05.09, G02.09, K04.05, G05.01, B06, A05.02, J01.01, G01.04, F03, G01.02, L05, G01, G05.07, G05.04, D01.01, E01, G04.01, E03.01, F04.02, K01.01, C01.03, G05.06, G01.03.02, A04, B02.05, F03.02.02	invasive non-native species, Fences, fencing, Wildlife watching, Damage by herbivores (including game species), trampling, overuse, grazing in forests or woodland, Stock feeding, Burning down, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, collapse of terrain, landslide, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, vandalism, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, urbanised areas, human habitation, Military manoeuvres, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), erosion, peat extraction, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, off-road motorized driving, grazing, non intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched) and taking from nest (e.g. falcons)
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], European dry heaths [4030], Desmoulin's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> ) [1016], Killarney fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> ) [1421], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092], Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles) [91A0], Reefs [1170], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Estuaries [1130], Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) [1103], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	I01, M01, B02.01.01, A04.01.01, A02.01, B05, F02.03, E02, J02.05.02, F01.01, C01.03, J02, K01.01, C01.01.01, J03.02.01, F02.01.02, D03.01, J02.12.02, A10.01, H01, J02.02.01, B02, F02, J02.06, B07	invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions, forest replanting (native trees), intensive cattle grazing, Agricultural intensification, Use of fertilizers (forestry), leisure fishing, Industrial or commercial areas, modifying structures of inland water courses, Intensive fish farming, intensification, peat extraction, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, erosion, Sand and gravel quarries, Reduction in migration or migration barriers, Netting, Port areas, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Dredging or removal of limnic sediments, forest and Plantation management & use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, water abstractions from surface waters, Forestry activities not referred to above
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallanae</i> [7210], Atlantic salt meadows (Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )) [1330], Alkaline fens [7230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	G01.02, A04, E03.02, B, J02.12.01, C01.01, F02.05.01, K01.01, D01.04, D01.01, A08	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, Disposal of industrial waste, Sylviculture, forestry, Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, sand and gravel extraction, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), erosion, railway lines, TGV, paths, tracks and cycling tracks and fertilisation
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	Reefs [1170]	F02.01.02, F05.02, F02.03, J02.11.01, G01.07, F02.01.01, F02.02.05, F02.02.01	Netting, Date mussel-fishing, leisure fishing, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, scuba diving, snorkelling, potting, benthic dredging and benthic or demersal trawling
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Reefs [1170], Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351]	D03.02, D02, F02.02, J02.02, E03, H06.01, J02.11	shipping lanes, utility and service lines, professional active fishing, removal of sediments (mud...), discharges, noise nuisance, noise pollution, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Ruff ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ) [A151], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ) [A222], Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179]	D01.02, E01.04, G01.02, G01.01, E03, E01.01, G02.01, E02, D03.02, D01.05, G03, F02.03.01	Roads, motorways, Other patterns of habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, discharges, Continuous urbanisation, golf course, Industrial or commercial areas, shipping lanes, bridge, viaduct, interpretative centres, bait digging or collection
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Mediterranean gull ( <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> ) [A176], Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]	G01.01, E02, F02.03.01, F02.03, E03, J02.01.02, E01, K02.03, G01.02, D01.02	nautical sports, Industrial or commercial areas, bait digging or collection, leisure fishing, discharges, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, urbanised areas, human habitation, Eutrophication (natural), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, roads, motorways
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Wood warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> ) [A314], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	B, G01.02, A04, D01.01, G03, C01.03	Sylviculture, forestry, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, interpretative centres and peat extraction
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Lesser black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053]	F02.03, B01, G01.01, D01.05, F03.01	leisure fishing, forest planting on open ground, nautical sports, bridge, viaduct and hunting
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103], Black-legged kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Common guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Northern fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009]	G01.02	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]	G01.01, G01.02, E01, A04	nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation, grazing
004186	The Murrrough SPA	Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Ruff ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ) [A151], Sandwich tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ) [A222], Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Herring gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Little tern ( <i>Sterna albiglans</i> ) [A195], Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) [A026], Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> ) [A051], Red-throated diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001]	D01.04, G01.02, A08	railway lines, TGV, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles and fertilisation
002331	Mouds Bog	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	A04, J01, A01, BE02, C01.03.02, I01	Grazing, burning down, cultivation, peat extraction, walking, invasive non-native species.

