



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

VARIATION NO.6 TO THE WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 (AS VARIED)

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

Prepared for:
Wicklow County Council

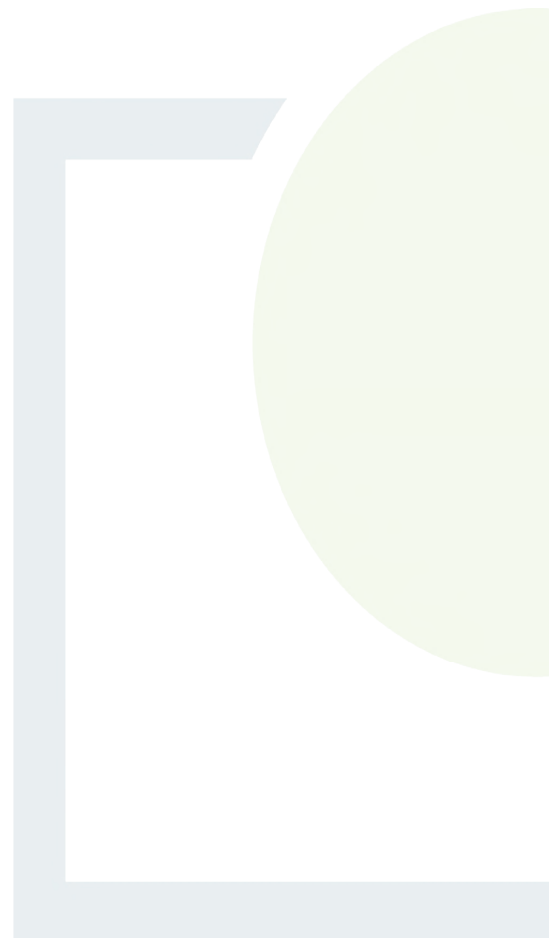


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Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent,
Northwood, Dublin, D09 X899, Ireland

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

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW
www.fehilytimoney.ie



Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report to Wicklow County Council for consultation on the Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the SEA Environmental Report for a Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan (referred to as either the 'WCDP' or the 'Plan' from herein) 2022-2028.

The purpose of this SEA was to identify and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementation of the Variation.

Background

Wicklow County Council (WCC) has prepared a Variation to the WCDP under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This Variation proposes administrative and technical changes to the Plan, adds contemporary detail on the planning framework in County Wicklow to Volume 1 of the Plan, and will integrate the Local Planning Framework (LPF) for Arklow into the Plan. The integration of the Arklow LPF into the Plan constitutes the substantive component of the Variation.

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

The Arklow LPF considered under this assessment consists primarily of a written statement and maps indicating the objectives for zoning of land, residential development, economic development, community infrastructure, built and natural heritage, open space and recreation, active travel and transport, environmental protection and climate change.

Approach to SEA

The SEA process can be defined by four stages, all of which include some level of consultation with stakeholders and the public. These stages are defined as:

- Stage 1 – Screening: deciding whether an SEA is required, or not.
- Stage 2 – Scoping: establishing the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts.
- Stage 3 – Identification, Prediction, Considerations of Alternatives, Evaluation and Mitigation of Potential Impacts.
- Stage 4 – Consultation, Revision and Post-Adoption. This includes the implementation of statutory SEA monitoring.

The SEA process ran in parallel with the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process, which is an assessment process focusing on the potential effects of a plan or project on sites designated for nature protection known as 'European Sites.'



The Environmental Baseline

An evaluation and characterisation of the current state of the environment likely to be affected by the Variation/LPF has been undertaken to inform the SEA process. A non-technical summary of the baseline environment for each environmental component is provided in the table below.

Environmental Component	Summary of the Baseline Environmental Characteristics
Population and Human Health	- In the 2022 Census, the total population in Arklow Town was 13,399 persons¹, while the total population in Co. Wicklow was 155,851². - Arklow is identified as a designated 'self-sustaining growth town' as being part of the Core Region³ by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (referred to as EMRA RSES) 2019-2031⁴.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	- There are no designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the LPF area, however there are 6 existing SACs within a 15km radius. These include Slaney River Valley SAC, Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC, Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC, Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC, Magherabeg Dunes SAC, and Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen SAC. - There are no designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within or within 15 km of the LPF area. - There are no World Heritage or UNESCO designations within or within 15 km of Arklow Town and its environs. - There are no RAMSAR sites within or within 15km of the area. - There are no designated Natural Heritage Areas within or within 15km of the area. - There are 14 Natural Heritage Areas within or within 15km of the area. - There is 1 Tree Protection Order within the area (Corsican Pine trees at Kynoch's Lodge). - There are 2 designated Flora Protection Order Sites within 15km of the area; these include Pallis Bridge (<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>) and Tigroney West (<i>Cephaloziella nicholsonii</i>). - There are no Wildfowl Sanctuaries within or within 15km of the LPF area. - There are no salmonid waters within or within 15km of the LPF area. - There are no OSPAR Marine Protected Areas within 15km of the LPF area. - The most dominant land cover types are urban and agricultural areas.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	- Arklow is designated as an 'urban area' in the current landscape character assessment for Wicklow. The areas outside of the urban area to the north and south along the coast are designated 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and the lands to the west are designated 'corridor area.' - Views and prospects within affecting the LPF area include: R750 Wicklow to Arklow L6171 (Prospect towards sea from Coast Road), L2172 at Barraniskey, Arklow (Prospects of Webbs River Valley and Arklow), R747 Vale of Avoca east of Woodenbridge (Prospects of both sets of Vale of Avoca including Avoca

¹ Central Statistics Office. 2022. F9011– Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F9011>

² Central Statistics Office. 2022. F1004A– Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F1004A>

³ The Core Region contains a strong network of county and market towns that have a good level of local employment, services and amenities, which serve not just their resident populations but a wider catchment area.

⁴ Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031



Environmental Component	Summary of the Baseline Environmental Characteristics
	River Valley) and L-2180-48 from Raheen to Sheepwalk (Prospect of Vale of Avoca)
Cultural Heritage – Archaeological and Architectural	- There are 22 archaeological sites within Arklow Town. Churches, graveyards, and wells are among the most common recorded monuments and sites of significant archaeological, historic, and cultural importance within the area. - There are 40 entries to the RPS (Record of Protected Structures) within Arklow Town⁵, which include many notable structures such as St. Saviours Church and Fr. Michael Murphy statue and other local features that contribute to the architectural heritage of the area.
Soils	- The main soil types within the LPF area include Urban Soils, Gleys, Grey-Brown Podzolics, and Alluvial Soils. - There are two County Geological Sites within 5 km of the LPF area, Goldmines River and Snugborough.
Land Use	Land use mapping for the LPF area is shown in Figure 4-9 in the body of the main report. This mapping shows the extent of all land-use present in the Area.
Air Quality and Noise	- The Air Quality in Ireland 2022 report prepared by the EPA identifies that air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues that are negatively impacting the air we breathe. - Ireland's ambition in the Clean Air Strategy is to move towards the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines¹, this will be challenging but will have a significantly positive impact on health. - The LPF area lies within 'Zone D - Rural Ireland'. There are no air monitoring stations within or within 15km of the area, however the nearest stations are located in Carlow Town and Enniscorthy. The current air quality in both locations is identified by the EPA as being of Good⁶ status. - Existing noise-related impacts can be viewed in Figure 4-10 of the main body of the report.
Water	- The LPF area falls within the Ovoca-Vartry catchment, with the Southwestern Irish Sea to the west of Arklow Town's coastline. - The WFD status of coastal water bodies (2016-2021) for Southwestern Irish Sea - Brittas Bay is of high status. The WFD status of transitional water bodies (2016-2021) for Avoca Estuary is identified as being of moderate status. However, the latest River Q Value for the 'Avoca-Arklow Br' river monitoring station is of bad status. - The WFD groundwater status (2016-2021) underlying the area is identified as being of good status. - The WFD status of rivers and streams (2016-2021) draining the area ranges from high (i.e. Templarainy Stream), to good (i.e. Kilmurry Stream) and to moderate (sections of rivers and streams including Avoca, Ballyduff Stream).
Material Assets	The new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed and commissioned in early 2025. This plant provides substantial wastewater treatment capacity for the area. The Woodenbridge Wellfield is the public water supply source for the Arklow area.

⁵ Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

⁶ [EPA AirQuality.ie](https://www.epa.ie/airquality/) - 26/02/2024



Environmental Component	Summary of the Baseline Environmental Characteristics
	• Arklow Town is by-passed by the M11 and a number of regional roads, namely R747, R772, and R750. The town is served by the intercity Dublin Connolly - Rosslare Europort rail line and local connections to metropolitan commuter towns. Further to this, Bus Éireann provides several routes through Arklow, including the 002, 005 and 384 services. The Wexford Bus operates several services day and night linking Arklow and Wicklow Town with Dublin Airport. • The GI strategy for Wicklow is to reinforce GI assets to support the creation of a more climate resilient environment which in turn contributes significantly to climate adaptation and mitigation. Important existing GI assets within Arklow include Arklow Rock-Askintinny, Arklow Sand Dunes, Arklow Town Marsh, and Avoca River Valley. • Two Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) facilities have been granted planning consent recently - one at Avoca River Park and one at Kish Business Park in Arklow.
Tourism and Recreation	• Tourism and recreation are influenced by a range of factors in Ireland. International tourism has increased and remained relatively steady since the COVID-19 pandemic. Fáilte Ireland has recently published their four brand strategies which will define the spatial scope and spread of future tourism developments within Ireland. • Wicklow hosts 'Ireland's Ancient East' and the success of the brand strategy will result in infrastructure demands to previously less trafficked areas. Arklow has been identified as one of the key towns to be developed as a visitor hub.
Climate Change	• The LPF area is affected by climate change policy and issues broadly. • The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was established to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change. This aims at pursuing the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of the year 2050. Ireland's Climate Action Plans 2023 and 2024 set out Ireland's national and sectoral targets in this regard. • Climate action within the LPF will permeate across all objectives to ensure the transition and delivery of a client-resilient, low-carbon community at Arklow.

Evolution of the Baseline Environment

The SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the baseline environment in the event the Variation/LPF is not progressed and implemented. In the event the Variation/LPF was not implemented, the baseline environment would primarily evolve in line with the development management standards and environmental protection criteria defined in WCDP, which is the primary development control framework relevant to the study area. The baseline environment would also be strongly influenced by higher-order plans relevant to the area, including the Climate Action Plan, the Water Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

In the absence of the Arklow LPF, development in Arklow would not be subject to an appropriately focused local area framework of planning control, which is necessary for a settlement of its size and given the levels of development and change predicted for the area. A greater risk of improper planning and unsustainable development occurring around the area would exist in that case. This scenario also increases the risk of significant adverse environmental effects occurring due to the carrying out of inappropriate development, such as adverse effects on the following:



- Population and Human Health – e.g., through reductions in residential amenity, noise, dust.
- Biodiversity – e.g., loss of valuable habitat, habitat fragmentation, impacts on protected species.
- Landscape Character and Visual Amenity – e.g., loss of scenic value and visual amenity in the area.
- Cultural Heritage – e.g., diminishment of built heritage including protected structures and historic fabric.
- Soils – e.g., ground contamination, impacts on soil structure and function.
- Land use – e.g., unsustainable and incoherent land use, urban sprawl.
- Air Quality and Noise – e.g., generation of air and noise emissions resulting in significant negative effects on people.
- Water – e.g., the carrying out development that contributes to polluting emissions to waters or increased flood risk.
- Material Assets – e.g., the failure to provide appropriate services to the development carried out in the area (e.g., water supply, wastewater services).
- Tourism and recreation – e.g., the diminishment of recreation assets in the area
- Climate Change – e.g., failure to provide a suitable framework for compact growth and sustainable transport – resulting in a failure to contribute to the reduction of Energy and Residential sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which facilitate the development of targets against which the environmental effects of a plan or programme can be assessed. They are based on wider environmental protection objectives on a local, regional, national, European and international level. They are high-level in nature and set strategic goals for improvement. SEOs have already been developed for the WCDP. These SEOs are applicable to the Variation, including the Arklow LPF and can be used to measure the effects of the LPF. One additional SEO to support the measurement of the effects of the LPF has been defined. This is as follows:

- Support in the delivery of the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives.
 - Monitoring Indicator: Status of Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives as measured under the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
 - Target: Achievement of Objectives.
 - Data Source: Internal Reporting on Key Performance Indicators under the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
- Relevant SEO Code under WCDP: C

Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the Variation/LPF were considered during the development of the Variation/LPF

Iterative communication was held between WCC and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the objectives of the Variation/LPF.

Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative met these criteria was undertaken, in consideration of the following factors:



- The strategic aim and objectives of the Variation/LPF
- The geographic scope of the Variation/LPF
- The actual powers and functions of WCC.
- The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the Variation/LPF aims and objectives.
- The technical feasibility of the alternative.
- The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the Variation/LPF within the required timeframe.
- The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the Variation/LPF by higher-level policy.
- The legislative context and the parameters placed around the Variation/LPF by climate action and environmental related legislation.

All reasonable alternative approaches considered during the development of the Variation/LPF are presented below:

- Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection
- Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation
- Alternative 3: Compact Growth
- Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven
- Alternative 5: Community Driven
- Alternative 6: Extractive Industry & Economy Driven

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines.

The Preferred Alternative/LPF is a reflection of elements associated with each of the 6 Reasonable Alternative presented above refined and amalgamated, including the following:

- Provide maximum protection to European sites and Arklow Town Marsh pNHA.
- Promote compact growth in Arklow.
- Afford appropriate protection to all sensitive environmental features in the area.
- Promote the development of renewable energy related infrastructure in the area.
- Promote sustainable land use and access to public transport.
- Implement localised demand management measures to encourage sustainable transport
- Promote active travel development and connections.
- Develop a Park and Ride facility outside the town to promote sustainable travel and transport.
- Promote public transport, including bus and train services.
- Encourage town centre regeneration and infill development
- Encourage sustainable residential development to meet population targets.
- Provide appropriate community and recreational infrastructure for the area into the future.
- Enhance public realm/space in the area.
- Enhance and encourage sustainable tourism in the area.



- Provide suitable childcare, healthcare and education facilities in the area.
- Promote retail through town centre regeneration.
- Aim to enhance and promote Arklow's tourism and recreation offering, including its maritime heritage.
- Encourage development that provides employment in the area, whilst ensuring this development is appropriately planned and located.

The process of developing the Variation/LPF and associated SEA and AA processes produced the Preferred Variation/LPF. The Preferred LPF is deemed to be an appropriate balance of preferred elements associated with each Reasonable Alternative. Unwanted or less preferred elements of each Reasonable Alternative were omitted from being promoted through objectives defined in the LPF. The reasons for choosing the Preferred LPF were as follows:

- The Preferred LPF provides a strong level of environmental protection – in combination with policies/objectives driving environmental protection in the WCDP. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as biodiversity, water, soils, heritage etc.
- The balance of elements included in the Preferred LPF promote the meeting of housing targets in a measured, sustainable way in accordance with efficient and compact growth principles. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as population and human health, material assets and climate.
- The Preferred LPF appropriately encourages renewable energy related infrastructure in support of national climate ambitions, the Wicklow County Local Authority Climate Action Plan and the objectives defined for the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as climate, biodiversity, population and human health etc.
- The Preferred LPF promotes and encourage sustainable travel and transport, including active travel and public transport, in alignment with higher-order policy. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such climate, air quality and noise, population and human health etc.
- The Preferred LPF encourages socially beneficial town centre regeneration, whilst having due regard to the need to conserve built heritage and historic fabric. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as population and human health, heritage, and tourism and recreation.
- The Preferred LPF ensures that there will be suitable provision of appropriate community infrastructure commensurate with residential development and population growth in the area. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as population and human health, material assets etc.
- The Preferred LPF will drive economic development, enterprise and employment in the area, including tourism development and activity, in a manner that is sustainable. This will result in positive environmental effects on population and human health, material assets and tourism and recreation.

Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Variation/LPF Implementation

An evaluation of the Variation/LPF on the baseline environment is characterised and described in Section 6 of this SEA Environmental Report. The evaluation was carried out against the SEOs defined in the WCDP.



A standardised evaluation matrix was developed to facilitate the evaluation of the Preferred Variation on SEOs, relevant to each environmental component. A concise and non-technical summary of the key environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Variation/LPF is presented below. The potential negative effects presented assume the absence of appropriate mitigation defined in the Non-Technical Summary and in Section 8 of the SEA Environmental Report.



Potential Negative Environmental Effects (in the absence of environmental mitigation)

- The LPF supports the carrying out of infrastructural development (e.g. housing, transport, renewable energy-related development, etc.). The construction phases of such development have the potential to result in environmental impacts including dust and noise emissions, traffic disruption, polluting runoff, which can affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity, and traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in negative impacts on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.
- Development construction activities, generally, generate dust emissions, vibration or noise that may impact residential amenity, human health and well-being, and biodiversity.
- The LPF provides a land use framework for development that has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., habitat loss) that directly or indirectly cause effects on European sites connected to the area, such as disturbance to key species (i.e., through construction noise), reduction in species density, impact on non-designated sites or habitat that support European sites, or changes in indicators of conservation value.
- Development may lead to adverse impacts on biodiversity, including loss, disturbance or damage to biodiversity, flora and fauna; impacts on designated sites and their ecological features/qualifying interests (Arklow Town Marsh pNHA, in particular); impacts on ecological connectivity; and impacts on locally significant, non-designated habitats.
- Development may generate an increase in the quantum of light transmitted to sensitive ecological receptors, resulting in increased vulnerability and sensitivity of light-sensitive species (e.g., the Lesser Horseshoe Bat).
- The LPF supports development construction at greenfield locations where invasive species may exist. Construction and waste management activities may increase the risk of the spread of invasive species.
- Greenfield development may impact and damage unknown archaeological remains.
- The LPF is supportive of the carrying out of development at sensitive locations (such as areas in proximity of the Avoca River riparian corridor) which could potentially impact sensitive aspects of the environment, including biodiversity, water quality, landscape character and visual amenity, built and archaeological heritage and important habitats and species.
- Development, including large-scale development of a sizeable mass and form, may generate negative impacts on built heritage (e.g., protected structures) and historic fabric. Development supported by the LPF may impact on the setting of heritage assets and sense of place, generally.
- Significantly scaled residential and commercial development may impact visual amenity in the vicinity of these developments, streetscape character and wider landscape character.
- Inappropriate or improperly designed greenfield development may contribute to significant hydrological changes and increases in flood risk.
- Development may generate adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Major development in the LPF area may generate an increase in traffic levels and effects on existing traffic and transportation conditions.
- Development related excavation has the potential to result in the generation of substantial levels of material and waste, including potentially contaminated material that will need to be appropriately and sustainably managed in accordance with Waste Hierarchy principles.



- Development occurring in the LPF area may affect local heritage, archaeology or visual amenity and, in turn, local tourism or recreational features and activity in the area.
- Infrastructure development may have the potential to restrict or reduce the quality of resources important for recreation and/or tourism.
- Linear transport development (including active travel development) has the potential to negatively affect biodiversity and ecological connectivity (through habitat loss/fragmentation).

Potential Positive Effects

- LPF objectives, as defined, have the potential to contribute to sustainable development and proper planning in accordance with the land use planning framework and higher order planning policy and other inter-related policy, resulting in positive effects across all environmental components. The implementation of the LPF has the potential to support balanced, integrated and socially beneficial development and environmental protection and enhancement in Arklow and surrounding areas.
- The LPF will support compact growth, sustainable land use, sustainable transportation, and the sustainable provision and optimised utilisation of Material Assets.
- The promotion of sustainable urban development (including residential development) in accordance with compact growth principles has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health (through the provision of much-needed housing), material assets, lands, soils and geology (through the avoidance of building on greenfield sites, promotion of compact development and prevention of sprawl) and air and climate (by promoting compact development, reducing the need to travel by private car).
- The delivery of housing and community infrastructure has the potential to generate positive effects for population and human health (people and communities).
- The promotion of sustainable land use, sustainable transportation and public transport may support modal shift and the use of public transportation, resulting in potential positive effects on population and human health, local air quality and climate.
- The LPF supports the development, expansion and management of safe active travel networks. The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift, reduce traffic related risks and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions - thereby positively impacting population and human health, local air quality and the climate environment.
- The LPF supports the protection and enhancement of Arklow's heritage assets. This has the potential to generate positive effects for tourism and recreation features in the area and enhance amenity value in the area generally.
- The LPF is supportive of renewable energy/energy efficient development, which will have a positive effect on the climate environment.
- The LPF is supportive of the minimisation of flood risk in the area. This will generate positive environmental effects on water quality, hydrology and biodiversity. The delivery of flood alleviation has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events, including human receptors, material assets, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.



- The LPF supports the development of nature-based solutions - in response to flood and climate related risk - which are supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement. The promotion of NBS has the potential to create positive effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna, water quality and hydrology.
- The LPF promotes the provision and protection of material assets and utilities services and collaboration with utility providers on utility infrastructure delivery and maintenance. This will support the sustainable provision of appropriately integrated material asset infrastructure (e.g., electricity infrastructure etc.).
- The framework of locally focused, environmental protection and enhancement related objectives support the carrying out of considered, appropriate development sensitive to the receiving environment. Generally, this has the potential to generate positive impacts on all environmental components.

Mitigation Measures

Potential negative environmental effects that may occur as a result of the implementation of the Variation/LPF (without considering any mitigation) were identified. The SEA Directive requires that mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential significant negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Variation/LPF are defined.

The mitigation of these potential negative effects was achieved through the following:

- The consideration of Alternatives for the Variation/LPF, having regard to the environmental considerations.
- Environmental protection policies/objectives defined in the WCDP.
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Variation/LPF.

The development of the Variation/LPF was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental team and WCC. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to WCC.

A strong level of embedded environmental mitigation was present in the earlier iterations of the Arklow LPF (the substantive component of the Variation). Environmental mitigation measures applicable to the functional area of Arklow are also present in the WCDP. The embedded mitigation and the relevant mitigatory policy/objectives already defined in the WCDP serve to prevent and minimise potential adverse effects that may occur during the implementation of the LPF. These measures may also maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits associated with the LPF.

Where necessary, additional environmental mitigation, in the form of objective/text additions, were integrated into the LPF to mitigate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LPF. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal preparation of the LPF and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the process so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the LPF.

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



Conclusions

The reasonable alternatives evaluation presented earlier in this document has resulted in the development of a Variation/LPF that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternatives considered.

Environmental protection related policies/objectives already defined in the WCDP, which apply to the Arklow area, will mitigate a wide range of potential negative effects associated with the LPF. The adoption of the environmental mitigation measures embedded and integrated into the LPF will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Variation and LPF.

No further mitigation measures are required for the Variation/LPF.

Monitoring Measures

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan or programme (or plan variation in this case) are monitored in order *'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'*

It is proposed that existing SEOs and associated indicators and targets defined in the WCDP are used to monitor the environmental effects of the implementation of the LPF. The SEOs, indicators and targets defined are deemed appropriate for measuring the full range of potential environmental effects that may occur due to LPF implementation. Utilising these existing SEO will also avoid the unnecessary duplication of environmental monitoring processes. One additional SEO to support the measurement of the effects of the LPF has been defined. This is as follows:

- Support in the delivery of the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives.

Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the adopted LPF is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the WCDP/LPF should take place and the LPF should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LPF implementation are not being adequately realised, the LPF should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realisation of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the LPF.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Wicklow County Council (WCC) has prepared a Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (herein referred to as the 'WCDP' or the 'Plan') under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This Variation proposes administrative and technical changes to the Plan, adds contemporary detail on the planning framework in County Wicklow to Volume 1 of the Plan, and integrates the Local Planning Framework (LPF) for Arklow into the WCDP. The integration of the Arklow LPF into the Plan constitutes the substantive component of the Variation.

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

The LPF represents the main public statements of planning objectives for the Arklow area. The planning objectives are critical in determining the appropriate location and form of different types of development in the Arklow area. The objectives also guide WCC activities and indicate priority areas or action and investment such as focusing on attracting employment into the town, improving infrastructure, enhancing the town as a centre for sustainable tourism and decarbonisation of the highest carbon-emitting sectors.

Variations to a City or County Development Plan are required to be compliant with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) and the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). SEA Screening for the Variation has been carried out by WCC and it has been determined that the Variation to the WCDP should be subject to full SEA under the [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) given the given the potential for the implementation of the land use framework defined in the Arklow LPF to result in likely, significant environmental effects.

1.2 Finalisation of the Variation/LPF

This document is a consolidated version of the SEA Environmental Report, which has considered consultation submissions received during SEA Consultation and Material Alterations made over the Variation-making process.

These Material Alterations arising from the post-consultation Variation-making process have been subject to further environmental assessment. This assessment is included in Appendix 4 of this SEA Environmental Report. Where Material Alterations were screened in for SEA, they were subject to full SEA, and mitigation measures preventing or minimising the effects of these Material Alterations have been identified and cross-referenced.

It was assessed that the environmental mitigation measures already integrated into the WCDP (as being Varied) will prevent and minimise negative environmental effects from the implementation of the Variation/LPF.

1.3 SEA Environmental Report

This document has been produced by FT and is the SEA Environmental Report for the Variation/LPF. It forms the main written output of the SEA process and as such presents information on the environmental assessment and likely environmental issues related to the implementation of the Variation and Arklow LPF.



The broad purpose of this SEA Environmental Report was as follows:

1. Identify, evaluate and describe the likely significant effects on the environment of the Variation/LPF and reasonable alternatives.
2. Inform the preparation of the Variation/LPF.
3. Provide environmental authorities and the public with an early opportunity to make submissions on a draft version of the Variation/LPF and its potential environmental effects - and incorporate changes where necessary to the LPF development and SEA processes.

1.4 Background to SEA and Legislative Context

SEA was required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive)⁷. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*⁸.

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) (Plan Variation, in this case) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means. SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme.'*

The requirements for SEA in Ireland are set out in national Regulations S.I. 435 of 2004 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and S.I. 436 of 2004 Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and S.I. No. 201 of 2011 Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 respectively.

⁷ Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

⁸ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



In the case of the preparation of the Variation, S.I. No. 436 of 2004, as amended, requires that Screening for SEA be carried out for Variations, amendments or modifications of City and County Development Plans. SEA Screening of the Draft Variation/LPF was carried out and it was determined that the emerging Variation, if unmitigated, can result in likely significant effects, and therefore it must be subject to full SEA. Generally, potential for the implementation of the land use framework defined in the Variation/LPF to result in likely, significant environmental effects exists - having regard to development aspirations for the Arklow LPF area and the baseline environment.

SEA is intended to provide the framework for influencing decision-making at an earlier stage when P/Ps – which give rise to individual projects – are being developed. It is noted that SEA should result in more sustainable development through the systematic appraisal of policy options.

1.5 Purpose of this SEA

The purpose of SEA in this particular case was to enable WCC to incorporate environmental considerations into decision-making at an early stage and in an integrated way throughout the Variation/LPF development process and to:

1. Identify, evaluate and describe the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Variation/LPF.
2. Ensure that identified adverse effects are communicated, mitigated and that the effectiveness of mitigation is monitored.
3. Identify beneficial (and neutral) effects, and to ensure these are communicated.
4. Provide an opportunity for stakeholder and public involvement.

1.6 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an assessment process focusing on potential effects related to European Sites - which form the Natura 2000 network - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. European Sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The Habitats Directive⁹ requires, inter alia, that plans (or variation to a plan) undergo Screening for AA (Stage 1), and if necessary, the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (Stage 2), to establish the likely or potential effects on European Sites arising from plan implementation.

This first stage of the AA process is referred to as 'Screening for AA' and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European Site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

AA Screening concluded that there are likely significant effects to European sites - if unmitigated - from the implementation of the Variation/LPF. Therefore, the Variation/LPF was subject to Stage 2 of the AA process, and a Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared alongside the SEA - the details of which were integrated into the SEA process.

⁹ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIATION

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

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

This Variation integrates the Arklow LPF into the WCDP. The Arklow LPF is now a statutory document containing guidelines as to how the town and its environs should develop over the plan period. The Arklow LPF provides the overall strategy for the proposed planning and sustainable development within the area in the context of the WCDP.

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

2.1 Contents of the Arklow Local Planning Framework

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

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

- **Placemaking** integrates with the creation of sustainable communities which includes housing, sustainable mobility, healthy town centres and economic development.
- **Climate change** has implications for sustainable mobility, economic development and heritage and biodiversity¹⁰.
- **Economic development** is increasingly integrated with our response to climate change and to the delivery of healthy placemaking.

¹⁰ The provisions of this LPF aim to support Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.



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

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

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

The Arklow LPF comprises of two parts:

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

2.2 Relationship of the Variation/LPF with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

An examination of how the Variation/LPF interrelates with other legislation and plans/programmes is presented in Appendix 1. This examination was undertaken to develop an understanding of inter-relationships with other plans, programmes and legislation and to assist in the process of assessing the environmental effects of the LPF relative to wider environmental protection objectives, with a view to ensuring the adopted LPF is harmonious and integrated with these wider objectives.



3. SEA METHODOLOGY

3.1 The SEA Process

The SEA process can be defined by four stages, all of which include some level of consultation with stakeholders and the public (Figure 3-1). These stages are defined as:

- Stage 1 – Screening: deciding whether an SEA is required, or not.
- Stage 2 – Scoping: establishing the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts.
- Stage 3 – Identification, Prediction, Considerations of Alternatives, Evaluation and Mitigation of Potential Impacts.
- Stage 4 – Consultation, Revision and Post-Adoption. This includes the implementation of statutory SEA monitoring.

The SEA process runs in parallel with the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process, which is briefly discussed in Section 1.5.

This SEA Environmental Report documents the outcomes of Stage 3.

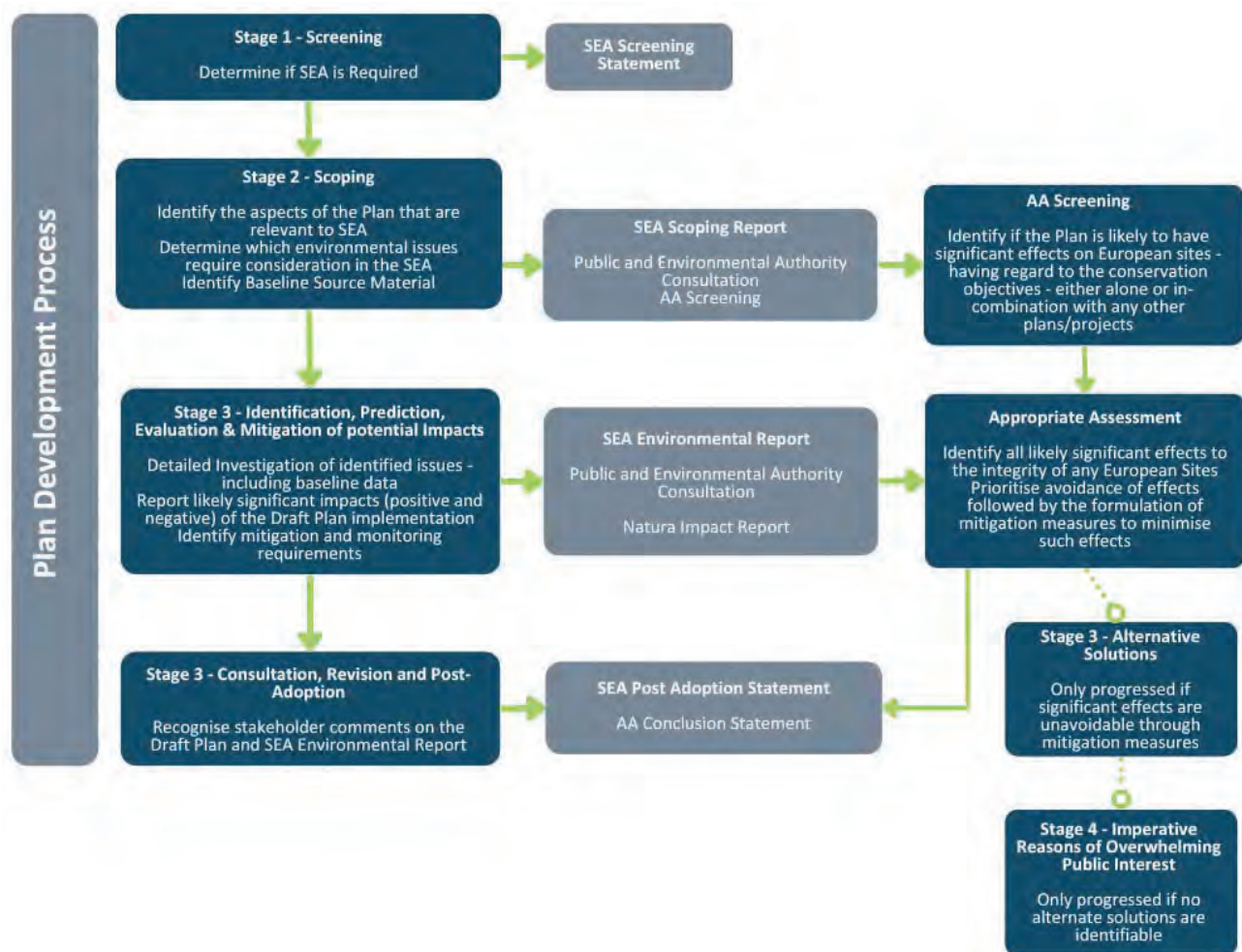


Figure 3-1: SEA and AA Stages and Key Deliverables



3.2 Overview of the SEA and AA Processes

The requirements for SEA in Ireland are set out in the national Regulations, S.I. No. 435 of 2004 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and S.I. No. 436 of 2004 Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and S.I. No. 201 of 2011 Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 respectively.

SEA Screening of the Draft Variation/LPF was carried out and it was determined that the emerging Variation/LPF, if unmitigated, can result in likely significant environmental effects, and therefore it must be subject to full SEA under the [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). Generally, potential for the implementation of the land use framework defined in the Variation/LPF to result in likely, significant environmental effects exists - having regard to development aspirations for the Arklow LPF area and the baseline environment.

An SEA Scoping Report has been prepared for an initial draft version of the emerging Variation/LPF. The Scoping Report, along with SEA Scoping Submissions and considerations of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues that were dealt with by the SEA, as per SEA Guidelines.¹¹

The preparation of the Variation/LPF, SEA and AA took place concurrently and the findings of the SEA and AA informed the Variation/LPF

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report for the Variation/LPF, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the LPF were identified, evaluated and described in this SEA Environmental Report. This report also defines mitigation measures to prevent adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the LPF.

A Draft version of the SEA Environmental Report and associated AA documentation were placed on public display with the Draft Variation/LPF for public consultation. Following this consultation process, submissions relating to this documentation were responded to by the local authority Chief Executive's report, and updates were made to the SEA and AA documentation where relevant.

Proposed Material Alterations, on the Draft Variation/LPF were made. These proposed alterations were screened under the SEA and AA process to ensure to ensure that they will not generate additional, likely significant effects on the receiving environment or European Sites, which have not been considered by the SEA and AA process for the Variation/LPF.

The SEA Environmental Report and associated AA documentation have now been upon the adoption of the Variation/LPF, and an SEA Statement has been prepared. This SEA Statement will document how environmental considerations were integrated into the LPF.

¹¹ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18 "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



The Variation/LPF will then be implemented and SEA Monitoring will be undertaken, in line with existing environmental monitoring processes - to measure the environmental effects of its implementation

3.3 SEA Processes Undertaken To Date

3.3.1 SEA Screening

The first stage of the SEA process was to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of a P/P.

SEA Screening of the Draft Variation/LPF was carried out and it has been determined that the emerging Variation/LPF, if unmitigated, can result in likely significant environmental effects, and therefore it must be subject to full SEA under the [S.I. No. 436 of 2004](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by [S.I. No. 201 of 2011](#) (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). Generally, potential for the implementation of the land use framework defined in the Variation to result in likely, significant environmental effects exists - having regard to development aspirations for the Arklow LPF area and the baseline environment.

3.3.2 SEA Scoping

The second stage of the SEA process is carrying out SEA Scoping. The purpose of SEA Scoping is to establish the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts. An SEA Scoping Report is produced to document the scoping process.

WCC produced an SEA Scoping Report for the Draft Variation/LPF, which was shared with statutory Environmental Authorities. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the Draft Variation/LPF, including the need for it, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the environmental components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process. The Scoping Report was also required to facilitate statutory consultation to ensure that the approach proposed for the SEA is appropriate.

The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are to be dealt with by the SEA, the methods which will be used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues.

The following statutory Environmental Authorities and interested stakeholders were consulted on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SEA Environmental Report:

- Environmental Protection Agency.
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Development Applications Unit.
- Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment
- Minister for Agriculture, Food, & the Marine.
- All adjoining planning authorities whose area is contiguous to the area of Wicklow.

All SEA Scoping submissions received from the Environmental Authorities during SEA Scoping are presented in Appendix 2.



The Environmental Components in the SEA Directive that were 'scoped in' are as follows:

- Population and Human Health
- Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
- Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity
- Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural
- Soils
- Land Use
- Air Quality & Noise
- Water
- Material Assets
- Tourism & Recreation
- Climate Change

3.3.3 SEA Consultation

Draft versions of the Variation/LPF, the SEA Environmental Report and the NIR were placed on public display and members of the public and interested stakeholders were given the opportunity to make submissions. Statutory Environmental Authorities were also provided with the opportunity to make submissions on the Draft Variation/LPF, Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR.

These consultation submissions were reviewed and considered during the post-consultation and SEA and AA processes. The submissions informed and influenced the Material Alterations stage of the Variation/LPF, whereby proposed alterations were introduced into the Variation/LPF.

3.4 **SEA Environmental Report**

3.4.1 Environmental Assessment Approach and Methodology

The third stage of the SEA process involves the strategic level identification, prediction, evaluation and mitigation of potential environmental impacts associated with the Variation/LPF. A SEA Environmental Report is produced to document this process. The SEA Environmental Report is integral to the SEA process and is compiled during plan or programme development processes to allow for adequate consideration of the likely, significant environmental effects of the plan (or plan variation in this case), and the incorporation of appropriate environmental mitigation measures. It should serve to guide processes and ensure optimal environmental outcomes.

The SEA Environmental Report forms the main written output of SEA process. It serves to document the evaluation of the likely, significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme on the relevant Environmental Components defined in the SEA Directive. It defines Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) and associated targets and indicators relating to each Environmental Component area. It defines environmental mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and offset the likely, significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme and monitoring measures to measure the environmental effects of a plan or programme. It aims to provide statutory Environmental Authorities, interested stakeholders and the general public with a clear understanding of likely, significant environmental effects associated with implementing a plan or programme.



A summary of the information contained in an SEA Environmental Report is presented below:

- A non-technical summary of the environmental assessment carried out to inform the SEA Environmental Report.
- A description of the P/P (Plan Variation, in this case) under consideration, including detail on the main objectives of the P/P, the contents of the P/P, anticipated P/P outcomes, and how the P/P relates to other P/Ps.
- A description and characterisation of the baseline environment that has the potential to be affected by the implementation of the P/P, including the evolution of the baseline environment without the implementation of the P/P (i.e., under a 'do-nothing' or 'do-minimum' scenario).
- A description of any existing environmental problems relevant to the P/P.
- Environmental protection objectives (including indicators and targets) relevant to the P/P and the way these objectives and environmental considerations have been taken into during the process.
- A description of reasonable alternatives identified, the reasons for considering these alternatives within the scope of the environmental assessment, and an evaluation of their likely significant effect on the environment.
- An evaluation of the likely significant effects of the implementation of the P/P (including reasonable alternatives) on the environment, and in particular on the following environmental components: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
- A description of environmental mitigation measures proposed to prevent, reduce and offset likely significant environmental effects that may occur during the implementation of the P/P.
- A description of the monitoring measures to be implemented to monitor the likely, significant effects of implementing a P/P.

3.4.1.1 SEA Environmental Report Authors

FT is a consultancy based in Cork, Carlow and Dublin, specialising in civil and environmental engineering, planning and environmental assessment. The company has established an experienced, professional team specialising in all forms of statutory environmental assessment, including EIA, AA and SEA. This team has the support of many in-house engineers, scientists, planners and subject specialists.

FT was retained by WCC to undertake SEA of the Variation/LPF and are responsible for the completion of this SEA Environmental Report. The competent experts involved in the preparation of this SEA Environmental Report are outlined in Table 3-1.



Table 3-1: SEA Environmental Report Authors

Name and Qualifications	Project Role	Relevant Experience
Bernie Guinan MSc, BSc. (Envi. Sci & Tech) Dip. Pollution Assessment Control Dip. Business Development	Project Director	Bernie is Director with Fehily Timoney and Company (FT). She is responsible for managing the Circular Economy and Environment group in FT. She has 25 years' experience in delivering and managing projects in the environmental sector. Bernie has extensive experience coordinating EIA, SEA and AA projects, including large-scale and complex projects. She has in-depth knowledge of all environmental and planning policy, legislation and guidance.
Richard Deeney Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, Kings Inns, Ireland 2017 B.Sc. First Class Honours Degree, Environmental Management, Dublin Institute of Technology, 2012 Chartered Environmentalist, The Society for the Environment	Project Manager & SEA Team Lead	Richard is Principal Environmental Scientist at FT. Richard holds a B.Sc. First-Class Honours degree in Environmental Management from Dublin Institute of Technology. He has 13 years' experience providing environmental assessment consultancy services. Richard works in the Circular Economy and Environment group at FT and is highly experienced in project managing, coordinating and delivering EIA, AA and SEA. He has excellent experience in planning and environmental assessment for various types of plans and projects. He has been responsible for project managing and coordinating the completion of the suite of SEA and AA deliverables for 25 Local Authority Climate Action Plans, and multiple land use and non-land use plans.
Donna O' Halloran National Diploma in Horticulture (National Botanic Gardens/ITB, Dublin). B.Sc. (Agr.) Landscape Horticulture (Hons) (University College Dublin) M.Sc. (Agr.) Environmental Resource Management (1:1) (University College Dublin) M.Sc. Ecological Assessment (1:1) (University College Cork)	AA & Biodiversity Team Lead	Donna is a Senior Ecologist and Environmental Scientist with FT within the Circular Economy & Environment group. Donna has worked at FT for over 10 years as an Ecologist/Environmental Scientist. Donna has a wealth of experience in general ecology, forest ecology, invasive species, air and climate and landscape design (including semi-natural woodland habitat creation). Donna has worked on forestry, infrastructure, energy, waste and urban development projects, and has vast experience in ecological surveying, Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.
Sanghamitra Dutta MSc. Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy, University College Dublin, 2020 BSc. Environmental Science, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, India, 2017	Project Support	Sanghamitra is a Project Environmental Scientist who is in the Circular Economy and Environment group at FT. She has ca. 5 years postgraduate experience, holding a MSc. in Global Change: Ecosystem Science and Policy from University College Dublin and a BSc. Environmental Science from St. Edmund's College, Shillong, India. Sanghamitra is adept at delivering exceptional results, with expertise in SEA and EIA, Project Management, Stakeholder Engagement, and Environmental Research.



Name and Qualifications	Project Role	Relevant Experience
		She has been responsible for supporting the delivery of SEA documentation since joining FT, such as Scoping reports and Environmental Reports for various land use plans.
Emma De Klerk B.Sc. First Class Honours, Environmental Science, University College Cork, 2024	Project Support	Emma is a Graduate Environmental Scientist in the Circular Economy and Environment group at FT. She holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Environmental Science from University College Cork where she achieved First Class Honours. Emma has been involved in a variety of diverse and challenging projects since joining FT, covering key aspects of environmental assessment, amenity development, and monitoring. She has been responsible for the research, data collation, validation, and analysis for a multitude of projects, including desk-based studies, research, as well as the development of associated reports.

3.4.2 Difficulties Encountered

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

3.4.3 SEA Environmental Report Checklist

A checklist of information has been included in this SEA Environmental Report under the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation¹² is provided in Table 3-2. This checklist cross-references the sections in the report where information can be found.

Table 3-2: SEA Environmental Report Checklist

Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Variation/LPF and relationship with other relevant plans.	Section 2.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Variation/LPF.	Section 4.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4.
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Variation/LPF. including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive.	Section 4.

¹² The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 and 2B of S.I. 435 and 436 of 2004.



Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the Variation/LPF. and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 5.
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Variation/LPF.	Section 8.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 6.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Variation/LPF.	Section 10.
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Front section
Interrelationships between each Environmental Component.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.

3.5 SEA Statement

Upon the adoption of the Variation/LPF, WCC has published a post-adoption SEA Statement alongside the Variation. The post-adoption SEA Statement is another integral component of the SEA process.

The SEA Statement provides detail on how the environmental assessment and considerations detailed in the SEA Environmental Report and SEA-related consultation responses throughout the process have influenced the Variation/LPF development process. It summarises the reasoning for choosing the preferred alternatives associated with the final Variation/LPF instead other reasonable alternatives. The SEA Statement also presents detail on environmental mitigation and monitoring measures to be implemented.

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide interested parties with a good and clear understanding of how the SEA process was carried out during the Variation/LPF development process and how SEA informed and supported the process.



3.6 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

The environmental assessment undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with the following EPA guidance documents:

- EPA (2012), Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.
- EPA (2013) Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes - Practitioner's Manual.

The methodology employed facilitated the integration of SEA and AA processes relating to biodiversity impact assessment to ensure the effective, aligned and streamlined assessment of biodiversity impacts. The Variation/LPF development, SEA and AA processes - including scoping, baseline evaluation, impact assessment and mitigation/monitoring measure development processes - were carried out concurrently to facilitate holistic and complete assessment of biodiversity impacts. The effective communication and integration of scientific knowledge and analysis between assessments took place. The SEA was suitably informed by the analysis and conclusions in AA and vice versa.

3.7 Outcomes of the SEA and AA Processes

The SEA and AA processes have facilitated the integration of environmental considerations into the Variation/LPF development process. Reasonable alternatives to the Variation/LPF have been assessed, and preferred alternatives identified, considering environmental factors. Environmental mitigation measures contributing towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development - in line with the wider legislative and plan/policy framework - have been integrated into the Arklow LPF.



4. ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

4.1 Introduction

An evaluation and a characterisation of the current state of the environment likely to be affected by the LPF was undertaken to inform the SEA process. This section of the SEA Environmental Report documents this evaluation. The following Environmental Components were considered during this evaluation:

- Population and Human Health
- Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
- Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity
- Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural
- Soils
- Land Use
- Air Quality & Noise
- Water
- Material Assets
- Tourism & Recreation
- Climate Change

Baseline environmental information for the Arklow LPF area was gathered using available environmental datasets. The evaluation of the baseline environment was informed by the SEA Scoping Report produced and the consultation responses received during the SEA Scoping process. It was also guided and informed by the in-depth experience and expert judgement of the SEA Environmental Report Authors.

This section of the SEA Environmental Report included information on the state of the environment within the LPF area and the wider area, including maps of individual environmental components, environmental sensitivity mapping and a description of the baseline environment under the Environmental Components identified by the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations (i.e. population and human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these factors). Existing environmental matters which are relevant to the LPF area were identified and examined under each Environmental Component heading. The SEA Environmental Report also considered the wider zone of influence for the LPF beyond the LPF boundary or the strictly defined study area boundary for certain environmental components.

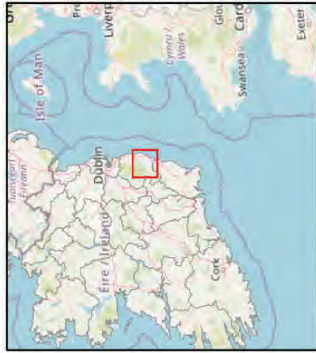
Information provided in this section is based on readily available baseline data from web-based searches and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information. A key resource that has been used throughout the SEA process is the EPA's SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory.¹³ The data presented in this section of the SEA Environmental Report is as up-to-date and as accurate as possible and is presented in a readily accessible format, where possible.

¹³ [Environmental Protection Agency. 2022. SEA Spatial Information Sources: Available at Strategic Environmental Assessment | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](#)



The interrelationships between Environmental Components are addressed throughout this section, as appropriate, under each Environmental Component heading. A summary of Environmental Component interrelationships is also provided.

This section of the SEA Environmental Report also examines the likely evolution of the baseline environmental in the absence of the Variation/LPF being implemented (i.e., in the 'do nothing' or 'do minimum' scenario).



Legend



Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary



Wider Study Area

Local Authority Boundary	
Arklow LPF (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)	
FIGURE NO:	4.1
CLIENT:	Wicklow County Council
DATE:	21/07/2025
SCALE:	1:130,000 @ A3





4.2 Population and Human Health

4.2.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

In the 2022 Census, the total population in Arklow Town was 13,399 persons,¹⁴ while the total population in Co. Wicklow was 155,851.¹⁵

Arklow is identified as a designated 'self-sustaining growth town' as being part of the Core Region¹⁶ by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (referred to as EMRA RSES) 2019-2031.¹⁷

There are features within the LPF which could influence the human environment in the area and interact with various environmental components.

With regard to human health, impacts relevant to the SEA are those which arise as a result of interactions with environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses, for example.

4.2.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Population and Human Health were as follows:

- Infrastructure development may influence the human environment and land use in the urban setting of the area.
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes.
- Upgrading or maintenance of existing infrastructure may cause temporary disruption to the local community, such as noise, dust, disruption to services/utilities and traffic etc., particularly if such development takes place in the town centre.
- Population and development growth will potentially influence the energy, water supply and wastewater requirements within the area.
- Impacts of economic and industrial development on settlement.
- Recreational development at the Port location and in coastal areas may increase amenity value in those areas for people.
- Development construction activities may generate air emissions, vibration or noise that may impact human health and well-being.

¹⁴ Central Statistics Office. 2022. F9011– Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F9011>

¹⁵ Central Statistics Office. 2022. F1004A– Population (cso.ie) <https://data.cso.ie/table/F1004A>

¹⁶ The Core Region contains a strong network of county and market towns that have a good level of local employment, services and amenities, which serve not just their resident populations but a wider catchment area.

¹⁷ *Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031*



- Legend**
- Arklow LPP 2025-2031 Boundary
 - Wider Study Area
 - Census Settlements

Major Settlement Pattern	
Arklow LPP (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)	
FIGURE NO:	4.2
CLIENT:	Wicklow County Council
DATE:	21/07/2025
SCALE:	1:130,000 @ A3
 	



4.3 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

4.3.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

The SEA considered available information on designated sites of conservation interest as well as protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats which have high ecological value. The SEA has also identified data sources which are appropriate to local, project level development and assessments.