List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Twaite Shad ( <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> )	[1103]	Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Alpine and Boreal heaths	[4060]	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> )	[2150]		
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa ( <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> )	[6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> )	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Dunes with willow scrub ( <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> and <i>Salicion arenariae</i> )	[2170]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Embryonic shifting dunes	[2110]	Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	[2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn ( <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> ).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Humid dune slacks	[2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	[6430]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
River Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> )	[1099]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Brook Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> )	[1096]	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	[1029]	In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due to urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	[4010]	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Petalwort ( <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> )	[1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Sea Lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )	[1095]	Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	[1365]		
Harbour Porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> )	[1351]	Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries.	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	[1106]	Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations.	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> )	[8110]	Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment.	erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Transition mires and quaking bogs	[7140]	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. erosion, land-use changes.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Killarney Fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> )	[1421]	Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses.	Land use management and direct impacts.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[1230]	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force.	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo angustior</i> )	[1014]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Geyer's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	[1013]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> )	[1016]	Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites.	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation ( <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> )	[3260]	Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.

List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Current threats to Qualifying Interests		Vulnerabilities of species of conservation interest
Red-throated diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001] Great crested grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005] Northern fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Northern gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> ) [A016] Great cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ) [A026] Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038] Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043] Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser [Iceland/UK/Ireland]</i> ) [A043] Common shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Eurasian wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050] Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera</i> ) [A051] Eurasian teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053] Northern pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Northern shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Common goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]	Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069] Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098] Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103] Eurasian oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] European golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Northern lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142] Red knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144] Ruff ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ) [A151] Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Eurasian curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160] Common redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Common greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164] Ruddy turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169] Mediterranean gull ( <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> ) [A176]	Black-headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Mew gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182] Lesser black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183] Herring gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] Black-legged kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Sandwich tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191] Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194] Little tern ( <i>Sterna albibronis</i> ) [A195] Common gullmote ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200] Atlantic puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204] Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ) [A222] Wood warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> ) [A314] Greenland white-fronted goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]
Wetlands for waterbirds [A999]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised, and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km.</li> <li>Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.</li> <li>Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.</li> <li>Availability of nesting/roosting habitat.</li> <li>Vegetation composition, structure and functionality</li> </ul> Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.

# Appendix II Relationship Other 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
<b>International/European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>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 to a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>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</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>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</li> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> <li>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> <li>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	<p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<p>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.</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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
UN Kyoto Protocol (2 <sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	Identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complementary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	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>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <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>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>o Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>o Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>o Shellfish Directive</li> <li>o Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>o Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>o Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>• Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	<p>bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>• Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>• Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>• Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>• Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>• The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>• Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>• The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>• The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Financing</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<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"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<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"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	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"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	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"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	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"> <li>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.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy</b>	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 [in preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>	In preparation	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European Sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> </ul>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>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,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action Plan</b>	The National Climate Action Plan is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources.	The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050. The Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b>	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European Sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action Charter (2019)</b>	Wicklow County Council signed up to the Climate Action Charter in December 2019. This charter includes substantial targets with regard to mitigation of climate change and increase energy efficiency.	Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of drawing up an implementation plan which takes in all the actions from the Climate Action Charter and the Climate Adaptation Strategy. The implementation plan will list all the actions, who is responsible for delivering it and an indication of the time to deliver it.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	Vision: <i>"Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</i>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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	that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025</b>	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</b>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Collection</li> <li>Self-sufficiency</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Legacy issues</li> <li>North-south cooperation</li> <li>Guidance and awareness</li> <li>Implementation</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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></li> </ul>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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);</li> <li>Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>
<b>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</b>	<p>Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.</p>	<p>Key targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> <li>At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy &amp; Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</b>	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.	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021)</b> <b>Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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<p><b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b></p> <p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	<p>combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>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;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Services Act 2007</b></p> <p><b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b></p> <p><b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to</li> </ul>	<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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively</p>

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Harvest 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b>	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b>  <b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b>  <b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	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"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	'Our Rural Future' provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Framework acknowledges that the country is heading into an era of unprecedented change as we recover from the impact of COVID-19, as we adapt to new ways of working, as the impact of Brexit presents itself and as we transition to a climate-neutral society. This change is considered a significant opportunity for rural areas.	<p>Our Rural Future focuses on the following thematic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband.</li> <li>Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas.</li> <li>Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages.</li> <li>Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities.</li> <li>Enhancing public services in rural areas.</li> <li>Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy.</li> <li>Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry.</li> <li>Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities.</li> </ul> <p>Nurturing our culture and heritage.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017</b>	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.	<p>The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Sustainable Communities,</li> <li>Supporting Enterprise and Employment,</li> <li>Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential,</li> <li>Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and</li> <li>Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity.</li> </ul>	
<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>• Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>• Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>• Producer Groups</li> <li>• Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>• Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>• Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>River Basin Management Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Identify and manages water bodies in the River Basin District (RBD).</li> <li>• Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD.</li> <li>• Involve the public through consultations.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>• To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> <li>• To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>• To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>• To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	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	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