There are a number of considerations for nature conservation designations in the area, including:

Table 4-1: Designated Ecological Sites and Protected Species

Environmental Features	Description
UNESCO ¹⁸ (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage and Biosphere sites	There are no World Heritage or UNESCO designations within or within 15km of Arklow Town and its environs.
National Parks	National Parks are specially designated protected areas of unspoilt beauty and there are six located in Ireland. The primary purpose of the National Parks is the conservation of biodiversity and landscape; however, they also provide recreational space for locals and visitors. There is 1 National Park within 15km of the area; Wicklow Mountains National Park.
Nature Reserves ¹⁹	A Nature Reserve is an area of importance to wildlife, which is protected under Ministerial order. There are currently 78 Statutory Nature Reserves. Most are owned by the State, but some are owned by organisations or private landowners. There are no designated Nature Reserves within the area, however there are 4 Nature Reserves within a 15km radius. These include Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve, Vale of Clara Nature Reserve, Glendalough Nature Reserve, and Glenealo Valley Nature Reserve.
Special Areas of Conservation ²⁰ (SACs) ²¹	Designated under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). There are no designated SACs within the area, however there are 6 existing SACs within a 15km radius. These include Slaney River Valley SAC, Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC, Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC, Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC, Magherabeg Dunes SAC, and Buckroney-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC.
Special Protection Areas ²² (SPAs) ²³	Designated under the Birds Directive (EC Directive 200/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds). There are no designated SPAs within or within 15km of the area.

¹⁸ [Home - World Heritage Ireland](#)

¹⁹ [Nature Reserves in Ireland | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)

²⁰ [Designated site data | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)

²¹ [Habitats Directive \(1992/43/EEC\) - habitats and species listed in Annex I and II](#)

²² [Designated site data | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)

²³ [Birds Directive \(2009/147/EEC\)](#)



Environmental Features	Description
RAMSAR sites ²⁴	The Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation by each contracting state of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl. This entails the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. There are no RAMSAR sites within or within 15km of the area.
Natural Heritage Areas ²⁵ (NHAs)	NHAs are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. There are no designated NHAs within or within 15km of the area.
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) ²⁶	pNHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995 but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. These sites are of significance for wildlife and habitats. There are 14 pNHAs within or within 15km of the area; Arklow Town Marsh, Arklow Sand Dunes, Avoca River Valley, Arklow Rock-Askintinny, Buckroneys-Brittans Dunes and Fen, Kilpatrick Sandhills, Kilgorman River Marsh, Ballymoney Strand, Courtown Dunes and Glen, Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood), Glenealy Woods, Ballinacor Wood, Magherabeg Dunes, and Tommafinnoge Wood.
Tree Preservation Order (TPO) ²⁷	Tree Preservation Orders may be made under Section 45 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1963 and subsequent acts. Part XIII of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 sets out the provisions for TPOs. TPOs can be made in the interest of amenity or the environment and allow for the protection of individual or groups of trees. There is 1 TPO within the area (Corsican Pine trees at Kynoch's Lodge).
Flora Protection Order Sites ²⁸	The Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235 of 2022) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022, which supersedes orders made in 1980, 1987, 1999 and 2015. There are 2 designated Flora Protection Order Sites within 15km of the area; these include Pallis Bridge (<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>) and Tigroney West (<i>Cephaloziella nicholsonii</i>).

²⁴ [Ramsar Sites - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/datasets/ramsar-sites)

²⁵ [Natural Heritage Areas \(NHA\) | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://npws.ie/natural-heritage-areas)

²⁶ [EPA Maps](#)

²⁷ [Wicklow County Council Tree Preservation Orders 2022](#)

²⁸ [Flora Protection Order Map Viewer \(npws.ie\)](#)



Environmental Features	Description
Wildfowl Sanctuaries ²⁹ (see S.I. 192 of 1979)	Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. There are no Wildfowl Sanctuaries within or within 15km of the area.
Salmonid Waters ³⁰	Salmonid waters are designated and protected as under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Designated Salmonid Waters are capable of supporting salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>), char (<i>Salvelinus</i>) and whitefish (<i>Coregonus</i>). There are no salmonid waters within or within 15km of the area.
OSPAR Marine Protected Areas ³¹ (MPA)	Under the OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Ireland committed to establishing marine protected areas to protect biodiversity (i.e., OSPAR MPAs). There are currently 19 OSPAR sites proposed in the State. There are no MPAs within 15km of the area.
CORINE Landcover ³²	Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface. The most dominant land cover types are continuous urban fabric, inland wetlands, forest and agricultural areas.

Additionally, the SEA considered non-designated sites for impacts with regard to aspects such as:

Table 4-2: Ecological Connectivity and Non-designated Habitats

	Description
Ecological connectivity and networks (including stepping stones and corridors)	Coastal systems, riparian habitats, hedgerow, and other blue and green infrastructure networks. Ecological connectivity and networks will be a key consideration along with invasive species - particularly those listed on the Third Schedule to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 [S.I.477/2011].
Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance	Semi-natural habitats in National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) national surveys (native woodlands, reef systems, tidal habitats, grasslands, peatlands etc.). Trees and woodlands of national importance have been identified.

The SEA made use of available data sources including those from the NPWS, the EPA's Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland and CORINE land cover mapping.

²⁹ [Wildfowl Sanctuaries | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](https://npws.ie/)

³⁰ [Register of Protected Areas - Salmonid Water Regs Table - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/dataset/register-of-protected-areas-salmonid-water-regs-table)

³¹ [OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Ireland committed to establishing marine protected areas to protect biodiversity](https://www.ospar.org/en/areas-of-protection/marine-protected-areas)

³² [EPA Maps](https://maps.epa.ie/)



The SEA was informed by the findings of the AA and followed elements of Integrated Biodiversity Assessment with reference made to the EPA's 2013 *Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual*.

As well as considerations related to European sites - a focus was placed on protected species outside of these designations such as bats³³, breeding birds³⁴, badgers³⁵ etc. as well as all related species listed within the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 ([S.I. No. 235 of 2022](#)).³⁶

4.3.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna were as follows:

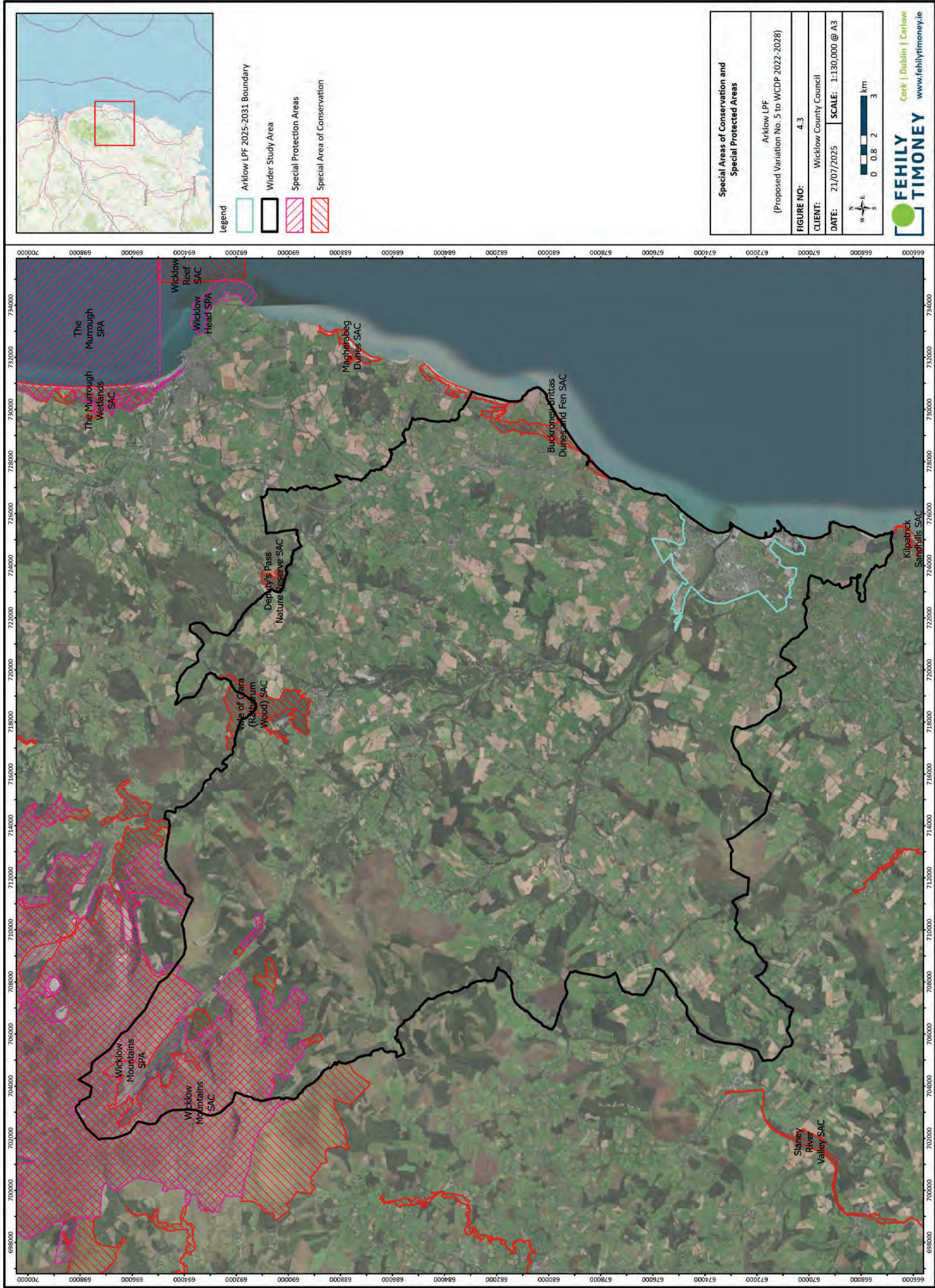
- Route selection and classification criteria in the development of blueways and greenways due to the largely linear nature of these developments.
- The potential for effects on non-designated biodiversity features e.g. important habitats and species outside designated sites - particularly with regard to barriers to movement and displacement.
- The potential for effects on protected areas: National and European sites (e.g. SACs, SPAs) and other Conservation Interest Sites e.g. refuge for fauna or flora, wildfowl reserves.
- The potential to spread invasive species.
- The potential impact on habitats and species where greenfield lands have been zoned for development.
- The potential impact development may have on the Arklow Town Marsh pNHA, which is located centrally in the town of Arklow.
- Potential impact of development on flora species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235 of 2022).
- Opportunities to promote green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and biodiversity net gain.

³³ The Habitats Directive ([1992/43/EEC](#)) and Birds Directive ([2009/147/EEC](#)) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitat and Birds Directives are 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 (Habitats Directive as above and 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 among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directives set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Further to the requirements of considerations related to European sites protected Annex IV of the Habitats Directive identifies priority species which are afforded protection in their own right - these include all Irish species of bats. Bats are also protected under the Irish Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000.

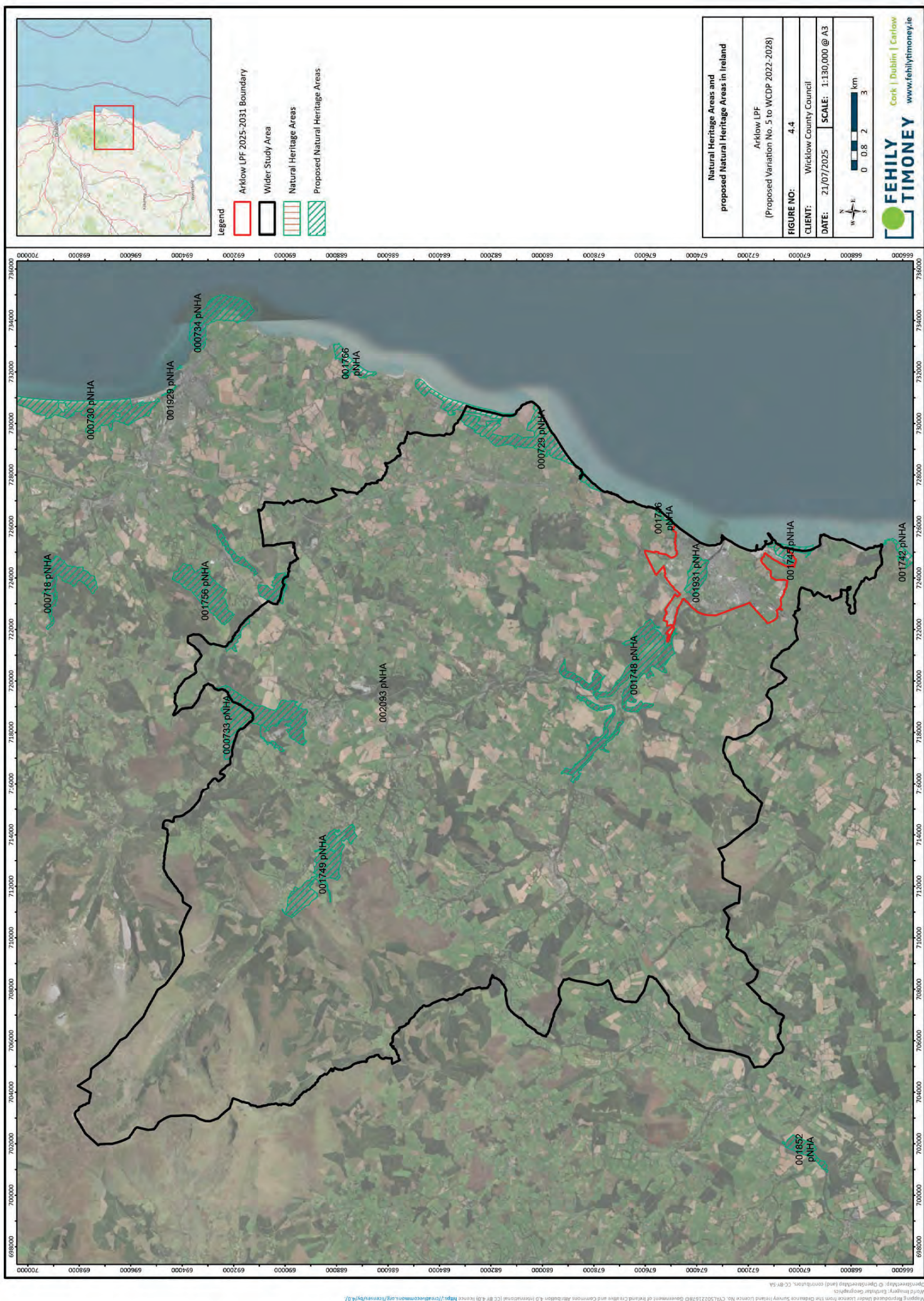
³⁴ Irish Wildlife Acts, 1976 (as amended)

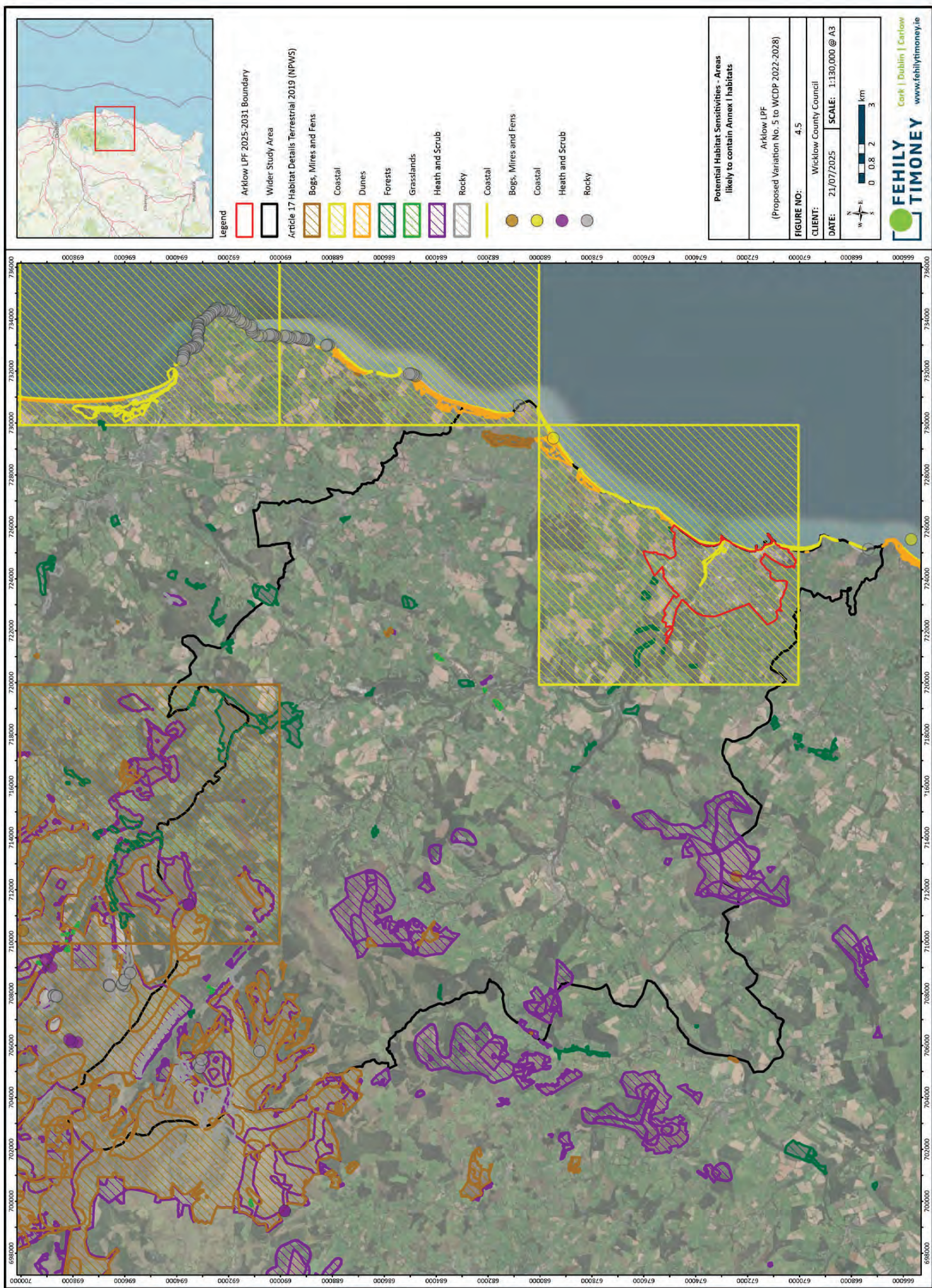
³⁵ Irish Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) and Bern Convention Appendix III

³⁶ Which gives legal protection to 68 species of vascular plants 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). The current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Acts is set out in the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 (as amended).



Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas
Arklow LPH (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)
FIGURE NO: 4.3
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council
DATE: 21/07/2025
SCALE: 1:130,000 @ A3







4.4 Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity

County Wicklow is endowed with a variety of landscape ‘types’ formed naturally over time and through the interactions of humans with the natural environment producing a variety of characteristic landscapes and landscape features. Arklow is the third largest town in the county. The current Landscape Character Assessment³⁷ for Wicklow divides the County into 15 Landscape Areas within six Landscape Categories. Arklow falls into a few of these categories and other designations for prospects and views have been identified as presented in the table below.

Table 4-3: Landscape Environmental Features of Significance

Environmental Features	Description	Significance
Views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest	R750 Wicklow to Arklow	Prospect towards sea from Coast Road
	L6171 and L2172 at Barraniskey, Arklow	Prospects of Webbs River Valley and Arklow
	R747 Vale of Avoca east of Woodenbridge	Prospects of both sets of Vale of Avoca including Avoca River Valley
	L-2180-48 from Raheen to Sheepwalk	Prospect of Vale of Avoca
Wicklow Landscape Categories and Areas	Coastal Areas Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - The Southern Coastline	- Coastline from Glen Turn to Arklow Rock - Arklow Rock/Askintinny NHA
	Rolling Lowlands - Area 6	Lands west of Arklow adjoining the foothills of Croghan Mountain

The following information sources were considered when assessing effects on Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity.

- Arklow Town environmental sensitivity mapping
- The National Landscape Strategy (NLS) for Ireland
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Forest cover/Indicative Forest Strategies³⁸
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 - Appendix 5: Landscape Assessment 2016 – 2022

³⁷ Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, Chapter 17.3: Landscape

³⁸ Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



4.4.1 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity were as follows:

- Effects of infrastructure projects (e.g., renewable energy development, linear transport projects) on areas of designated landscape quality and views and prospects, in particular in coastal areas.
- Impact of significantly scaled residential and commercial development on general visual amenity in the vicinity of these developments and wider landscape character.
- Effects of tourism and recreational development on landscape character and visual amenity at coastal locations.

4.5 Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural

Archaeological sites are legally protected.³⁹ One of the primary sources of information for known archaeological features is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).⁴⁰ The RMP is an inventory of sites and areas of archaeological significance.

There are 22 archaeological sites within Arklow Town. Churches, graveyards, and wells are the among most common recorded monuments and sites of significant archaeological, historic, and cultural importance within the Parea. The locations of the known archaeological sites are detailed in Figure 4-6. In addition, a large part of the town is a designated archaeological area.

This report includes information on the architectural heritage of Arklow town including that relating to designations such as the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Local authorities compile and maintain the RPSs⁴¹; these RPSs are listed in the County Development Plans and some are available in digital map format. The RPS for WCC can be found in Appendix 4 of the WCDP. There are 40 entries to the RPS within Arklow Town,⁴² which include many notable structures such as St. Saviours Church and Fr. Michael Murphy statue and other local features that contribute to the architectural heritage of the area.

It is acknowledged that the register of protected structures documented in CDPs may not represent all Ministerial recommended sites/structures which are included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).⁴³ The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 heritage of Ireland and there are over 50,000 listings on the NIAH in Ireland (DAHRRG, 2022). These provisions include historic gardens, designed landscapes and underwater archaeological heritage⁴⁴.

³⁹ National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended), the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

⁴⁰ Data available at [National Monuments Service - Archaeological Survey of Ireland - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland)

⁴¹ Under Section 51 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

⁴² *Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028*

⁴³ Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 (as amended) Data available at [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage \(NIAH\) National Dataset - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-inventory-of-architectural-heritage-niah-national-dataset)

⁴⁴ Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 2015. Advice to the Public on Ireland's Underwater Archaeological Heritage



The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has developed the Heritage Ireland 2030⁴⁵ plan, published in February 2022, serving the purpose of informing the decision-making process. An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape designated for its special characteristics and distinctive features. An ACA may or may not include Protected Structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. There are no ACAs within the Arklow area however.

The following information sources were considered when assessing effects on Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (including underwater archaeology such as wreck data)⁴⁶
- National Monuments Service (including the Underwater Unit)
- Built Heritage and Architectural Policy Section (the NIAH)⁴⁷
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Heritage Council
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

4.5.1 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Cultural Heritage were as follows:

- The potential impact of development on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, protected structures, and historic street character, including on the context of the Georgian merchant houses present in Arklow town centre.
- The potential impact of greenfield development on archaeological remains.
- The regeneration of commercial units and buildings in the town centre may impact on conservation status of protected structure.

⁴⁵ Available at [Heritage Ireland 2030 | gov.ie/housing \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/housing)

⁴⁶ Available at [Wreck Viewer | National Monuments Service \(archaeology.ie\)](https://archaeology.ie)

⁴⁷ Data available at [National Inventory of Architectural Heritage \(NIAH\) National Dataset - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie)



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Legend

- Arklow LPP 2025-2031 Boundary
- Wider Study Area
- National Monuments Service - Zones of Notification
- SMRZones
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- National Monuments Service

Archaeological Heritage and
National Monuments Map

Arklow LPP
(Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)

FIGURE NO: 4.6

CLIENT: Wicklow County Council

DATE: 21/07/2025 SCALE: 1:130,000 @ A3



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4.6 Soils

4.6.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

The types of soils found covering the LPF area⁴⁸ include the following:

Table 4-4: Soil Types Covering the County

Soil Type	Description
Urban soils	Urban soils are soils which have been disturbed, transported, or manipulated by human activity in the urban environment and are often overlain by a non-agricultural, man-made surface layer that has been produced by mixing, filling or by contamination of land surfaces in urban and suburban areas. These soils are found mainly in proximity to built-up parts of the town .
Gleys	Gleys are soils showing the effects of poor drainage and have developed as a result of permanent or intermittent water logging. This may be due to a high-water table, to a 'perched' water table caused by the impervious nature of the soil itself, or to seepage of runoff from slopes. Most gleys have poor physical conditions, resulting in restricted growth in spring and autumn. These are the principal soils found underlying the entire area.
Grey-Brown Podzolics	Grey-Brown podzolic soils are characterised by a comparatively thin organic covering and an organic-mineral layer above a greyish brown leached layer. These soils underlie the entire area as secondary soils.
Alluvial soils	These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt, or sand) river deposits. These are found in the flood plains of rivers and streams.

The audit of County Geological Sites in Wicklow was completed in 2014 and identified 2 County Geological Sites 5km from the area;⁴⁹ these include Goldmines River and Snugborough. Previous Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility Mapping sources was considered by the SEA.

The SEA of Soils utilised information from the following sources:

- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Teagasc
- Infomar⁵⁰
- EPA

⁴⁸ Teagasc.ie. General Soil Map.

⁴⁹ Geological Survey of Ireland (2014) *The Geological Heritage of Wicklow*.

⁵⁰ [Seabed and Sediment Data | Infomar](#)

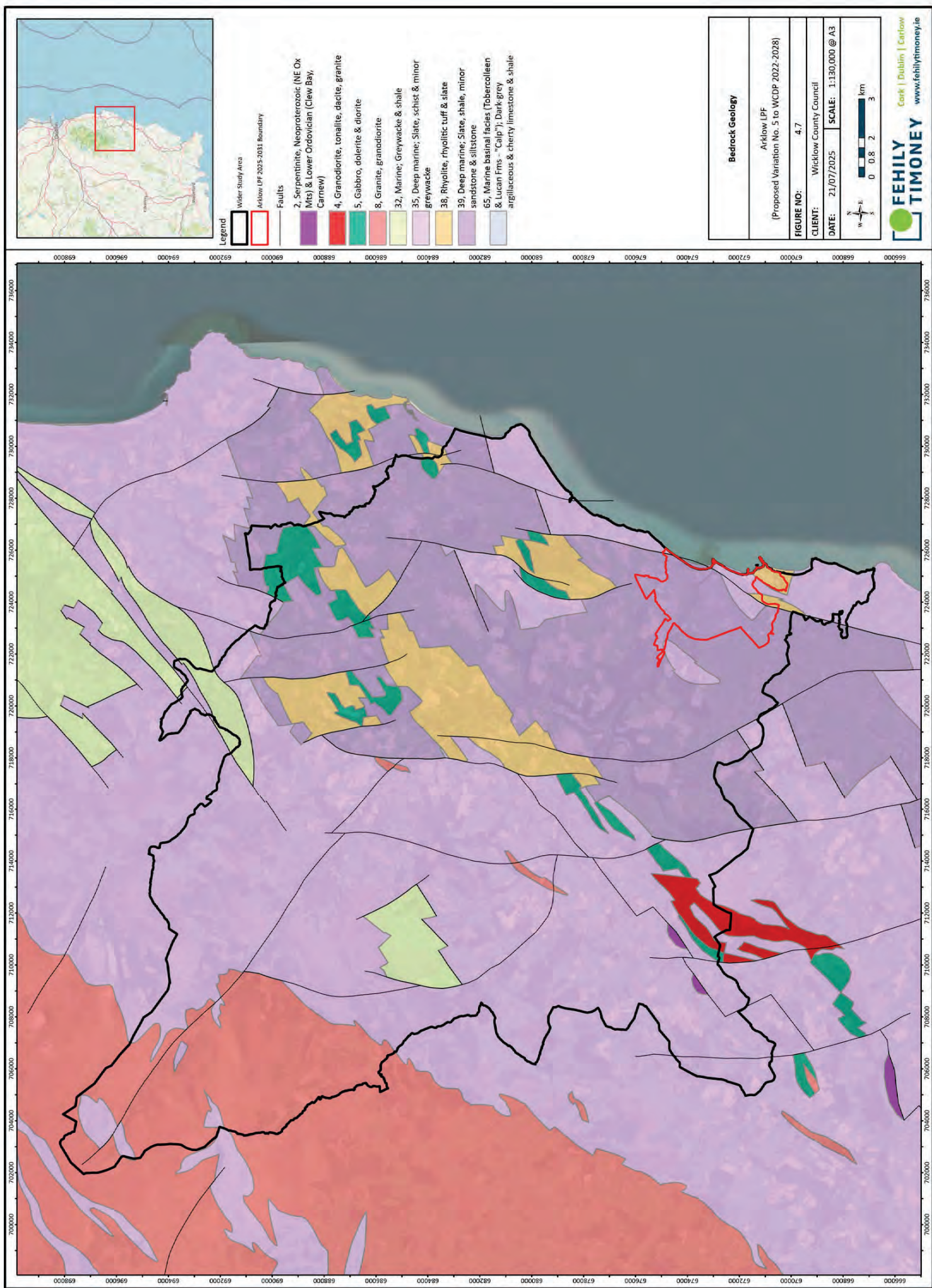


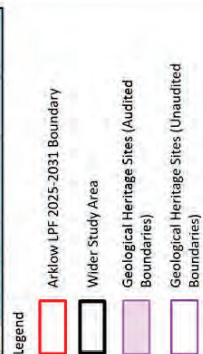
There is no legislation solely directed to soil protection in Ireland. In 2006, the European Commission (EC) developed a Soil Thematic Strategy that aims to protect soils and ensure the sustainable use of soils across Europe. Although a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive was withdrawn in 2014, the importance of sustainable soil management was recognised in the Seventh Environment Action Programme, where sustainable land management is to be achieved by 2020.

4.6.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Soils were as follows:

- Potential for construction activities impacting soil resources.
- Impacts to soils (land) vulnerable to erosion, including at coastal zones.
- Potential for unearthing contaminated material which will need to be managed.





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4.7 Land Use

4.7.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

Information on land use in Arklow Town has been obtained from the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) inventory and Ireland's Marine Atlas.⁵¹ These data sources have archives which document land use change as well as existing land use.

The CORINE database is the dominant land use database; however, some sectors have additional spatial data resources such as forestry. The Forestry Service have produced a GIS based Forest Inventory Planning System (FIPS) to act as an aid in the long-term spatial planning of national forest, and to provide guidance to forestry grants. Additional sources of further land use data include the NPWS⁵².

The SEA has considered land use impacts - utilising data from sources such as:

- CORINE Land Cover Database
- Teagasc
- EPA
- NPWS
- Forest Service
- Marine Institute
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- GSI data
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

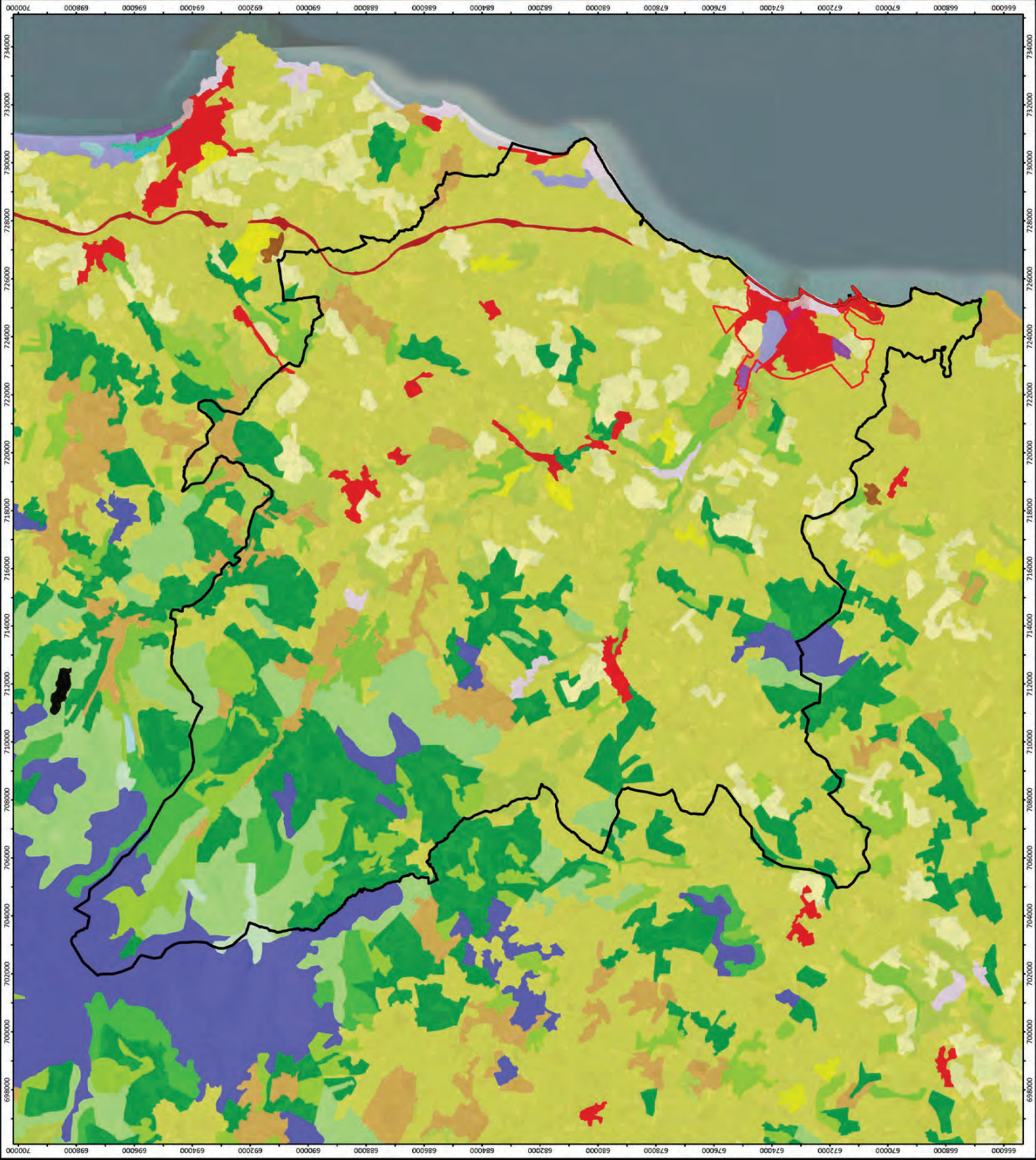
4.7.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Land Use were as follows:

- Potential constraints and impacts on existing residential and commercial development, during the construction and operational phases of significantly scaled development in the area.
- Impacts on land use dynamics due to the development of additional transport infrastructure in the town and its environs.

⁵¹ Available at [Ireland's Marine Atlas](https://www.marine.ie/)

⁵² Sources such as the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026, Draft National Peatland Strategy, Draft Raised Bog SAC Management Plan, and Draft Raised Bog NHAs Review.



Legend
 Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary
 Wider Study Area

CORINE Land Cover 2018

- 111 Continuous urban fabric
- 112 Discontinuous urban fabric
- 121 Industrial or commercial units
- 122 Road and rail networks
- 123 Sea ports
- 131 Mineral extraction sites
- 132 Dump
- 142 Sport and leisure facilities
- 211 Non-irrigated land
- 231 Pastures
- 242 Complex cultivation patterns
- 243 Land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation
- 311 Broad-leaved forest
- 312 Coniferous forest
- 313 Mixed forest
- 321 Natural grassland
- 322 Moors and heaths
- 324 Transitional woodland scrub
- 331 Beaches dunes sand
- 333 Sparsely vegetated areas
- 334 Burnt areas
- 411 Inland marshes
- 412 Peat bogs
- 421 Salt Marshes
- 512 Water bodies
- 521 Coastal lagoons

Land Use (CORINE)

Arklow LPF
 (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)

FIGURE NO: 4.9

CLIENT: Wicklow County Council

DATE: 21/07/2025 SCALE: 1:130,000 @ A3





4.8 Air Quality and Noise

4.8.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

The Air Quality in Ireland 2023 report prepared by the EPA identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good, however, there are concerning localised issues that are negatively impacting the air we breathe.
- Air quality monitoring results in 2022 show that the main pollutants are fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from vehicle emissions/traffic.
- People's health and the health of our environment is impacted by these pollutants.
- Ireland is not on track to achieve its ambition, set out in the National Clean Air Strategy, to meet the health-based World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guideline limits by 2026.

The National Clean Air Strategy (DECC, 2023) referred to the most recent projections by the EPA in 2022 and states that Ireland is on track to meet the majority of EU commitments for national emissions levels by 2030, and there was only one exceedance of EU ambient air quality limit values since 2010.

Under the Clean Air for Europe Directive [Directive 2008/50/EC], EU member states must designate 'Zones' for the purpose of managing air quality. For Ireland, four zones were defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2011). The Arklow area lies within 'Zone D - Rural Ireland'. There are no air monitoring stations within or within 15km of the area, however the nearest stations are located in Carlow Town and Enniscorthy. The current air quality in both locations are identified by the EPA as being of Good⁵³ status.

The EEA⁵⁴ states that '*environmental noise can be defined as unwanted or harmful outdoor sound.*' The EU Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) relates to the assessment and management of environmental noise.⁵⁵ This Directive called for the development of strategic noise maps and action plans for major roads, railways, airports, and cities. Existing noise related impacts can be seen in Figure 4-10. This has been considered throughout the SEA processes in the development of the LPF.

The SEA considered Air Quality and Noise using data from the following sources:

- EPA
- WHO

⁵³ [EPA AirQuality.ie](https://www.epa.ie/airquality/) - 26/02/2024

⁵⁴ EEA. 2022. Noise Data Briefing. Available at : [Noise — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://noise.eea.europa.eu/).

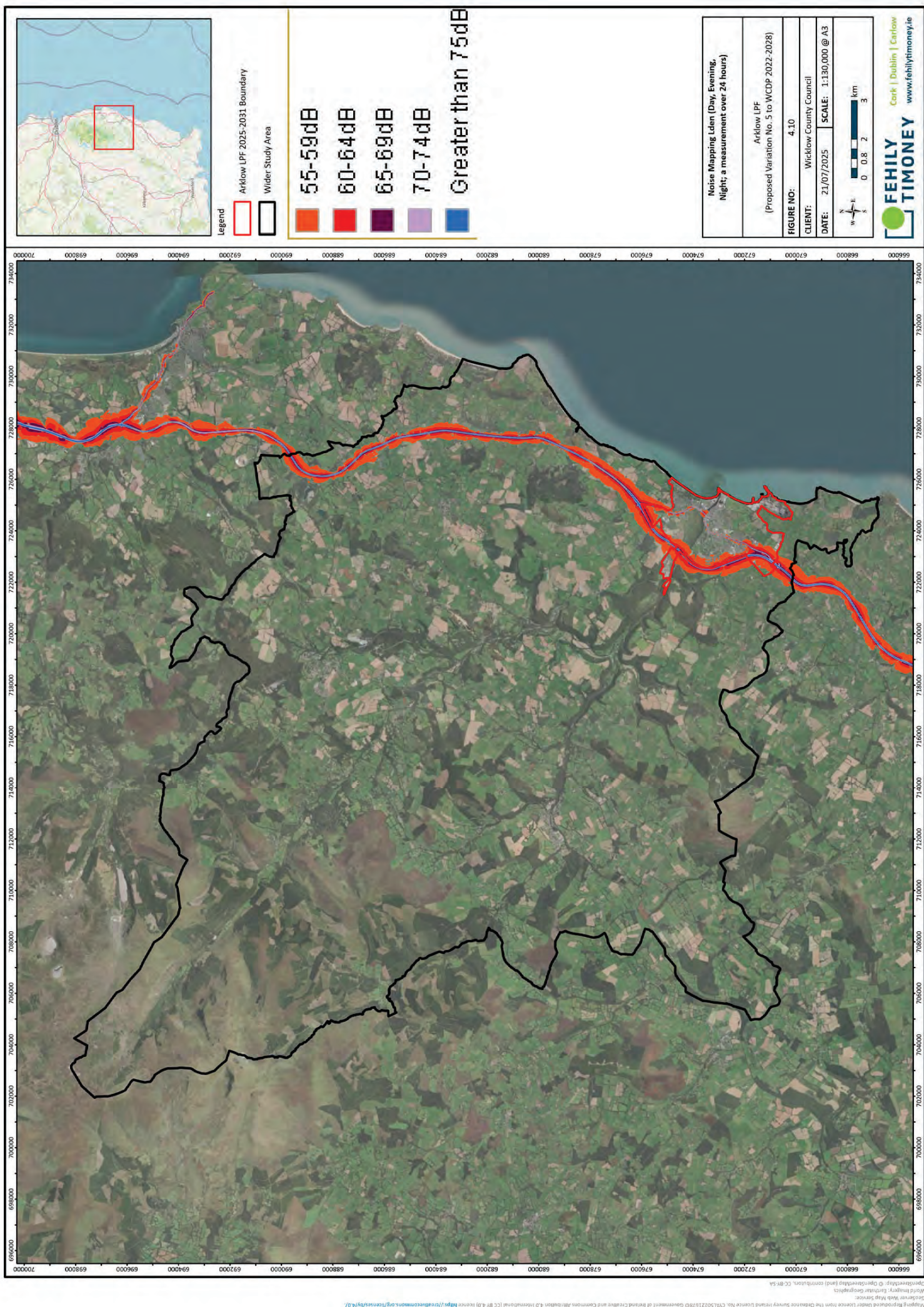
⁵⁵ This was transposed into Irish national legislation via the Environmental Noise Regulations (S. I. No. 140 of 2006).



4.8.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Air Quality and Noise are as follows:

- The construction of residential, commercial/industrial, transport or energy related development may have a negative impact on local air quality and create noise pollution.
- Energy related development may have impacts on noise pollution, particularly towards sensitive receptors which are in close proximity.
- Existing noise from the M/N11 may impact on proposed residential development.
- Active travel development may support improvements in local air quality in the town.





4.9 Water

4.9.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) establishes a framework for the protection of both surface and groundwater. Transposing legislation outlines the water protection and water management measures required in Ireland to maintain high status of waters where it exists and to prevent any deterioration in existing water status. The second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) ran from 2018-2021, where separate plans were devised for all eight River Basin Districts (RBDs) with the objective of achieving at least 'good' status for all waters by 2027. The third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan, The Water Action Plan 2024, was published in 2024.

Water quality data is collected by the EPA.⁵⁶ The LPF area is located within the Avoca-Vartry catchment. The Southwestern Irish Sea lies on the west of Arklow Town's coastline. The WFD status of coastal water bodies (2016-2021) for Southwestern Irish Sea - Brittas Bay is of high status. The WFD status of transitional water bodies (2016-2021) for Avoca Estuary is identified as being of moderate status. However, the latest River Q Value for the 'Avoca-Arklow Br' river monitoring station is of bad status.

The EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) uses a holistic approach to groundwater by addressing the relationships between groundwater, surface water and ecological receptors. Groundwater is considered by its ecological status, which is based on two assessments: chemical and quantitative status. Both of these need to be in good condition for the overall water body to be classified as good.

Pressures on waterbodies that are failing to meet the WFD's overall objective of 'good' status will be identified by the SEA. The SEA will also provide information on aquifer vulnerability, aquifer productivity and entries to the WFD's Registers of Protected Areas.

The WFD groundwater status (2016-2021) underlying the area is identified as being of good status.

The WFD status of rivers and streams (2016-2021) draining the area ranges from high (i.e. Templerainy Stream), to good (i.e. Kilmurry Stream) and to moderate (sections of rivers and streams including Avoca, Ballyduff Stream).

Certain areas across Arklow Town and Environs are at risk of flooding from various sources including groundwater, pluvial, fluvial, estuarial, and coastal. There are various historic and predictive indicators of flood risk in the area, including along Avoca Estuary, Templerainy Stream, Kilmurry Stream, and Ballyduff Stream. The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme is being progressed to address and reduce flood risk in the area.

The GSI rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the area are mapped on Figure 4-16. The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4-17.

⁵⁶ [EPA Maps](#). Water.



The Water assessment has utilised information from the following sources:

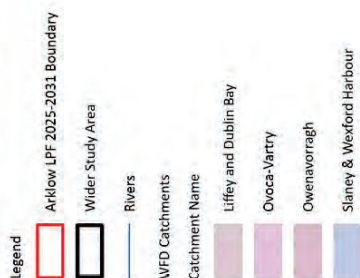
- EPA and Marine Institute - WFD Data.
- GSI data on groundwaters, aquifers and bedrock information.
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study and associated FRMPs (OPW, as reviewed 2022).
- Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) Mapping⁵⁷ (OPW).

4.9.2 Key Considerations

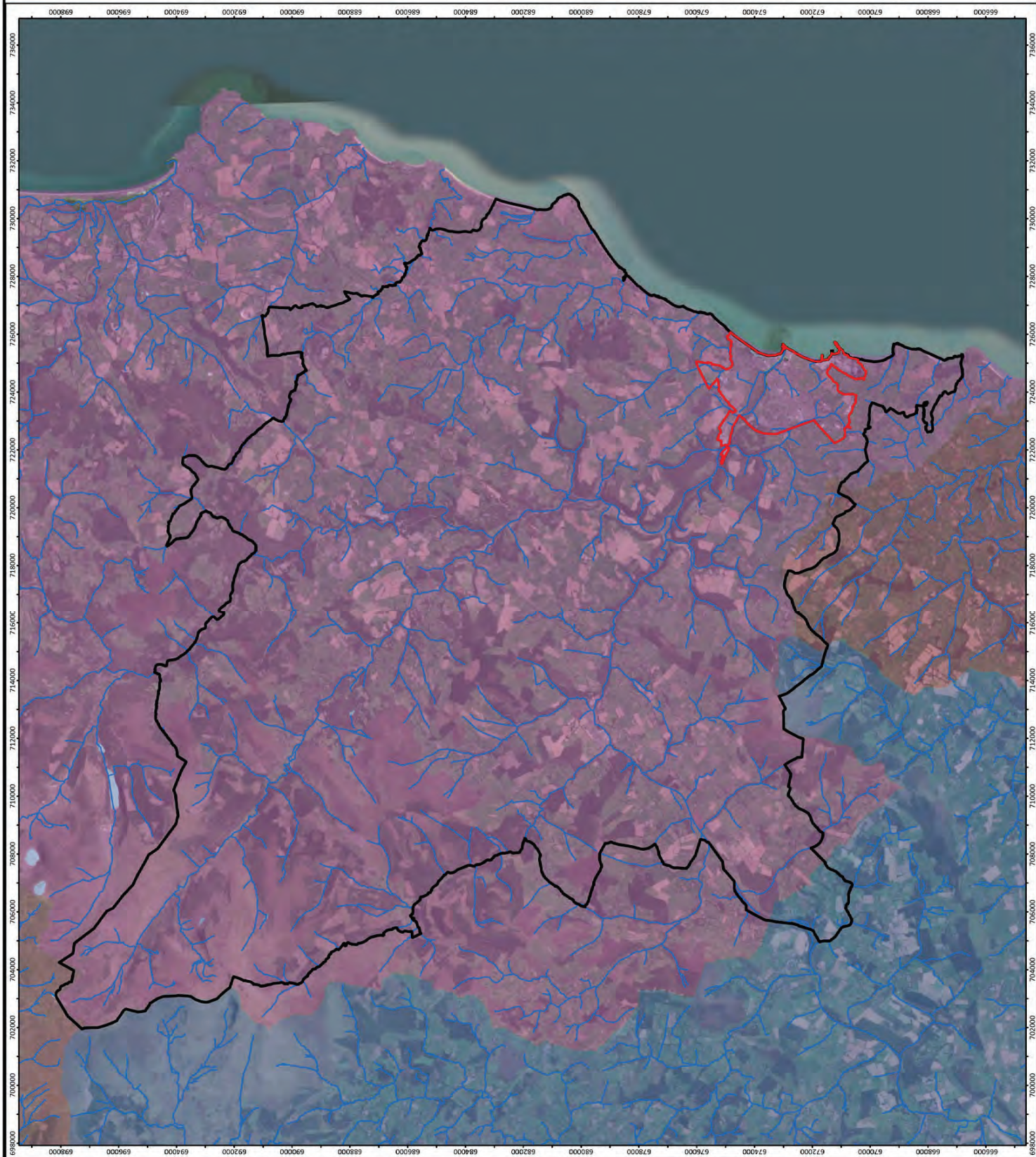
The key considerations in relation to Water were as follows:

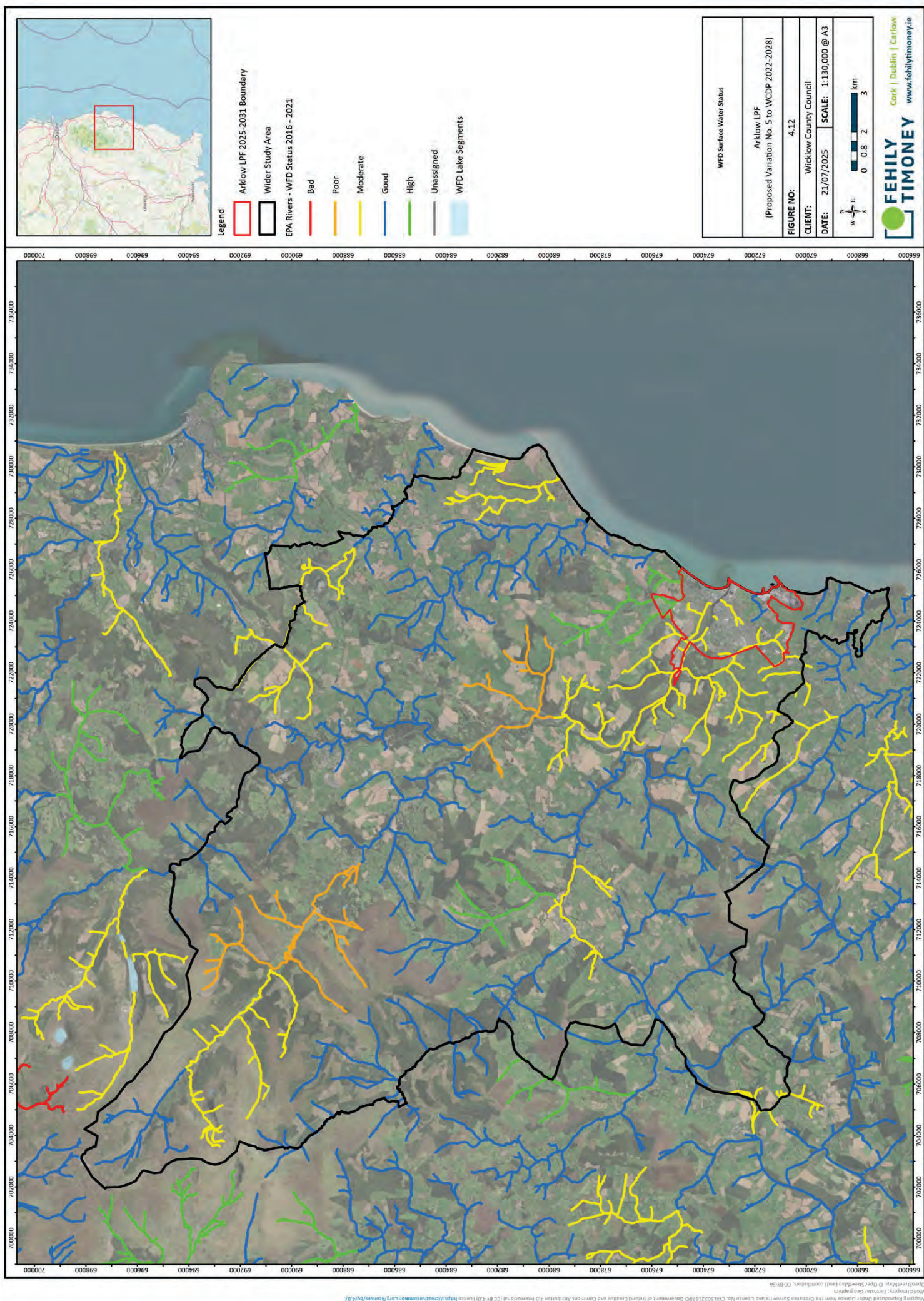
- Potential pressures and impacts on water body status from construction and development works (i.e. increased sedimentation and accidental spillage/run-off).
- Greenfield development inadvertently contributing to flood risk.
- Linear development, including road and active travel projects impacting on hydrological conditions and water body status.
- Significantly scaled development impacting upon hydrological/hydrogeological regimes.