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	and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> </ul>	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	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"> <li>Policy Context</li> <li>Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>Wider Government Policy</li> <li>International Context</li> <li>Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	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"> <li>Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</b>	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.  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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	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"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> </ul> 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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.</li> <li>• There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.</li> </ul> The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	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"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	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"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b>	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> </ul> 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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	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"> <li>• Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020)</b>	<p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p>	<p>The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment.</li> <li>• Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector.</li> <li>• Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection.</li> <li>• Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period.</li> <li>• Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses.</li> <li>• Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare.</li> <li>• Vision Statement: "The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas."</li> <li>• Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Core principles deriving from the strategic vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs.</li> <li>• The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country.</li> <li>• The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance.</li> <li>• Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high-quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form.</li> <li>• Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form</li> <li>• Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high-quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans (including Development Plans Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes) in force within County Wicklow and in other adjoining planning authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2016-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2023</b>	It sets out a vision of what can be achieved in Wicklow, with clear priorities and a series of detailed actions and next steps to ensure the County is realising its potential over the next 5 years.	The goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Wicklow as a year round destination;</li> <li>Capture more overnight tourism;</li> <li>Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation;</li> <li>Convert day visitors to staying visitors;</li> <li>Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets;</li> <li>Strategic approach to marketing and promotion; and</li> <li>Deliver sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022</b>	The overall aim of the Plan is: To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.	Plan's objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Increase understanding of the value of Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions; and</li> <li>Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate information.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015</b>	Sets out a strategy for increasing our understanding and appreciation of this along with measures for enhancing the protection of this valuable resource	Plan's objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to provide a focussed approach for the county, identifying priorities habitats and species in need of attention and the action required to secure their future.</li> </ul> It identifies opportunities and needs for partnership work and, is the start of a targeted and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation in the county.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	Response to the impact that the climate change is having and will continue to have on the County of Wicklow and its citizens. It addresses how Wicklow County as an organisation responds to the impacts of Climate Change.	The Plans' objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make Wicklow a stronger county by reducing impacts of future climate change related events;</li> <li>Fully consider and mainstream climate adaptation in the day to day delivery of services by Wicklow County Council;</li> </ul> Actively engage with and inform citizens and communities in Wicklow about the impacts of climate change. Public awareness is key to developing effective climate adaptation measures.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow County Council Draft Energy Plan/Energy Performance Strategy (2020)</b>	Wicklow County Council Housing and Corporate Estate Department are currently working on an Energy Plan / Energy Performance Strategy which seeks to deliver the targets of the Charter with regard to Council's infrastructure / assets.	Upgrading of the public lighting to LED lights is an example of such a project.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Healthy Wicklow 2018-2021</b>	Wicklow County Council produced the 'Healthy Wicklow' strategy in line with the 'National Activity Plan' and the 'Healthy Ireland' framework.	The document aims to assess the requirements and provides objectives with which to improve the overall health and well-being of the people of Wicklow and is guided with the four following key goals:  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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Age-Friendly Strategy 2017-2022</b>	The age-friendly strategy was developed with the aim of making Wicklow an age friendly county, a county in which all public service and private sector providers work in partnership to make Wicklow great. It gives commitments to improving infrastructure both physical and social as well as services and information provision to improve the quality of life of older people across the county.  The strategy aims, in combination with other government and county programmes and plans, including the County Development Plan, to make Wicklow a county that is more accessible and accommodating to people as they grow older.	The document seeks to address existing issues and improve the conditions for the ageing population in Wicklow under the following 9 themes: Theme 1 Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Theme 2 Transportation Theme 3 Housing Theme 4 Social Participation Theme 5 Respect and Social Inclusion Theme 6 Civic Participation and Employment Theme 7 Communication and Information Theme 8 Community Support and Health Services Theme 9 Safety and Security	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Tourism Strategy &amp; Marketing Plan 2018 - 2023</b>	The Strategy notes that the County is performing well but has enormous untapped potential arising from its natural and built assets, proximity to large markets and relationship to the stories and promise of Ireland's Ancient East. It is recognised that tourism growth strategy should maximise off-peak visits, deliver business year round, be high value, attract international as well as domestic visitors and it must maximise the positive economic impact, achieving overnight stays as a priority.	The Strategy identifies five priority actions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop new accommodation;</li> <li>▪ Develop the key settlements of Bray, Wicklow, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs;</li> <li>▪ Masterplan for Glendalough;</li> <li>▪ Grow thematic experiences;</li> <li>▪ Develop a common narrative.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2026</b>	The Statement identifies a number of goals for tourism in County Wicklow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Wicklow as a year round destination,</li> <li>• Capture more overnight tourism,</li> <li>• Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation,</li> <li>• Convert day visitors to staying visitors, and</li> <li>• Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets and deliver sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020 - 2025</b>	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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p><b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin: A Breath of Fresh Air/Come Here To Me Dublin brands</b></p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>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.</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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b></p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>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.</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 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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>