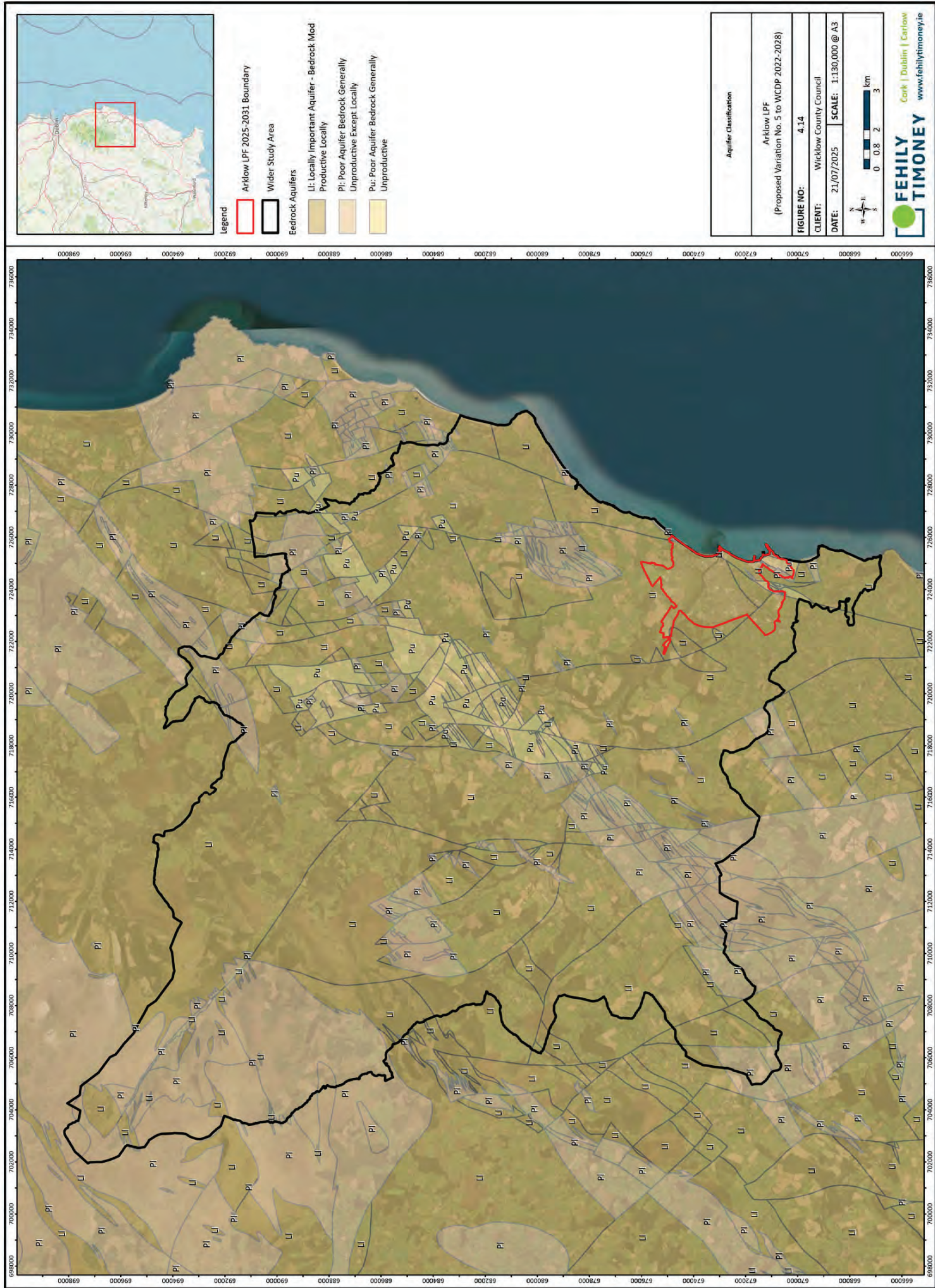
⁵⁷ OPW (2022) Flood risk maps and data platform - Available at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/>



Hydrology	Arklow LPF (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)	FIGURE NO: 4.11	CLIENT: Wicklow County Council	DATE: 21/07/2025	SCALE: 1:130,000 @ A3
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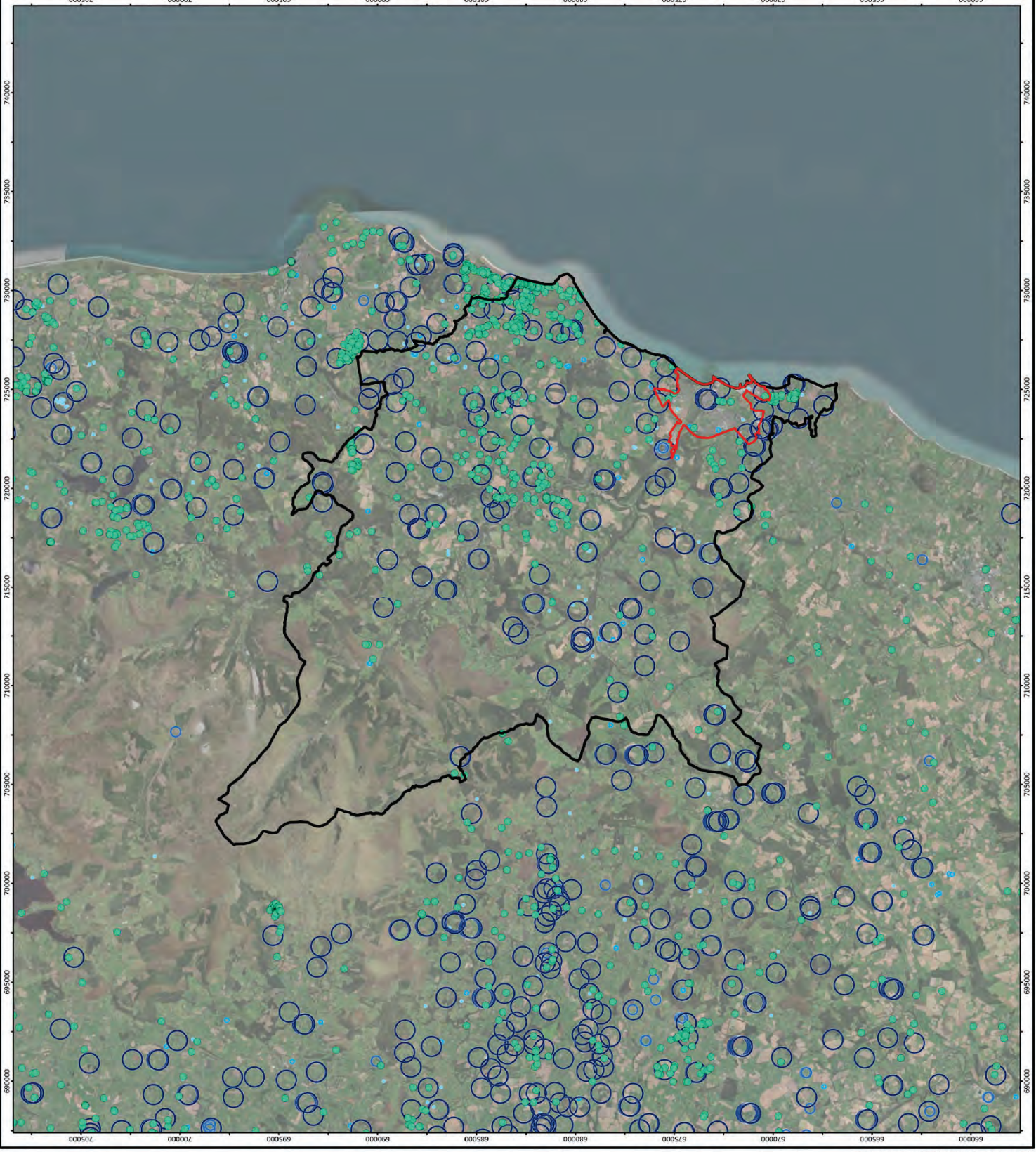


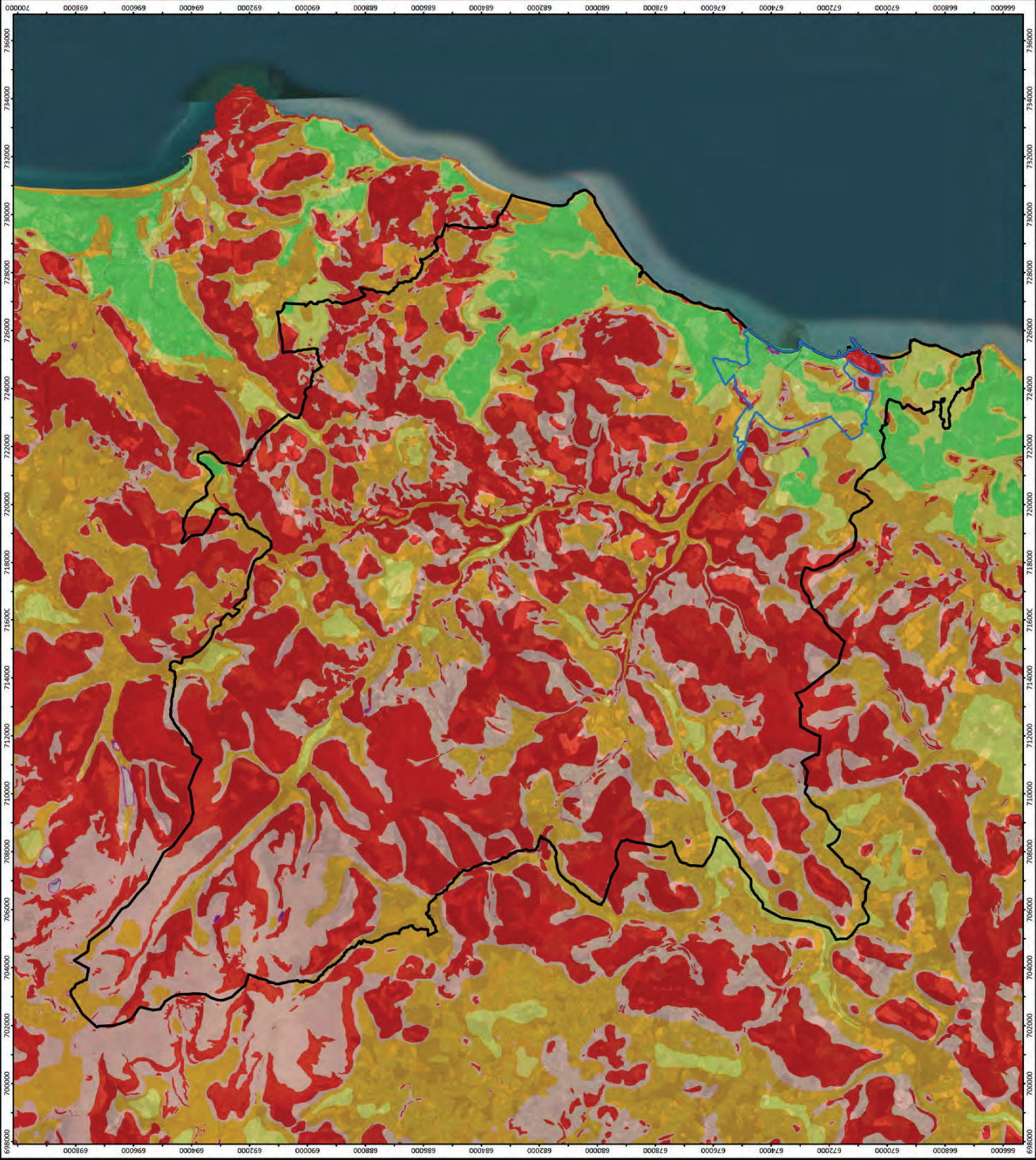


Legend

- Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary
- Wider Study Area
- Wells and Springs (10-50m Accuracy)
- Wells and Springs (50-100m Accuracy)
- Wells and Springs (100-200m Accuracy)
- Wells and Springs (200-500m Accuracy)
- Wells and Springs (500m-1km Accuracy)

Wells and Springs
Arklow LPF (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)
FIGURE NO: 4.15
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council
DATE: 21/07/2025
SCALE: 1:190,000 @ A3
0 1 3 5 km





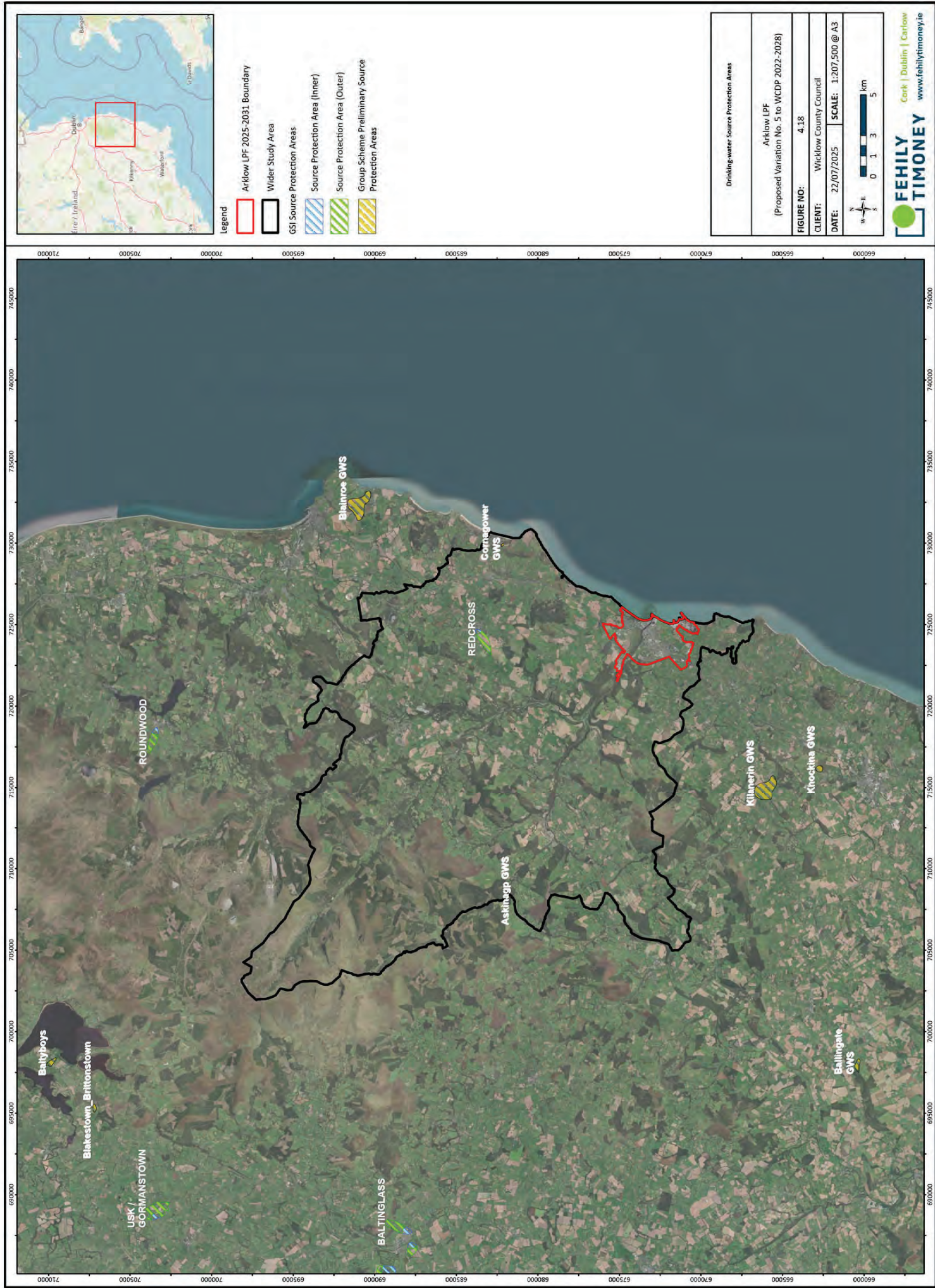
- Legend**
- Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary
 - Wider Study Area
 - Groundwater Vulnerability
 - E - Extreme
 - H - High
 - M - Moderate
 - L - Low
 - Water
 - X - Rock Near Surface or Karst

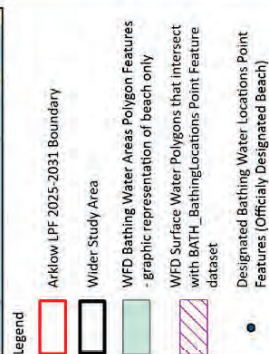
Groundwater Vulnerability
Arklow LPF (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)
FIGURE NO: 4.16
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council
DATE: 21/07/2025
SCALE: 1:130,000 @ A3
0 0.8 2 3 km



- Legend**
- Arklow LPP 2025-2031 Boundary
 - Wider Study Area
- Bedrock Aquifers**
- Li: Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock Mod Productive Locally
 - Pu: Poor Aquifer Bedrock Generally Unproductive

Groundwater Productivity
Arklow LPP (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)
FIGURE NO: 4.17
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council
DATE: 22/07/2025
SCALE: 1:207,500 @ A3
0 1 3 5 km





WED Register of Protected Areas Bathing Water Areas	Arklow LPP (Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)	FIGURE NO: 4.19a	CUSTOMER: Wicklow County Council	DATE: 21/07/2025	SCALE: 1:207 500 @ A3
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Legend

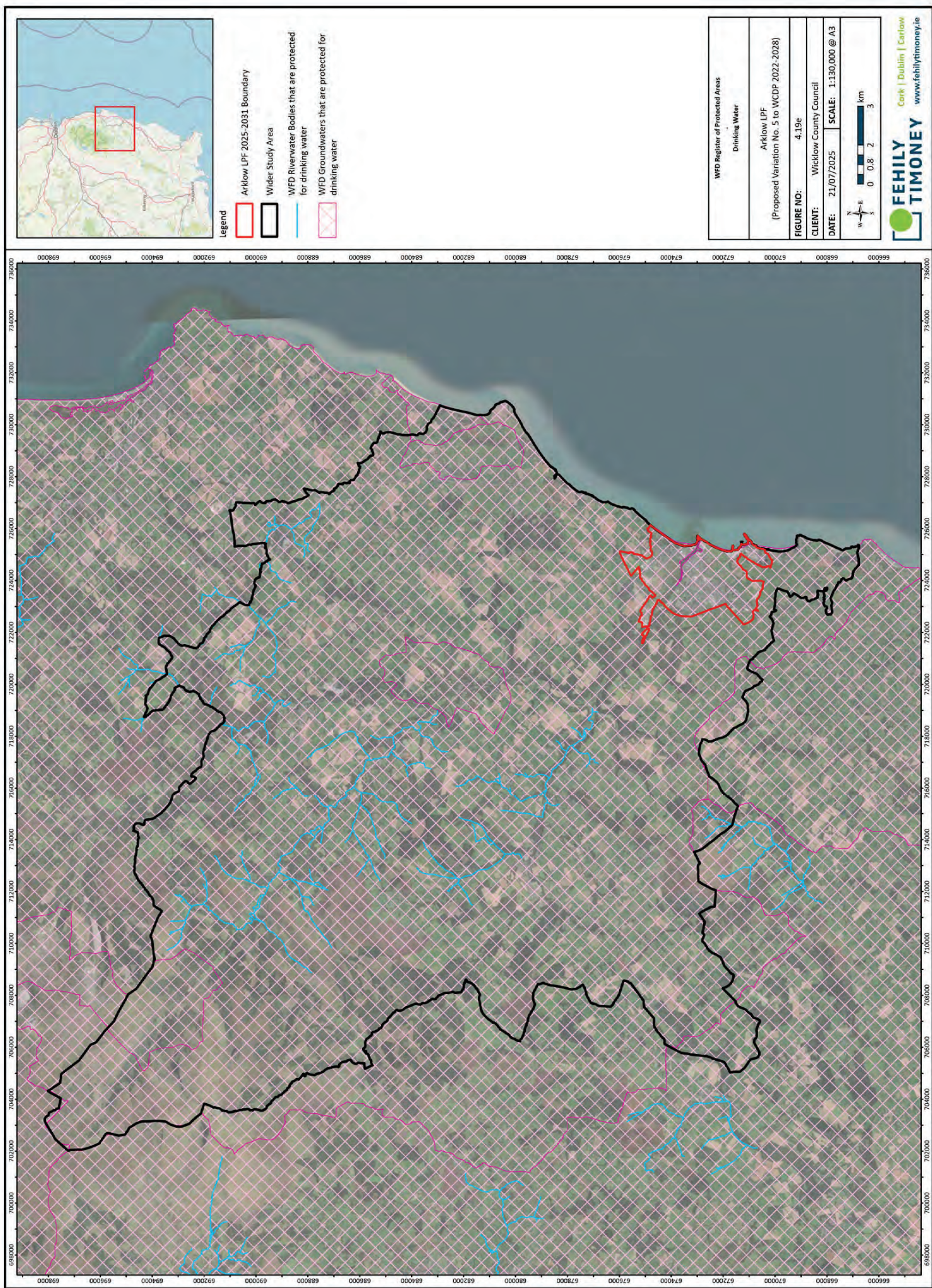
- Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary
- Wider Study Area
- Officially designated under S.I. 293/1988
- WFD Groundwater Bodies that intersect with Designated Salmonid Waters
- WFD Groundwater Bodies that intersect with Designated Salmonid Waters
- WFD Surface Water Polygons that intersect with Designated Salmonid Waters (Lake, Coastal and Transitional Water Bodies)

WFD Register of Protected Areas
Salmonid
Arklow LPF
(Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)
FIGURE NO: 4.19b
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council
DATE: 22/07/2025
SCALE: 1:207,500 @ A3
0 1 3 5 km



- Legend
- Arklow LPF 2025-2031 Boundary
 - Wider Study Area
 - WFD Groundwater Bodies that intersect with WFD_RPA_Shellfish

WFD Register of Protected Areas
Shellfish Areas
Arklow LPF
(Proposed Variation No. 5 to WCDP 2022-2028)
FIGURE NO: 4.19c
CLIENT: Wicklow County Council
DATE: 21/07/2025
SCALE: 1:207,500 @ A3
W 0 1 3 5 km





4.10 Material Assets

4.10.1 Characteristics of the Environmental Baseline

Key material assets covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage, and natural resources of economic value, such as soil,⁵⁸ air and water.

Other level material assets include transport infrastructure, power generation plants and supply networks, water supply, wastewater treatment infrastructure and waste disposal sites among others. Potential opportunities and conflicts associated with these assets were considered in the SEA.

4.10.2 Water Services

4.10.2.1 *Wastewater*

Wastewater demand and capacity information at settlements that were considered by the SEA, where available, includes:

- Population served.
- Loading.
- Capacity.
- Level of treatment.
- Spare capacity or shortfall.
- Compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.
- Wastewater infrastructure investment needs.

The EPA produces annual reports on the treatment of urban wastewater from cities, towns, and urban communities. The latest EPA 2023 report⁵⁹ '*Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2022*' identifies the priority areas where resources must be targeted, in order to protect the environment from the harmful effects of wastewater and deliver environmental improvements where they are most needed. Based on the EPA's assessment of monitoring information provided by Uisce Éireann and the enforcement activities carried out by the EPA, this report identifies urban areas with the most important environmental issues that must be addressed. Arklow Town is listed as a priority area.⁶⁰ The new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed and commissioned in early 2025. This plant provide substantial wastewater treatment capacity for the area. Public water supply for the Arklow area is sourced from various sources, including the impounding reservoir at the water treatment works at Ballyduff, the Goldmine River (Woodenbridge) and groundwater sources.

⁵⁸ Soil and geological resources were considered under this topic including with respect to mineral locations and aggregate potential.

⁵⁹ Available at [Monitoring & Assessment: Wastewater | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/monitoring/assessment/wastewater/)

⁶⁰ Available at [Compliance & Enforcement: Wastewater | Environmental Protection Agency \(epa.ie\)](https://www.epa.ie/compliance/enforcement/wastewater/)



4.10.2.2 Surface Water Drainage

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff as well as mitigating adverse impacts of climate change. SuDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits.

4.10.3 Waste Management

The Waste Management Act 1996 requires local authorities to make a waste management plan either individually or collectively for their functional areas. In 2015, Arklow Town was guided by the *Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021* which provided the framework for solid waste management in the region. Post 2021, waste management in Ireland is guided by the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy, which replaces the existing regional plans. This plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 to 2029.

The most recent Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 provides a legal basis to support the circular transition by: 1) incentivising the use of reusable and recyclable alternatives to a range of wasteful single-use disposable packaging and other items, 2) re-designating Ireland's existing Environment Fund as a Circular Economy Fund, 3) requiring mandatory segregation and incentivised charging for commercial waste, similarly to the system that already exists for the household market, and 4) improving our national regulatory processes, to encourage the safe and sustainable re-use of materials instead of treating them as wastes.

4.10.4 Transport

Arklow Town is by-passed by the M11 and a number of regional roads, namely R747, R772, and R750. The town is served by the intercity Dublin Connolly - Rosslare Europort rail line and local connections to metropolitan commuter towns. Further to this, Bus Éireann provides several routes through Arklow, including the 002 and 183 services. The Wexford Bus operates several services day and night linking Arklow and Wicklow Town with Dublin Airport.

The EMRA RSES 2019-2031 identifies that Local Transport Plans will be made for Arklow, as part of Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 8.6 of the document.

4.10.5 Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure (GI) is a crucial component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change with trees, woodlands and wetlands providing carbon capture and slowing water flows while improving air quality. The GI strategy for Wicklow is to reinforce GI assets to support the creation of a more climate resilient environment which in turn contributes significantly to climate adaptation and mitigation.

Important existing GI assets within Arklow include the Arklow –, Arklow Rock-Askintinny, Arklow Sand Dunes, Arklow Town Marsh, and Avoca River Valley. All of the natural and built heritage assets are also important green infrastructure resources that form part of the overall green infrastructure strategy for the town. Facilitating the protection and enhancement of these assets is vital in the overall development of the town.



4.10.6 Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

4.10.7 Land

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

4.10.8 Coastline

The Wicklow coastline extends for a distance of approximately 60 km and stretches from the Bray Seafront to Kilmichael Point approximately 5.5 km south of Arklow. The WFD coastal waterbody of Arklow is the Southwestern Irish Sea - Brittas Bay (IE_EA_140_0000). This WFD coastal waterbody has been designated to be of 'High' Status (2016-2021).

Coastal waters are important for tourism, for bathing waters and for supporting marine wildlife. In accordance with Directive 2014/89/EC (Establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, published the National Marine Planning Framework in July 2021. This Framework establishes a national strategy for the strategic planning and sustainable development in the maritime area for the purpose of achieving ecological, economic and social priorities (managing marine assets). Common terrestrial / marine policy areas include renewable energy, electricity networks, coastal and flood defences, fishing and aquaculture, ports and harbours, public access, tourism and recreation, protected sites and species, seascape and landscape.

The most recent EPA report on bathing water quality, 'Bathing Water Quality in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2024', outlines the status of Irish Seawater and Freshwater Bathing Areas. Arklow South Beach is situated between Clogga Beach (c. 3.5 km to the south) and Brittas Bay South (c. 10km to the north). Although Arklow South Beach was not included in the latest Bathing Quality in Ireland Report, monitoring was carried out at both Clogga Beach and Brittas Bay South. Both Clogga Beach and Brittas Bay South were classified as having 'Excellent' bathing water quality.

4.10.9 Renewable Energy Potential

Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy, renewable energy sources are defined as renewable non-fossil energy sources such as, but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, biogases and biochar (i.e., the thermal treatment of natural organic materials in an oxygen-limited environment). Available information on renewable energy potential within and adjacent to the Arklow area.

Two Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) facilities have been granted planning consent - one at Avoca River Park and one at Kish Business Park in Arklow.



Data centre owner and operator Echelon Data Centres and green energy developer SSE Renewables have also been granted planning consent for the development of a joint 220kV substation at the Avoca River Business Park in Arklow. The new infrastructure will facilitate the development of Ireland's first large-scale offshore wind farm, off the coast of Co. Wicklow with an export capacity of 520MW, and Echelon's DUB20 (Arklow) 100MW data centre.

It is anticipated further energy related development will be carried out in the environs of the town.

4.10.9.1 *Energy Related Material Assets and Infrastructure*

According to SEAI (2024⁶¹), Ireland's primary energy consumption from fossil fuels, measured in tonnes of oil equivalent (toe), decreased by 4.5% compared to 2022 figures. Transportation and residential represented the highest resource demand. The generation of renewable energy has been increasing over the past ten years, with a growth in the electricity generated from wind farms to 33.7%⁶² in 2023. All traditional power plants are in a process of transition to renewable/sustainable sources to align with the targets in the Climate Action Plan 2023.

The SEA of Material Assets utilised information from the following sources:

- Department of Defence
- Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (DHLGH)⁶³
- EPA - marine disposal sites
- Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
- Iarnród Éireann
- Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA)
- Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA)
- Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)
- Marine Atlas (for shipping port and route data)
- Ports Authority
- SEAI
- SFPA
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Uisce Éireann
- Waterways Ireland

⁶¹ SEAI 2024. Energy in Ireland 2024 Report. Available at <https://www.seai.ie/sites/default/files/publications/energy-in-ireland-2024.pdf>

⁶² SEAI 2024. Latest Energy Trends in Ireland. Available at <https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-publications/energy-in-ireland>

⁶³ [Energy Offshore Renewable - Datasets - data.gov.ie](https://data.gov.ie)



4.10.10 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Material Assets were as follows:

- Economic growth and development as well as increased uptake of Electric Vehicles and associated the associated development of EV infrastructure have the potential to increase energy demand within the area significantly.
- Increased residential and commercial development in the area may impact upon material assets such as energy and water supply or wastewater treatment capacity.
- Demands for linear infrastructure development (i.e. active travel routes) and improved transport connectivity to neighbouring settlements.
- Demands for increased renewable energy infrastructure and associated connection networks.
- Effects on sensitive receptors with increased demands for active travel/green/renewable infrastructure, in particular during the construction phase.
- The potential for effects on existing green and blue infrastructure and key ecological corridors from inappropriate development.

4.11 Tourism and Recreation

4.11.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

Tourism and recreation are influenced by a range of factors in Ireland. International tourism has increased in recent years. Fáilte Ireland has recently published their four brand strategies⁶⁴ which will define the spatial scope and spread of future tourism developments within Ireland. Wicklow hosts 'Ireland's Ancient East' and the success of the brand strategy will result in infrastructure demands to previously less trafficked areas. At a county level, Wicklow County Council had developed a number of local strategies, such as the Wicklow Tourism Strategy & Marketing Plan 2018–2023, County Wicklow Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2026, and County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020 - 2025. Arklow has been identified as one of the key towns to be developed as a visitor hub. Cultural Heritage sites also support heritage-related tourism and recreation, see Section 4.5. Landscape is also an important aspect in terms of Tourism, see Section 4.4.

The assessment of Tourism and Recreation utilised the following information sources:

- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Central Statistics Office (CSO)
- Recreational sailing groups and ferry operators
- Fáilte Ireland
- National Trails Office

⁶⁴ Wild Atlantic Way, Dublin's a Breath of Fresh Air, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands



4.11.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Tourism and Recreation are as follows:

- Green infrastructure development may have the potential to restrict or reduce the quality of resources important for recreation and/or tourism including angling facilities, boating activities and/or associated resources.
- The promotion or development of blueways and greenways could add additional loading pressures in terms of visitor interactions at sensitive areas such as trampling, disturbance, erosion, and littering.
- Recreation and tourism development may impact on sensitive receptors, particularly in coastal zones.

4.12 Climate Change

4.12.1 Characterisation of the Environmental Baseline

The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was established to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change. This aims at pursuing the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of the year 2050. Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 sets out Ireland's national and sectoral targets in this regard.

As part of the Climate Act, Arklow Town has been selected as County Wicklow's decarbonisation zone. A baseline emissions inventory has been developed for the town; in which results show that the top 3 carbon-emitting sectors are 1) residential, 2) transport, and 3) commercial.

Future changes in climate and associated impacts on sea level, rainfall patterns/intensity and river flow will influence flooding frequency and extent in the future. Local Authorities in compliance with the Regional Planning Guidelines are attempting to adopt sustainable flood risk strategies in areas likely to be at risk of flooding in the future in the context of climate change and changing weather patterns. Changes to climate could lead to an increase in flooding events in Ireland. The OPW has undertaken a number of Flood Risk Management Studies for different River Basin Districts (RBDs) in Ireland. These studies have identified the areas which are most at risk and future management plans have been advised; these are adopted by the OPW. In some cases, mitigation measures will involve the construction of physical flood defences.

The SEA considered data related to climate from the following sources:

- Arklow Decarbonisation Zone Implementation Plan 2022
- Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2023
- CFRAM Studies⁶⁵
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- EPA
- Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.

⁶⁵ Office of Public Works (2021) Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme gov.ie - [CFRAM Programme \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)



4.12.2 Key Considerations

The key considerations in relation to Climate Change were as follows:

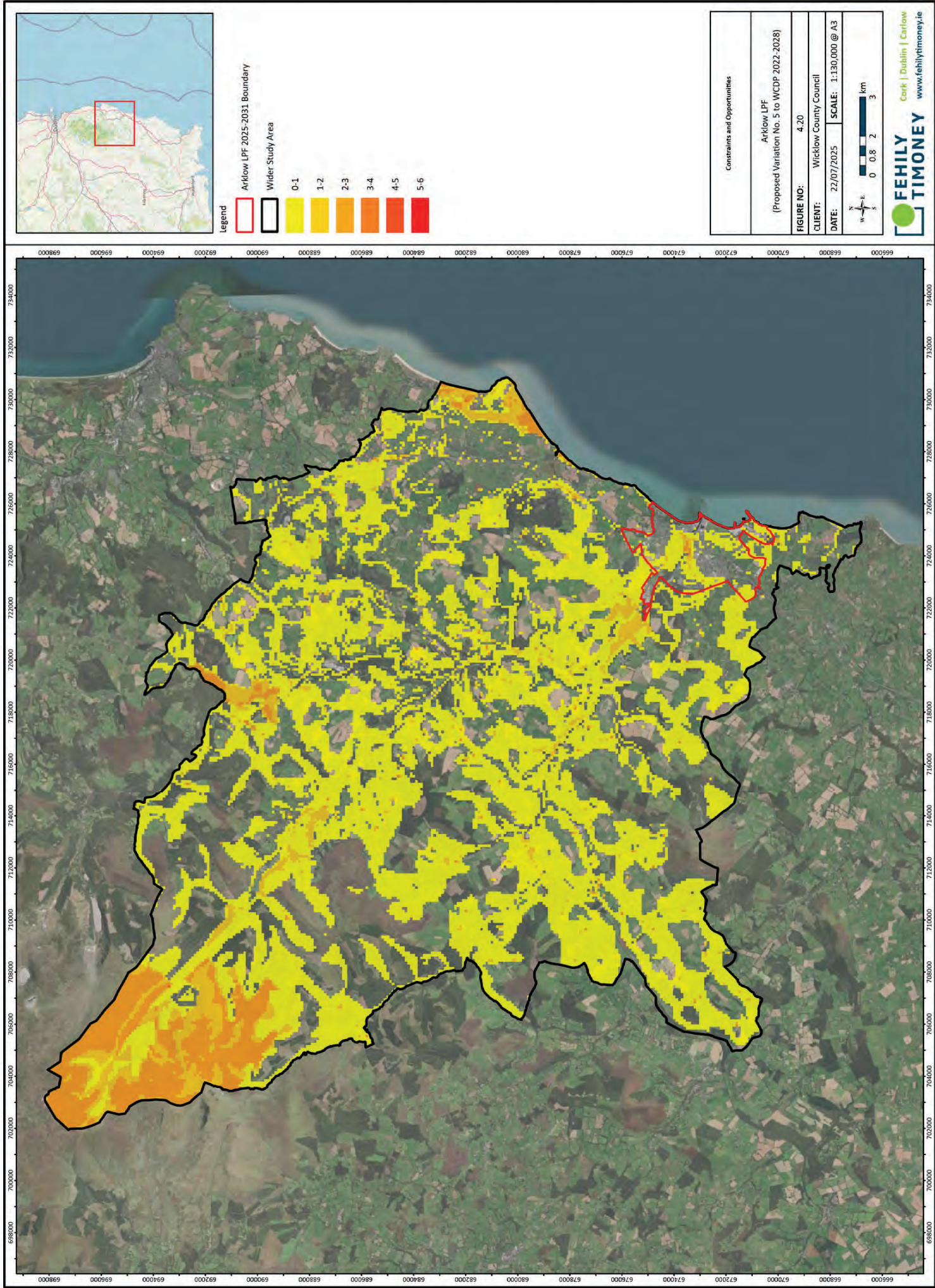
- SEA processes can be utilized to maximize positive climate effects and co-benefits associated with the LPF.
- The potential impact of changes in climate, including climate related flood risk, should be factored into the LPF.
- The potential impact of development supported by the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone Implementation Plan (e.g., EV Charging Infrastructure, road space reallocation, district heating proposals, energy efficiency retrofitting, rooftop solar panel development etc.) should be considered during the SEA process.
- The climate change impact of development (construction phase embodied carbon, operational phase greenhouse gas emissions) should be considered.
- Opportunities to promote green/net zero buildings/development.
- Opportunities to promote carbon sequestration and enhanced land use.

4.13 Constraints and Opportunities

The environmental baseline data was overlaid in raster form and ranked accordingly to produce an overall constraints and opportunities map for the area. The map was prepared using Geographical Information System (GIS) software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

Vector Layer	Weighting	Rationale
SAC	1	Protected
SPA	1	Protected
NHA	1	Protected
pNHA	0.5	Not fully protected
Archaeological Heritage	1	Protected
WFD High	0.5	High quality most sensitive to perturbation
Wells and Springs	1	Protected
Groundwater High	1	High vulnerability most sensitive to perturbation
Salmonid Water	1	Protected

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development or activities supported by LPF will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration. However, the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development or activities; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have been integrated into the LPF - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the LPF contributes towards environmental protection.





4.14 Evolution of the Baseline Environment without the implementation of the Variation/LPF

The SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the baseline environment in the event the Variation/LPF is not progressed and implemented. In the event the Variation/LPF was not implemented; the baseline environment would primarily evolve in line with the development management standards and environmental protection criteria defined in WCDP, which is the primary development control framework relevant to the study area. The baseline environment would also be strongly influenced by higher-order plans relevant to the area, including the Climate Action Plan, the Water Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

In the absence of the Arklow LPF, development in Arklow would not be subject to an appropriately focused local area framework of planning control, which is necessary for a settlement of its size and given the levels of development and change predicted for the area. A greater risk of improper planning and unsustainable development occurring around the area would exist in that case. This scenario also increases the risk of significant adverse environmental effects occurring due to the carrying out of inappropriate development, such as adverse effects on the following:

- Population and Human Health – e.g., through reductions in residential amenity, noise, dust.
- Biodiversity – e.g., loss of valuable habitat, habitat fragmentation, impacts on protected species.
- Landscape Character and Visual Amenity – e.g., loss of scenic value and visual amenity in the area.
- Cultural Heritage – e.g., diminishment of built heritage including protected structures and historic fabric.
- Soils – e.g., ground contamination, impacts on soil structure and function.
- Land use – e.g., unsustainable and incoherent land use, urban sprawl.
- Air Quality and Noise – e.g., generation of air and noise emissions resulting in significant negative effects on people.
- Water – e.g., the carrying out development that contributes to polluting emissions to waters or increased flood risk.
- Material Assets – e.g., the failure to provide appropriate services to the development carried out in the area (e.g., water supply, wastewater services).
- Tourism and recreation – e.g., the diminishment of recreation assets in the area
- Climate Change – e.g., failure to provide a suitable framework for compact growth and sustainable transport – resulting in a failure to contribute to the reduction of Energy and Residential sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.



5. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The SEA Directive states that an SEA should also look at *'the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.'* The identification of environmental protection objectives relevant to a plan (or plan variation in this case) provide the basis for evaluating the significance of impacts during the SEA process. All environmental protection objectives relevant to the Variation/LPF were identified. Further information on other P/P's that define environmental protection objectives relevant to the LPF is provided in Appendix 1 to this document.

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which facilitate the development of targets against which the environmental effects of a plan or programme can be assessed. They are based on wider environmental protection objectives on a local, regional, national, European and international level. They are high-level in nature and set strategic goals for improvement. SEOs have already been developed for the WCDP. These SEOs are applicable to the Variation, including the Arklow LPF and can be used to measure the effects of the LPF. One additional SEO to support the measurement of the effects of the LPF has been defined. This is as follows:

- Support in the delivery of the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives.
 - Monitoring Indicator: Status of Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives as measured under the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
 - Target: Achievement of Objectives.
 - Data Source: Internal Reporting on Key Performance Indicators under the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
 - Relevant SEO Code under WCDP: C



6. DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

6.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive states that: *'Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.'*

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the LPF (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternatives must be realistic and capable of implementation.

This section of the SEA Environmental Report examines reasonable alternatives to the Variation/LPF and systematically evaluated the likely significant effects of these alternatives.

Reasonable alternatives to the Draft Variation/LPF were initially explored and examined during the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, having regard to the scope, function and strategic aims and main objectives of the Variation/LPF. This process facilitated the accurate identification of reasonable alternatives to the LPF and also suitably informed the process, ensuring optimal environmental outcomes.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the Variation/LPF. The purpose of this was to determine if the reasonable alternatives resulted in positive, negative, neutral or uncertain environmental outcomes. This assessment process can result in mixed-effects outcomes.

The description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives in this report was undertaken in accordance with guidelines defined in the following two guidance document primarily:

1. Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, DEHLG 2004.
2. Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA 2015.

6.2 Goal of the Reasonable Alternative Evaluation Process in SEA

The underpinning goal of the reasonable alternative evaluation process is to ensure that the selection of preferred alternatives by WCC is informed by environmental considerations, including:

- Which alternative best promotes and facilitates the proper planning and sustainable development in the LPF area
- Which alternative best supports the vision, strategic aims and objectives of the LPF
- Which alternative best supports the SEOs defined for the LPF
- Which alternative best supports the objectives of the of inter-related plans, programmes and policy, including their environmental protection objectives
- The potential positive environmental effects associated with the alternative
- The potential negative environmental effects associated with the alternative



6.3 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the Variation/LPF were considered during the development of the Variation/LPF.

Iterative communication was held between WCC and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the objectives of the Variation/LPF.

Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative met these criteria was undertaken, in consideration of the following factors:

- The strategic aim and objectives of the Variation/LPF
- The geographic scope of the Variation/LPF
- The actual powers and functions of WCC.
- The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the Variation/LPF aims and objectives.
- The technical feasibility of the alternative.
- The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the Variation/LPF within the required timeframe.
- The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the Variation/LPF by higher-level policy.
- The legislative context and the parameters placed around the Variation/LPF by climate action and environmental related legislation.

The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilised when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 6-1.

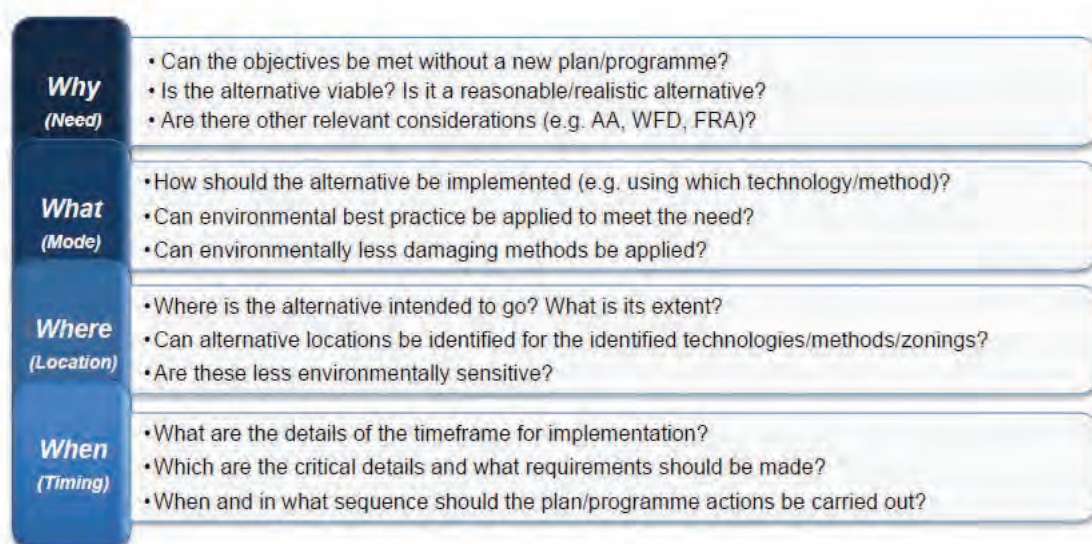


Figure 6-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).



6.4 Limitations in Assessing Reasonable Alternatives

The reasonable alternatives available for the Variation/LPF are significantly limited by the provisions higher-level planning policy, including those of the National Planning Framework, and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, Ministerial Guidelines; as well as planning policy already defined in WCDP. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Variation/LPF, including on topics such as population, land use zoning and proper planning and sustainable development. The Variation/LPF must be in compliance with these aforementioned policy documents.

A 'Do-Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative is not a reasonable alternative in this instance given the need to prepare an LPF for the Arklow area .

6.5 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the Variation/LPF were identified as the development of the Variation/LPF evolved. Details on all reasonable alternative approaches considered during this process are presented in Table 6-1.



Table 6-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the Variation/LPF

Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative
Alternative 1: Maximum Environmental Protection	This alternative sets out a development strategy for achieving the maximum level of protection to the receiving environment. The key objectives this alternative sets out to achieve are: • Maximum protection to European Sites and NHAs, including a significant conservation buffer surrounding all sites to enhance the protection of protected sites, in particular Arklow Town Marsh pNHA, which shall remain free of any new development. • Restrict any significant development outwards from the existing built-up area by de-zoning lands currently zoned for new development (including residential), which are more than a 15-minute walk from the town centre and public transport nodes. • Protect all mature trees and hedgerows where they are not on the TPO list. • Increase the protection of sites indicated as being part of Irelands Ancient Woodlands/Glenart Wood. • Maximise protection of all watercourses in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' 2020 and in particular zone all lands within 50m of watercourses for Natural Areas (OS2) only. • Restrict additional development to Protected Structures, with maintenance proposals considered. • Restrict development at all designated archaeological sites. • Maximise the protection of County Geological Sites within the Local Planning Framework boundary. • Enhance the protection of views and prospects with restricted development within the view/ prospect. • Rezone all lands zoned 'EX – Extractive industry' within the LPF boundary, in favour of land use zonings that may facilitate the rehabilitation of quarry lands. • Rezone all lands identified as 'Local Biodiversity Areas' as Natural Area (OS2) or Open Space (OS1). • Rezone currently undeveloped employment lands in the town to employment special to facilitate the development of renewable energy generation and energy storage from various renewable sources to assist in increasing the share of renewable energy on the grid and in turn assist in decarbonising the national grid building on Arklow's designation as County Wicklow's first decarbonisation zone.



Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative
Alternative 2: Sustainable Transportation	This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to the more sustainable modes of walking, cycling and using public transport. The key objectives this alternative sets out to achieve are: • High density residential zones within 15-minute walking distance of all bus stop areas. • Downzone all undeveloped greenfield land that is not within 15-minute walking distance of the town centre and a public transport node. • Enhanced pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in and around the town centre. • Seek to have a significant reduction, or removal, of through traffic through the town centre, in particular HGV's. • A reallocation of road space in the town centre from car parking to pedestrians and cyclists. • Rationalisation of car parking in the town centre –removal/reduction of on street parking along Main Street with the exception of loading bays and accessible/disabled car parking bays. Increase capacity in in Castle Park Car Park to make up removed spaces along Main Street. • Remove the following two road objectives from the plan: (a) SPAR- Southern Port Access Road and (b) WDR –Western Distributor Road. • Include enhanced pedestrian connections throughout the settlement including the following: - o The further enhancement of existing laneways leading off Main Street to enhance connectivity to the waterfront and to services, schools and residential areas to the south and west of the town centre. - o Provision of two active travel bridges across the River Avoca enhancing linkages between the town centre, Bridgewater and the existing residential areas and facilities on both sides of the river. - o Improve existing pedestrian permeability throughout the settlement and requires that all new developments consider pedestrian permeability in their design which connects with existing or possible future pedestrian routes leading to schools, services and the town centre. - o Provision of a pedestrian bridge over the train line at Arklow Train Station. - o Enhanced cycle routes and connections throughout the settlement in line with the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network 2022, and where required elsewhere.



Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative
	• Include a 'Park and Ride' site adjacent to M11 Junction 20 Arklow North. • Delivery of a town bus service for Arklow and its environs to support its population growth while reducing reliance on the private car. This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on compact growth focusing within the settlement of Arklow. The key objectives this alternative sets out to achieve are: • Downzone all undeveloped greenfield land (the lands revert to open countryside) beyond the established built-up area boundary, other than those lands which fall within a 15 minute walk of the town centre and/or Arklow Train Station to allow for the consolidation of the existing main built-up area on both sides of the river Avoca. • Zone the lands which fall within the 15 minute walking cordon of the Town Centre and/or Train station, for mixed use, high density residential development. • All Town Centre, Waterfront Zone and Local Shops and Services sites are zoned for high density mixed use. • Infill sites zoned for employment uses within the built-up area are zoned mixed use, high density residential, insofar as would be consistent with core strategy housing targets as set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.
Alternative 3: Compact Growth	
Alternative 4: Housing Market Driven	This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on residential development focusing on phased development of residential zoned land. This alternative has regard to the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and has regard to the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. It also has regard to the revised National Planning Framework. The key components of it are described below: • Due to changes to the National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and changes to planning legislation, in order to future proof the Local Planning Framework, this alternative will allow for flexibility in the residential zoning provisions to ensure that the population targets / any revised population targets can be achieved and in the event that unforeseen impediments to the development of certain lands arise.



Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative
	• Provide enough zoned land to meet the housing needs for 10 years in line with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan as 'Priority 1' lands. 0 Provide for 10% extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy on 'Priority 2' on the next best lands. 0 Provide for an additional 10% extra housing units above that of the Core Strategy and 'Priority 2' lands on 'Priority 3' lands. • Densities of New Residential lands will be set at 20 units to the hectare, generally providing standard 3 and 4 bed family homes, detached and semi- detached, with generous private garden plots. • Each housing development will have a minimum of 20% of the site dedicated to landscaped public open space areas. • New access and distribution roads, throughout the settlements, will be included to serve the car-based occupants of the residential developments. • All serviced land is zoned for residential development. • Community & Education zones, Employment zones, Active Open Space Zones are on the periphery of the residential zoned lands.
Alternative 5: Community Driven	This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on healthy communities, where residents have all necessary facilities and services within short walking/cycling distance of their homes. This alternative is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is consistent with the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below: • Zone extra lands, above the minimum requirement for new schools close to existing and proposed residential areas. • Zone extra lands, above the minimum requirement for recreational/ sports / community facilities are zoned for Tourism / Recreation (TR), Community Education (CE) and Active Open Space (AOS) (e.g. for playing pitches, community halls, theatres, cultural facilities, running tracks, landscaped parks, dog parks, all other recreation/ sports. etc).



Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative
	• New walking routes / cycling routes are designated throughout the settlement, along with 2 new active travel bridges across the Avoca River and at least 1 active travel bridge crossing the railway line which currently segregates the south side of Arklow. Provision of an elevated active travel board-walk route through or along the edge of the Town Marsh connecting one active travel bridge over the Avoca with Ferrybank. Improve routes to Glenart Forest, the Cliff Walk, the seafront and Arklow South Beach. • Build on the potential of the flood scheme to improve the public realm of the quays and the waterfront zones. • Extra lands are zoned for employment to facilitate people working locally. These will include the development of co working hubs. • Rezone tourism sites on the south side of the town to community use and improve access to and enhance existing tourism facilities including Arklow Caravan Park, The Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow Marina, the Avoca River and Arklow Beach, Arklow Golf Club and promote further tourism potential building on Arklows rich industrial and maritime heritage and the proposed Arklow to Shillelagh greenway. • There will be additional policy support and lands zoned for childcare facilities (Crèches, Montessori, playgrounds, etc) throughout the settlement. • There will be additional policy support and lands zoned for healthcare facilities (extra GP's, health centres, dentists, holistic centres, etc) throughout the settlement. • The town centre will be strengthened with more opportunity sites for redevelopment of brownfield sites, removal of HGV's from travelling through the town centre, provision of wider footpaths and pedestrianised public spaces along with improved cycle infrastructure. This will help to improve the retail offer in the area, increase pedestrian footfall, facilitate outdoor dining, etc.
Alternative 6: Extractive Industry & Economy Driven	This alternative sets out a development strategy which focuses on taking advantage of the aggregate quarrying resources available within the Local Planning Framework boundary, and maximising the potential for growth of jobs locally. This alternative is consistent with the Core Strategy of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and is consistent with the relevant objectives of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. The key components of it are described below:



Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative
	• Maximise the capacity of the new waste water treatment system by increasing and maximising all zoned lands. • All current quarry lands are zoned 'EX – Extractive Industry', i.e Roadstone, to maximise the potential of employment generation from the existing local extractive industry and to facilitate the building of houses and new roads. • Expedite the development of the South Port Access Road (SPAR) to facilitate ease of access for HGV's to and from the Quarry and Arklow Port on South Quay. • Extra lands, above the minimum requirement to meet a 0.7 jobs ratio, are zoned for employment purposes to maximise the potential for resident workers to work in the settlement, maximise the potential for strategic employment uses to relocate to the settlement, and thus reduce commuting times and unemployment. • Extra lands above the minimum requirement to meet the 0.7 jobs ratio, are zoned for employment special type 1 to facilitate the development of renewable energy generation and energy storage from various renewable sources to assist in increasing the share of renewable energy on the grid and in turn assist in decarbonising the national grid. • Extra lands, above the minimum requirement to meet a 0.7 jobs ratio, are zoned for employment special type 2 to facilitate the development of large scale remote storage for the provision or distribution of large amounts of data. • Lands in proximity to public transport are prioritised for employment use to facilitate the sustainable commuting of workers into Arklow. • Regenerate the retail and employment function of Arklow Main Street through the enhancement of the main street and improving connectivity between Bridgewater Shopping Centre and Main Street. • Rezone tourism sites on the south side of the town to employment use and promote, improve access to and enhance existing tourism facilities in the waterfront zone whilst building on the existing amenities of Arklow Caravan Park, The Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow, Marina, the Avoca River, Arklow Beach, Arklow Golf Club, Arklow's rich industrial and maritime heritage and the proposed Arklow to Shillelagh greenway. • Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management – Exploit Arklow's marine heritage from a tourism, leisure, renewables and employment perspective.



6.6 Evaluating the Environmental Effects of Reasonable Alternatives

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. An evaluation matrix was developed to facilitate the evaluation of the environmental effects of reasonable alternatives on SEOs relating to each Environmental Component. This evaluation matrix is presented in Table 6-2.

Potential effects of the reasonable alternatives were categorised as follows in the matrix:

- Potential Positive Environmental Effects (indicated in the matrix by a '+').⁶⁶
- Potential Negative Environmental Effects (indicated in the matrix by a '-').⁶⁷
- Potential Positive and Negative Environmental Effects (indicated in the matrix by a '+/-').
- Uncertain Environmental Effects (indicated in the matrix by a '?').
- Neutral, No or Insignificant Environmental Effects (indicated in the matrix by a '0').

⁶⁶ Potential Positive Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to support the achievement of an SEO.

⁶⁷ Potential Negative Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to hinder the achievement of an SEO.



Table 6-2: Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Reasonable Alternatives

Environmental Component	Relevant SEO Code/s defined under WCDDP	Alternative 1 - (A1)	Alternative 2 - (A2)	Alternative 3 - (A3)	Alternative 4 - (A4)	Alternative 5 - (A5)	Alternative 6 - (A6)
Population & Human Health	PHH	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+/-
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	BFF	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	-	-
Landscape & Visual Amenity	L	+	-	+	-	0	-
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH	+	-	+/-	-	-	-
Soils	S	+	-	+/-	-	-	-
Land Use	S	+/-	+	+	-	+	-
Air Quality and Noise	A	+	+/-	+/-	-	-	-
Water	W	+	-	+/-	-	-	-
Material Assets	MA	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+	+/-
Tourism & Recreation	PHH / CH	+/-	+	-	-	+	+/-
Climate Change	C	+/-	+	+	-	+	-



6.7 Preferred Alternative/LPF

The Preferred Alternative/LPF is a reflection of elements associated with each of the 6 Reasonable Alternative presented above refined and amalgamated, including the following:

- Provide maximum protection to European sites and Arklow Town Marsh pNHA.
- Promote compact growth in Arklow.
- Afford appropriate protection to all sensitive environmental features in the area.
- Promote the development of renewable energy related infrastructure in the area.
- Promote sustainable land use and access to public transport.
- Implement localised demand management measures to encourage sustainable transport
- Promote active travel development and connections.
- Develop a Park and Ride facility outside the town to promote sustainable travel and transport.
- Promote public transport, including bus and train services.
- Encourage town centre regeneration and infill development
- Encourage sustainable residential development to meet population targets.
- Provide appropriate community and recreational infrastructure for the area into the future.
- Enhance public realm/space in the area.
- Enhance and encourage sustainable tourism in the area.
- Provide suitable childcare, healthcare and education facilities in the area.
- Promote retail through town centre regeneration.
- Aim to enhance and promote Arklow's tourism and recreation offering, including its maritime heritage.
- Encourage development that provides employment in the area, whilst ensuring this development is appropriately planned and located.

6.8 Reasons for Choosing the Preferred LPF

The process of developing the Variation/LPF and associated SEA and AA processes produced the Preferred LPF. The Preferred LPF is deemed to be an appropriate balance of preferred elements associated with each Reasonable Alternative. Unwanted or less preferred elements of each Reasonable Alternative were omitted from being promoted through objectives defined in the LPF. The reasons for choosing the Preferred LPF were as follows:

- The Preferred LPF provides a strong level of environmental protection – in combination with policies/objectives driving environmental protection in the WCDP. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as biodiversity, water, soils, heritage etc.
- The balance of elements included in the Preferred LPF promote the meeting of housing targets in a measured, sustainable way in accordance with efficient and compact growth principles. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as population and human health, material assets and climate.



- The Preferred LPF appropriately encourages renewable energy related infrastructure in support of national climate ambitions, the Wicklow County Local Authority Climate Action Plan and the objectives defined for the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as climate, biodiversity, population and human health etc.
- The Preferred LPF promotes and encourage sustainable travel and transport, including active travel and public transport, in alignment with higher-order policy. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such climate, air quality and noise, population and human health etc.
- The Preferred LPF encourages socially beneficial town centre regeneration, whilst having due regard to the need to conserve built heritage and historic fabric. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as population and human health, heritage, and tourism and recreation.
- The Preferred LPF ensures that there will be suitable provision of appropriate community infrastructure commensurate with residential development and population growth in the area. This will result in positive environmental effects on environmental components, such as population and human health, material assets etc.
- The Preferred LPF will drive economic development, enterprise and employ in the area, including tourism development and activity, in a manner that is sustainable. This will result in positive environmental effects on population and human health, material assets and tourism and recreation.

6.9 Data Gaps and Technical Limitations relating to the Identification and Evaluating Reasonable Alternatives

There were no data gaps that inhibited the ability of the project team to identify and evaluate Reasonable Alternatives considered during the development process.



7. EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF LPF IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Introduction

An evaluation of the LPF on the baseline environment, as characterised and described in Section 4 of this report, was carried out and is documented in this section of the report. The evaluation was carried out against the relevant SEOs established for the various aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be affected by the LPF.

7.2 Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of LPF Implementation

A detailed evaluation of the potential effects of the Variation/LPF on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. A standardised evaluation matrix was developed to facilitate the evaluation of the Variation/LPF on SEOs relevant to each environmental component. The approach and methodology for this evaluation, and detailed evaluation of the environmental effects of Variation/LPF objectives, using the evaluation matrix developed, are presented in Appendix 3.

An overview of the key environmental effects of implementation of the LPF, in the absence of mitigation, is presented below:

Potential Negative Environmental Effects (in the absence of environmental mitigation)

- The LPF supports the carrying out of infrastructural development (e.g. housing, transport, renewable energy-related development, etc.). The construction phases of such development have the potential to result in environmental impacts including dust and noise emissions, traffic disruption, polluting runoff, which can affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity, and traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in negative impacts on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, landscape character and visual amenity.
- Development construction activities, generally, generate dust emissions, vibration or noise that may impact residential amenity, human health and well-being, and biodiversity.
- The LPF provides a land use framework for development that has the potential to generate environmental impacts (e.g., habitat loss) that directly or indirectly cause effects on European sites connected to the LPF area, such as disturbance to key species (i.e., through construction noise), reduction in species density, impact on non-designated sites or habitat that support European sites, or changes in indicators of conservation value.
- Development may lead to adverse impacts on biodiversity, including loss, disturbance or damage to biodiversity, flora and fauna; impacts on designated sites and their ecological features/qualifying interests (Arklow Town Marsh pNHA, in particular); impacts on ecological connectivity; and impacts on locally significant, non-designated habitats.
- Development may generate an increase in the quantum of light transmitted to sensitive ecological receptors, resulting in increased vulnerability and sensitivity of light-sensitive species (e.g., the Lesser Horseshoe Bat).
- The LPF supports development construction at greenfield locations where invasive species may exist. Construction and waste management activities may increase the risk of the spread of invasive species.



- Greenfield development may impact and damage unknown archaeological remains.
- The LPF is supportive of the carrying out of development at sensitive locations (such as areas in proximity of the Avoca River riparian corridor) which could potentially impact sensitive aspects of the environment, including biodiversity, water quality, landscape character and visual amenity, built and archaeological heritage and important habitats and species.
- Development, including large-scale development of a sizeable mass and form, may generate negative impacts on built heritage (e.g., protected structures) and historic fabric. Development supported by the LPF may impact on the setting of heritage assets and sense of place, generally.
- Significantly scaled residential and commercial development may impact visual amenity in the vicinity of these developments, streetscape character and wider landscape character.
- Inappropriate or improperly designed greenfield development may contribute to significant hydrological changes and increases in flood risk.
- Development may generate adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Major development in the LPF area may generate an increase in traffic levels and effects on existing traffic and transportation conditions.
- Development related excavation has the potential to result in the generation of substantial levels of material and waste, including potentially contaminated material that will need to be appropriately and sustainably managed in accordance with Waste Hierarchy principles.
- Development occurring in the LPF area may affect local heritage, archaeology or visual amenity and, in turn, local tourism or recreational features and activity in the area.
- Infrastructure development may have the potential to restrict or reduce the quality of resources important for recreation and/or tourism.
- Linear transport development (including active travel development) has the potential to negatively affect biodiversity and ecological connectivity (through habitat loss/fragmentation).

Potential Positive Effects

- LPF objectives, as defined, have the potential to contribute to sustainable development and proper planning in accordance with the land use planning framework and higher order planning policy and other inter-related policy, resulting in positive effects across all environmental components. The implementation of the LPF has the potential to support balanced, integrated and socially beneficial development and environmental protection and enhancement in Arklow and surrounding areas.
- The LPF will support compact growth, sustainable land use, sustainable transportation, and the sustainable provision and optimised utilisation of Material Assets.
- The promotion of sustainable urban development (including residential development) in accordance with compact growth principles has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health (through the provision of much-needed housing), material assets, lands, soils and geology (through the avoidance of building on greenfield sites, promotion of compact development and prevention of sprawl) and air and climate (by promoting compact development, reducing the need to travel by private car).
- The delivery of housing and community infrastructure has the potential to generate positive effects for population and human health (people and communities).



- The promotion of sustainable land use, sustainable transportation and public transport may support modal shift and the use of public transportation, resulting in potential positive effects on population and human health, local air quality and climate.
- The LPF supports the development, expansion and management of safe active travel networks. The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift, reduce traffic related risks and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions - thereby positively impacting population and human health, local air quality and the climate environment.
- The LPF supports the protection and enhancement of Arklow's heritage assets. This has the potential to generate positive effects for tourism and recreation features in the area and enhance amenity value in the area generally.
- The LPF is supportive of renewable energy/energy efficient development, which will have a positive effect on the climate environment.
- The LPF is supportive of the minimisation of flood risk in the area. This will generate positive environmental effects on water quality, hydrology and biodiversity. The delivery of flood alleviation has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events, including human receptors, material assets, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.
- The LPF supports the development of nature-based solutions - in response to flood and climate related risk - which are supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement. The promotion of NBS has the potential to create positive effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna, water quality and hydrology.
- The LPF promotes the provision and protection of material assets and utilities services and collaboration with utility providers on utility infrastructure delivery and maintenance. This will support the sustainable provision of appropriately integrated material asset infrastructure (e.g., electricity infrastructure etc.).
- The framework of locally focused, environmental protection and enhancement related objectives support the carrying out of considered, appropriate development sensitive to the receiving environment. Generally, this has the potential to generate positive impacts on all environmental component.

7.3 Potential Cumulative Effect of the LPF in combination with other Plans and Projects

The potential cumulative effects of a plan or programme are an important consideration in the SEA process, given that a Variation may envisage the occurrence of many different actions and development taking place in parallel with each other in a particular location/geographic area over a particular period of time. One benefit of SEA is the timely evaluation of the in-combination environmental effects of multiple planned plans or projects.

The following types of cumulative effects can occur to the implementation of a plan (or variation to a plan):

- Intra-plan Cumulative Effects - Individual environmental effects associated with a single plan interacting and combining to create a larger environmental effect.
- Inter-plan Cumulative Effects - The environmental effects of a plan and the environmental effects of another plan interacting and combining to create a larger environmental effect.



7.3.1 Intra-plan Cumulative Effects

The evaluation of the intra-plan cumulative effects of the LPF was embedded into the detailed evaluation of environmental effects presented in Appendix 3. Potential intra-plan cumulative effects – in the absence of environmental mitigation - are presented below:

- The objectives of the LPF may combine and collectively support extensive construction activity that contributes toward GHG emissions (i.e. embodied carbon)
- Objectives of the LPF will support extensive development in the Arklow area, including residential development. The cumulative effect of this development may result in increased pressure on material assets (i.e. energy infrastructure).
- The combination of development proposals supported by the LPF may generate cumulative adverse effects on various environmental components, including water quality, soils, landscape character and visual amenity, biodiversity, European sites and other designated sites.
- The carrying out of extensive development in the LPF area may contribute to cumulative effects on flood risk via development at greenfield sites or through the obstruction of flood paths.
- The LPF provides for measures which support the delivery of development and infrastructure projects which could contribute - if incorrectly managed - to cumulative impacts through construction related environmental effects (site run-off, dust, noise pollution etc.).
- The LPF supports flood risk management - which could introduce catchment level cumulative positive impacts on water quality, flow and hydrological regime/characteristics.
- The effects of multiple LPF objectives have the potential to combine and robustly support a shift to sustainable and active travel modes of transport. This has the potential to generate a variety of cumulative positive environmental effects, including positive effects on local air quality, human health and climate.
- The variety of positive effects associated with the implementation of LPF objectives have the potential to combine and interact, and have long-term and wide encompassing positive environmental effects on a variety of environmental components, including population and human health, climate biodiversity, water quality and hydrology, traffic and transport, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape and visual amenity.

The potential cumulative environmental effects listed above have the potential to extend beyond the boundary of the LPF area.

Objectives that generate positive or negative environmental effects for one environmental component have the potential to indirectly generate positive or negative environmental effects for inter-related environmental components. For example, objectives supporting the delivery of SuDS will improve water quality, which in turn can have a positive effect on aquatic ecology. An assessment of impact inter-relationships and interactions is embedded in the evaluation of environmental effects that was carried out. This ensures that there was adequate coverage of all potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of the LPF.

A matrix showing the existence of potential inter-relationships between environmental components was developed and is presented in Table 7-1 to aid in the understanding of these relationships.



Table 7-1: Inter-relationship between Environmental Components

Inter- relationship Matrix	Population and Human Health	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Water	Air Quality and Noise	Cultural Heritage	Geology and Soils	Landscape and Visual Amenity	Material Assets	Tourism and Recreation	Climate
Population and Human Health		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Air Quality and Noise	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓
Cultural Heritage	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geology and Soils	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
Landscape and Visual Amenity	✓	✓			✓				✓	
Material Assets	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Tourism and Recreation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Climate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	



7.3.2 Inter-plan Cumulative Effects

Other plans and programmes that the LPF has a relationship with are presented and discussed in Appendix 1. Potential inter-plan cumulative effects are presented below:

- The LPF supports development that may generate positive and negative cumulative environmental effects in combination with development and activities supported by other plans and programmes, including City/County Development Plans for neighbouring areas and other plans across all sectors of society, including renewable energy, transport and agricultural plans. The cumulative effects that may be generated by the Plan in-combination with other plans and programmes is consistent with the types of effect identified in Section 7.2.
- The LPF provides for measures which support the delivery of development and infrastructure projects which could contribute - if incorrectly managed - to cumulative impacts through construction related environmental effects (site run-off, dust, noise pollution etc.), in combination with development and activities supported by other plans.
- The LPF supports measures relating to flood resilience and alleviation projects - which could introduce catchment level cumulative impacts on water quality, flow and hydrological regime/characteristics, in-combination with plans for surrounding areas and higher order plans (E.g., the Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan).
- The effects of multiple LPF objectives that support a shift to sustainable and active travel modes of transport have the potential to combine with policy measures defined in other inter-related plans, including higher order plans (e.g., the National Sustainable Mobility Policy), to support the utilisation of sustainable transport modes, and generate positive effects on local air quality, human health and climate.
- The variety of positive effects of associated with the implementation of LPF objectives have the potential to combine and interact with policy measures contained in other plans and programmes, including LAPs and LPFs for surrounding areas, and have long-term and widely encompassing positive environmental effects on a variety of environmental components, including population and human health, climate biodiversity, water quality and hydrology, traffic and transport, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape and visual amenity.
- The variety of positive renewable energy/climate related measures defined in the LPF have the potential to generative a cumulative positive effect on climate – in combination with climate policy measures defined in other plans, including the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 and the National Climate Action Plan 2024.
- The variety of positive biodiversity related measures defined in the LPF have the potential to generative a cumulative positive effect on biodiversity – in combination with biodiversity policy measures defined in other plans, including the upcoming Wicklow County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 and the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030.

The potential cumulative environmental effects listed above have the potential to extend beyond the boundary of the LPF area.



8. MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential negative environmental effects that may occur as a result of the implementation of the LPF (without considering any mitigation) have been identified in Section 7 of this report. The SEA Directive requires that mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential significant negative environmental effects due to the implementation of a LPF are defined. This section of the report describes the mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects that may occur as a result of the implementation of the LPF.

In this case, the following forms of mitigation have been adopted to ameliorate the negative environments of the LPF and maximise potential positive effects of the plan:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LPF
- Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the WCDP.

8.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. The preferred Variation/LPF was chosen over other alternative options having due regard to the potential environmental effects (positive and negative) associated with the alternatives considered.

8.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LPF

The development of the Variation/LPF was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interactions took place between the environmental assessment team and WCC. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to WCC

A strong level of embedded environmental mitigation was present in early drafts of the LPF. Environmental mitigation measures applicable to the area of Arklow were also already defined in the WCDP. The 'embedded' mitigation in the LPF, and the relevant mitigatory policy/objectives already defined in the WCDP serve to prevent and minimize potential adverse effects that may occur during the implementation of the Variation/LPF. These measures may also maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits associated with the LPF.

Where necessary, additional environmental mitigation, in the form of objective/text additions, were integrated into the LPF to mitigate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LPF. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal preparation of the LPF and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the process so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the LPF.

Environmental mitigation measures embedded by WCC in early iterations of the LPF to prevent, reduce and fully offset potential significant negative environmental effects, and to maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits of the LPF, are presented in Table 8-1.



Environmental mitigation measures already defined in the WCDP that mitigate potential significant negative environmental effects associated with the LPF are presented in Table 8-2.

Additional text clarifying environmental protection-related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined objectives in the LPF. These text additions are itemised and presented in Table 8-3. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during implementation.

Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures (additional objectives) integrated into the LPF, as a result of environmental assessment processes, to augment environmental protection and enhancement in the LPF are presented in Table 8-4.

Table 8-1: Embedded Environmental Mitigation in the LPF

Reference	Objective	Related Environmental Components
ARK 5	To vigorously protect and promote the vitality and viability of the town centre. Development proposals not according with the fundamental objective to support the vitality and viability of the town centre must demonstrate compliance with the 'sequential approach' before they can be approved. The 'sequential approach' shall be applied and assessed in accordance with the 'Retail Planning Guidelines, (DoECLG, 2012)'. The Planning Authority will discourage new retail developments if they would either by themselves or cumulatively in conjunction with other developments seriously damage the vitality and viability of existing retail centres within the County.	PHH, BFF, CH, LU, AQN, MA, CC
ARK 8	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2. Applications for the development of such lands shall include a detailed survey of the existing site conditions, proposals for demolition and remediation of previous site activities and a management plan for the disposal of such materials.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
ARK 10	To support and facilitate existing and future commercial harbour / maritime activities in the Waterfront Zone including sailing, fishing, other water sports and commercial shipping activities, to support the development of new infrastructure necessary for the continued operation and development of the harbour and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial function of the harbour/port area. Sites directly adjoining the water edge of the South Harbour and Arklow Marina shall be retained for commercial harbour activities or uses directly reliant on access to the water edge.	PHH, MA
ARK 12	To require any new developments in the Waterfront Zone to meet a high standard of architectural and landscape design and finish noting this exposed location and which respects the unique historical, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
ARK 13	Further retail development in the Waterfront Zone shall be restricted to that required to meet the everyday convenience needs of future residents or niche comparison uses such as those related to tourism and the maritime function of the area.	PHH, MA



Reference	Objective	Related Environmental Components
ARK 14	To require any new developments to be suitably set back from the water's edge and to provide public routes and places along waterfronts, to ensure that access to the water, such as steps / slipways / river/ beaches etc are maintained and improved and to facilitate the development of new opportunities for pedestrian and cycle links from the Waterfront to the town centre.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
ARK 16	To ensure that any development projects in and around the Arklow quays preserve and enhance any valuable structures or items of Arklow's maritime heritage.	PHH, MA, CH, L
ARK 17	The priority for housing growth shall be the existing built up area of the settlement, on lands zoned 'town centre', 'waterfront' and 'existing residential'. Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Arklow with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. 'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted. In cognisance that the potential of such regeneration / infill / brownfield sites is difficult to predict, there shall be no quantitative restriction inferred from this LPF or the associated tables on the number of units that may be delivered within the built up envelope of the town.	PHH, MA, L, LU
ARK 18	To require that new residential development represents an efficient use of land and achieves the highest densities suitable to that site subject to the reasonable protection of existing residential amenities and the established character of existing settlements. In promoting higher densities and more compact development, new development should demonstrate compliance with: • Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoHLGH 2024); • Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoHLGH 2023); • Urban Development and Building height Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoHLGH 2018); • Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS); • any subsequent / replacement Ministerial / Government guidelines.	PHH, MA, L, LU
ARK 22	To facilitate and support all forms of employment creation on appropriately zoned land in Arklow and to promote the intensification of activities at existing suitable employment locations especially where this can mitigate long distance commuting, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and compliance with all other objectives of the County Development Plan and this LPF.	PHH, MA, LU, AQN, CC
ARK 25	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the LPF area and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.	PHH, MA, LU, AQN, CC



Reference	Objective	Related Environmental Components
ARK 31	In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to: • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, and (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites.	PHH, MA, BFF, S, W, TR, CC
ARK 45	The Planning Authority will resist developments that entail the loss of existing community, education and open space/recreation lands or buildings unless it can be demonstrated that (a) adequate community, education and open space/recreation lands and buildings would be retained in the settlement having regard to the planned future population of the settlement or (b) the particular lands or buildings are not suitable or needed for current or future educational, community or open space / recreational usage. In particular, developments that would unduly constrain the ability of existing schools to expand will not be permitted.	PHH, MA
ARK 52	To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures. To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
ARK 55	To protect the historic, traditional and maritime character of Arklow Town Centre through the implementation of the following requirements: • All new developments shall provide a high standard of urban design that is reflective of and is influenced by Arklow's historical maritime and traditional character. • In the consideration of new development, particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that the character and setting of both protected structures and non-protected but vernacular buildings are maintained and enhanced.	L, CH, MA, TR
ARK 56	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, TR, CC



Reference	Objective	Related Environmental Components
ARK 57	Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this LPF.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
ARK 58	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the LPF area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stone walls, geological and geomorphological 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.	PHH, BFF, L, S, AQN, W, CC
ARK 61	To protect non-designated sites including identified GI corridors, from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.	PHH, BFF, L, S, AQN, W, TR, CC
ARK 62	Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.	PHH, BFF, W
ARK 63	To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with ancient woodlands, whether subject to TPO or not, where considered to be viable, safe and in line with sound arboricultural management principles. To require and ensure the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, TR, CC
ARK 64	To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the LPF area. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, CC



Reference	Objective	Related Environmental Components
ARK 67	To require that development within or adjacent to Arklow Town Marsh should be informed by: a) A detailed Ecological Impact Assessment and EIA Screening or EIAR as appropriate. The Ecological Impact Assessment should be informed by detailed desktop study and detailed ecological surveys of the development lands and Arklow Marsh pHNA and provide for the ecological enhancement of the developed lands and the ecological corridors. b) A detailed hydrological impact assessment to assess the potential impacts to groundwater both in terms of groundwater quality and quantity and groundwater flow pathways to protect the hydrological regime of the marsh. The hydrological Impact assessment accompanying such developments shall include an assessment of the in-combination assessment of any hydrological impacts in terms of quantity and quality of water with other pressures on the water quantity and quality supporting the marsh e.g. an in-combination assessment with the impact of the Arklow Flood Protection Scheme is required.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
ARK 90	Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area identified as at risk of flooding (Flood Zones A and B) as set out in the SFRA and flood maps appended to this LPF OR in Flood Zone C but within an area: - that is deemed by the Local Authority at any time to be at possible risk of flooding having regard to new information with respect to flood risk in the area that has come to light; or - that is identified as at possible future risk of flooding having regard to climate change scenarios either on Map 4C attached to this LPF or on any future maps prepared by the OPW during the lifetime of the LPF; shall comply with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines 2009 (as may be amended, supplemented or replaced during the lifetime of this LPF) and shall be accompanied by a site specific Flood Risk Assessment. Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and the LPF SFRA.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, W, MA, CC
ARK 95	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system. Developments, including new/expanded developments and any planned improvements to existing urban spaces, shall be designed in accordance with the guidance document "Implementation of Urban Nature-based Solutions: Guidance Document for Planners, Developers and Developer Agents" LAWPRO 2024.	PHH, BFF, L, S, W, MA



Table 8-2: Environmental Mitigation Measures already defined in the WCDP 2022-2028

Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
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.
CPO 13.2	To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.
CPO 13.3	To minimise alterations or interference with river stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban locations) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.
CPO 13.4	To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (see Map 17.06 Groundwater Vulnerability).
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
CPO 13.20	Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.
CPO 13.21	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.
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.
CPO 13.14	To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to: § Installation of water efficient equipment; § Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies; § Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines; § Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment; § The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;
CPO 13.9	To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.
CPO 13.10	To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.
CPO 14.01	To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.
CPO 14.10	To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.
CPO 14.13	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
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.
CPO 14.16	For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.
CPO 15.1	To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site.
CPO 15.2	To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development & Design Standards of this plan).
CPO 15.9	To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).
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.
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.
CPO 15.13	To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.
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).
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.
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.
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.
CPO 15.18	To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development & Design Standards set out in this plan.
CPO 15.19	To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.
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



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 17.4	To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents: - EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)⁶, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)⁷, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)⁸, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019); - National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended)⁹, European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended)¹⁰ and the Flora Protection order 2015; - National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010); - Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same); - Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan; - Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.
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.
CPO 17.6	Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
CPO 17.7	To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow
CPO 17.8	Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.
CPO 17.12	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.



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 17.14	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc.), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.
CPO 17.16	Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.
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.
CPO 17.24	To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
CPO 17.25	Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.
CPO 17.26	Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban locations) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.
CPO 17.28	Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 17.07 and Map 17.07 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.
CPO 17.35	All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment.
CPO 17.36	Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views prospects and an assessment of vegetation land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.
CPO 17.38	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
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.



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO18.8	To require the integration of Green Infrastructure principles and inclusion of native planting schemes in all development proposals in landscaped areas, open spaces and areas of public space.
CPO 19.4	To support the development of Marine Tourism, especially with regard to development of Wicklow's harbours, beaches, marine landscape, maritime cultural heritage and water related activities, including leisure and recreational tourism, subject to compliance with environmental requirements.
CPO 19.8	To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.
CPO 19.9	To strictly control the nature and pattern of development within coastal areas and ensure that it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards, and sited appropriately so as not to detract from the visual amenity of the area. Development shall be prohibited where the development poses a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features, and or where the development is likely to result in undesirable patterns of erosion or deposition elsewhere along the coast.
CPO 19.11	To protect both public and private investment by prohibiting any new building or development (including caravans and temporary dwellings) within 100m of 'soft shorelines' i.e. shorelines that are prone to erosion, unless it can be objectively established based on the best scientific information at the time of the application, that the likelihood of erosion at a specific location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts.
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. Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats Directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
CPO 19.14	To ensure that there is no removal of sand dunes, beach sands or gravels through application of the provisions of the Foreshore (Amendment) Act (1992), in close co-operation with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
CPO 8.1	To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation, the Planning Authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
CPO 8.3	Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential significance as identified in Schedules 08.01 & 08.02 and Maps 8.01 & 8.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment
CPO 8.4	To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.
CPO 8.12	To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.
CPO 8.10	To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.
CPO 8.13	To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.
CPO 8.14	To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.
CPO 8.15	All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 8.25	To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.
CPO 12.9	To seek to ensure all new or upgraded transport infrastructure is climate resilient
CPO 12.12	To require all new or improved roads to include pedestrian facilities, cycle lanes / tracks (unless the scale / design of the road does not warrant such infrastructure having regard to the guidance set out in the National Cycle Manual and DMURS) and public lighting as deemed appropriate by the Local Authority.
CPO 12.30	Traffic Impact Assessments will be required for new developments in accordance with the thresholds set out in the 'Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets' DMURS (DTTA-DHPLG) and the 'Traffic & Transport Assessment Guidelines' (TII).
CPO 12.31	Road Safety Audits, Road Safety Impact Assessments, Street Design Audits as per DMURS, or Accessibility Audits shall be required at the discretion of the Planning Authority, but shall generally be required where new road construction or a permanent change to the existing road / street layout is proposed.
CPO 12.34	The design of new roads or improvements to existing local roads and new means of access onto roads shall generally comply with the guidance set out in the 'Design Manual for Roads & Bridges' DMRB (TII), the 'Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets' DMURS (DTTA-DHPLG), the 'Traffic Management Guidelines' (DoT-DoELG-DTO) and 'Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas' (DoELG) as appropriate. as may be amended and revised, unless local conditions determine otherwise.
CPO 12.37	To ensure that the N/M11 and N81 route improvement corridors as defined by TII are protected from inappropriate development and ensure that no development is permitted which would interfere with route options identified (as shown on Map 12.01).
CPO 12.41	To ensure that all new developments in proximity to National Routes provide suitable protection against traffic noise in compliance with S.I No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations and any subsequent amendments to these regulations.
CPO 16.01	To support and facilitate to the highest degree possible the development of alternative and renewable sources of energy, particularly in the generation of electricity / heating and for use as transport fuel.
CPO 16.02	To support and facilitate the co-location of renewable energy developments and technologies to ensure the most efficient use of land identified as suitable for renewable energy generation.
CPO 16.09	To positively consider all applications for the installation of building mounted PV cells at all locations, having due regard to architectural amenity and heritage.
CPO 16.24	Proposals for the undergrounding of cables should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised: § Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows by topsoil stripping; § Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered; § Impacts on underground archaeology; § Impacts on soil structure and drainage; and § Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.
CPO 16.27	Through coordinated land-use and transport planning, to reduce the demand for vehicular travel and journey lengths.
CPO 11.50	Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.
CPO 11.51	Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.
CPO 11.52	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.



Policy / Objective Reference	Policy / Objective
CPO 16.32	To require all new developments during the design process to incorporate sustainable heating technologies in accordance with Part L of the Buildings Regulations and as part of any application for permission, to demonstrate how these requirements will be met.
CPO 16.33	To facilitate retrofitting of existing building with heat saving devices and installations, where permission is required for such works.
CPO14.03	To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.

Table 8-3: Amendments to Objectives integrated into the LPF

Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Related Environmental Components
ARK 8	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2. Applications for the development of such lands shall include a detailed survey of the existing site conditions, proposals for demolition and remediation of previous site activities and a management plan for the disposal of such materials.	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront Zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2, <i>having appropriate regard to environmental and ecological sensitivities associated with this coastal location.</i> Applications for the development of such lands <i>(including in particular any development that entails demolition and / or site excavation) shall include appropriate site and ground surveys / investigations / remediation measures / waste management plans as required taking in account current and previous/historic land uses / site activities</i>	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
ARK 28	To support and facilitate the development of spin off employment and support infrastructure from the renewable energy sector, including the development of long duration electricity storage, distribution and transmission and/or projects which would further result in the decarbonisation of the energy sector.	To support and facilitate the development of spin off employment and support infrastructure from the renewable energy sector, including the development of long duration electricity storage, distribution and transmission and/or projects which would further result in the decarbonisation of the energy sector.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, MA



Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Related Environmental Components
		<i>Ensure such facilities are appropriately located and designed, informed by appropriate environmental/ecological assessment processes and do not result in significant adverse noise or landscape/visual impacts.</i>	
ARK 49	To facilitate and encourage the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview as funding becomes available.	To facilitate and encourage the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview as funding becomes available, <i>whilst ensuring proposals to re-develop the park are appropriately informed by ecological surveying and impact assessment, and do not result in habitat fragmentation or net loss of biodiversity.</i>	BFF, L, S, AQN, W
ARK 49	To facilitate and encourage the development and/or improvement of public sports facilities on the AOS lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas as funding becomes available.	To facilitate and encourage the development and/or improvement of public sports facilities on the AOS lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas as funding becomes available, <i>whilst ensuring proposals to develop lands are appropriately informed by ecological surveying and impact assessment, and do not result in habitat fragmentation or net loss of biodiversity.</i>	BFF, L, S, AQN, W
ARK 65	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the LPF area, except where absolutely necessary and justified. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan.	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the LPF area, except where absolutely necessary and justified. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan. <i>Any proposal to culvert a watercourse in the LPF area shall be informed by appropriate ecological surveying and ecological impacts, and shall be in line science based good practice relating to the protection of ecology and the environment, including guidance from Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i>	BFF, L, S, AQN, W



Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Related Environmental Components
ARK 74	To overcome overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the river, by promoting and supporting the development of; - The Kilbride Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between the Avoca River Walk and Arklow Town Marsh/Ferrybank, including associated east-west pedestrian links connecting this crossing with Ferrybank / Dublin Road (short/medium term), the River Avoca Industrial Park (long term) and Arklow to Laragh Greenway(long term). - A second pedestrian and cycling bridge between South Quay and North Quay with upgrades to Doyle's lane, serving to connect Arklow Main Street with the Bridgewater Shopping Centre.	To overcome overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the river, by promoting and supporting the development of; - The Kilbride Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between the Avoca River Walk and Arklow Town Marsh/Ferrybank, including associated east-west pedestrian links connecting this crossing with Ferrybank / Dublin Road (short/medium term), the River Avoca Industrial Park (long term) and Arklow to Laragh Greenway(long term). - A second pedestrian and cycling bridge between South Quay and North Quay with upgrades to Doyle's lane, serving to connect Arklow Main Street with the Bridgewater Shopping Centre. <i>Such development shall be suitably informed by ecological surveying, ecological impact assessment, AA Screening/AA and EIA Screening/EIA, as the case may be, with a view toward avoiding and preventing significant adverse effects on receiving environmental sensitivities. Such development shall be appropriately shaped and guided by environmental and ecological constraints in the receiving environments.</i>	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, MA



Reference	Objective	Amendment (shown in blue italics)	Related Environmental Components
ARK 89	To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas. To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the ECRIPP and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the LPF. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.	To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas. To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the ECRIPP and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the LPF. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible. <i>The Council will aim to facilitate and promote the carrying out of coastal defence and protection works in accordance with best environmental practice and in manner that only considers alteration of the natural sediment flow and/or increased erosion if there is an overall benefit to habitats as a result of the proposals.</i>	BFF, S, W
ARK 95	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system;	- Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system; <i>these systems shall be maintained properly in accordance with relevant standards to ensure their continue efficacy.</i> - Developments, including new/expanded developments and any planned improvements to existing urban spaces, shall be designed in accordance with the guidance document "Implementation of Urban Nature-based Solutions: Guidance Document for Planners, Developers and Developer Agents" LAWPRO 2024.	PHH, BFF, S, W, MA, AQN



Table 8-4: New Objectives integrated into the LPF

Reference	Objective	Related Environmental Components
ARK 59	<i>To ensure development is planned in a manner that has appropriate regard to specific ecological sensitivities associated with the Arklow area, including those associated with the Arklow pNHA, the Avoca River, coastal habitats and species, and sites suitable for wintering birds.</i> <i>In particular, to ensure the protection and where possible the restoration of the biodiversity associated with Avoca River and its riparian (bankside) habitats. Proposals for development at or in the vicinity of the Avoca River should be informed by ecological surveying and ecological impact assessment.</i>	BFF, S, W, AQN
ARK 60	<i>Where necessary, development shall integrate appropriate measures to prevent disturbance and displacement of sensitive bird species (such as Greylag Goose and Gull species) which may utilise grassland, estuarine, coastal and marine habitats in the LPF area.</i> <i>In particular, proposed developments located within or adjacent to I-Webs (wintering bird survey) sites located at the lower reaches of the Avoca River (Site Name: Avoca River/Arklow, Site Code: OT399), Seaview Avenue (Site Name Arklow Main Pond, Site Code: OT099) and Sea Road (Site Name: Caravan Site Pond, Site Code: OT098 shall be suitably informed by:</i> <i>Ecological surveying, AA Screening/AA and EIA Screening/EIA, as the case may be, with a view toward avoiding and preventing significant adverse effects on receiving environmental sensitivities such as the existing wetland habitat and avian species which forage and roost during the wintering season. Such development shall be appropriately shaped and guided by environmental and ecological constraints in the receiving environments.</i> <i>Detailed hydrological impact assessment to assess the potential impacts in terms of water quality and quantity and flow pathways to protect the hydrological regime of the wetland habitats. The hydrological impact assessment accompanying such developments shall include an assessment of the in-combination assessment of any hydrological impacts in terms of quantity and quality of water with other pressures on the water quantity and quality supporting these wetlands.</i>	BFF, S, W, AQN
ARK 69	<i>Having regard to the scale, location and characteristics or any proposed development, the Council may require the preparation of a Resource Waste Management (RWMP) as set out in the EPA's 'Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Waste' (2021) including demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols.</i>	PHH, BFF, S, W, MA



8.3 Conclusion

The reasonable alternatives presented in Section 6 of this SEA Environmental Report has resulted in the development of a Variation/LPF that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other alternatives considered.

Environmental protection-related policy and objectives already defined within the WCDP, which apply to the Arklow area, will mitigate the wide range of potential negative effects associated with the Plan. The adoption of the environmental mitigation measures embedded and integrated into the LPF will also serve to prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Variation/LPF.

No further mitigation measures are required for the Variation/LPF.



9. MONITORING MEASURES

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan or variation to a plan are monitored in order *'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'*

WCC are responsible for undertaking monitoring the Variation/LPF. This monitoring will be undertaken in line with current environmental monitoring processes defined for the WCDP.

It is proposed that existing SEOs and associated indicators and targets defined in the WCDP are used to monitor the environmental effects of the implementation of the LPF. The SEOs, indicators and targets defined for the WCDP are deemed appropriate for measuring the full range of potential environmental effects that may occur due to LPF implementation. Utilising these existing SEO will also avoid the unnecessary duplication of environmental monitoring processes. One additional SEO to support the measurement of the effects of the LPF has been defined. This is as follows:

- Support in the delivery of the Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives.
 - Monitoring Indicator: Status of Arklow Decarbonisation Zone objectives as measured under the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
 - Target: Achievement of Objectives.
 - Data Source: Internal Reporting on Key Performance Indicators under the Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
 - Relevant SEO Code under WCDP: C

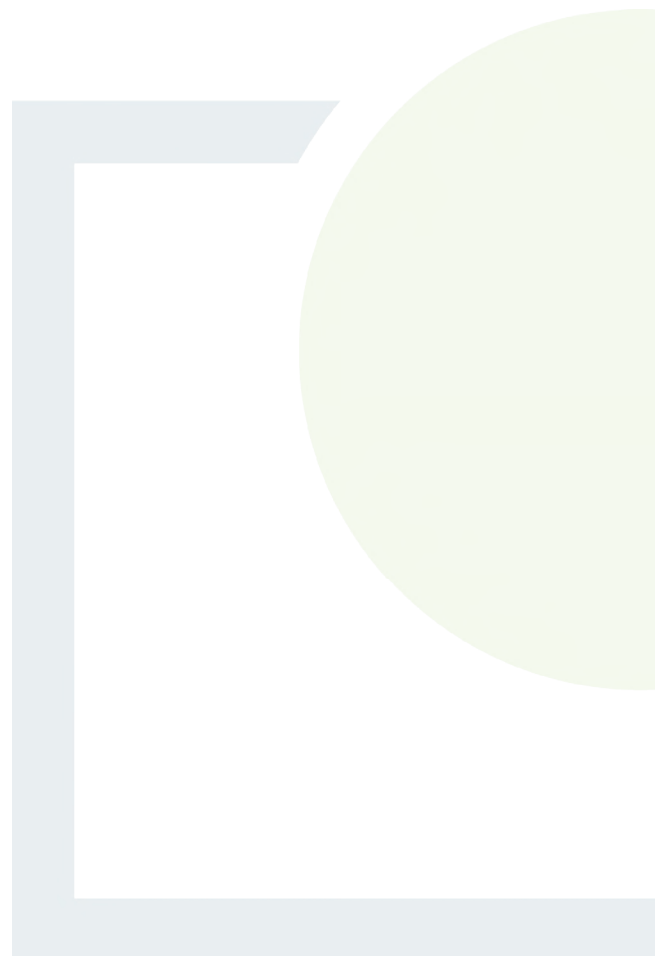
Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the adopted LPF is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the WCDP/LPF should take place and the LPF should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LPF implementation are not being adequately realised, the LPF should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realisation of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the LPF.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 1

Relationship of the Plan with
other relevant Plans and
Programmes



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

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

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Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: - to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats - to promote cooperation between states - to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: - Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. - Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. - Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. - Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. - Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. - Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)	- Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. - Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. - The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	- Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. - Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). - Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. - Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: - Mitigation - Transparency of actions - Technology - Finance - Adaptation - Forests - Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conserving the policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions (amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785)	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	- The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. - The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: - reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations - tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics - a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach - measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups - measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption - harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water - measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	- Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. - Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	- All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. - For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. - The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Directive 2013/30/EU and Regulation (EU) 2019/1010	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	- Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. - Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. - Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. - The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. - The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. - The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. - The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the - Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% eu actionshare of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	- To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: - A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). - New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Variation/LPF
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: 1. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. 2. Improved auction design. 3. Access to finance. 4. Creating a fair and competitive international environment. 5. Skills (investment in skills development). Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	• A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. • Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	• To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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EU Common Agricultural Policy	- To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and - To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.	- Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; - Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; - Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: • an integrated approach • best available techniques, • flexibility; and • public participation	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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EU Plant Protection (Products) Directive 2009/127/EC	The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).	- The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. - Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: - Registration, - Evaluation, - Authorisation; and - Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	• The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European Landscape Convention 2000	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: 6. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. 7. Improved auction design. 8. Access to finance. 9. Creating a fair and competitive international environment. 10. Skills (investment in skills development). • Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	- Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks - Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	- Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment - Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. - Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. - Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	- Protect, control and conserve groundwater. - Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. - Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	- Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. - Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	- Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. - Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	- Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. - Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. - Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. - Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	- Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; - Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; - Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and - Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy • Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC)	The objective of this Directive is to contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising under the Aarhus Convention, in particular by: (a) providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment; (b) improving the public participation and providing for provisions on access to justice within Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.	Not applicable.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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RePower EU Plan (2022)	This plan was launched as a response to global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The overarching aim of this plan is to reduce the reliance on Russian fossil fuels and enhance energy security within the EU. The plan specifies that Member States should speed up the green transition and spur massive investment in renewable energy.	The main measures introduced under this plan are concerned with the following: • Save Energy • Diversify supplies • Quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition • Smartly combine investments and reforms.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	• Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050	According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023.	The general approach reached by the Council today aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	- Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention - Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention - Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention - Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner - To target additional POPs - Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	- The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). - Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. - Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. - Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. - The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	- Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. - Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. - Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. - Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. - Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. - Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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The EU LULUCF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/841)	The LULUCF (Land Use, Land Change and Forestry) Regulation addresses greenhouse gas emissions and carbon removals in the land use and forestry sector from the period of 2021-2030, establishing an emissions target for the sector. The regulation entered into force in 2018. It was recently updated in 2023 to •	This regulation was revised in 2023 with a new set of rules introduced to address the carbon footprint of activities related to the conversion, use and management of land and forests for both human and environmental benefits. These activities can occur in areas such as grasslands, agricultural land and forests. Previous rules (the 'no debt' rule) required that EU member states ensure that emissions from land and forestry are compensated by an equivalent removal of CO2 within the sector for the period of 2021-2030. This has been replaced by a more ambitious new rule that sets the EU-wide net target of 310 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent carbon removals in the LULUCF sector by 2030. Each member state has a specific target under this regulation which they must meet to contribute towards the EU-wide net target. The national targets are based on the recent level of removals or emissions with the member state and on the potential to further increase removals, taking into account the principles of cost-effectiveness, fairness and environmental integrity. Ireland's binding target is to achieve a reduction of 0.6 Mt CO2 equivalent LULUCF emissions by 2030, relative to average levels in 2016-2018. •	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	• It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: • the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); • the sustainable use of its components; and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	• The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	• Links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • Recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	• Sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • Each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • Encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	- This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. - The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.	- Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. - Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. - Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	- Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. - Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. - Promote sustainable water usage. - The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: - The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive - Sampling Drinking Water Directive - Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive - Shellfish Directive - Freshwater Fish Directive - Groundwater Directive - Dangerous Substances Directive	- Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. - Achieve “good status” for all waters. - Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. - Involve the public and streamline legislation. - Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. - Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. - Recover costs for water services.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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All Island Grid Study 2008	- The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. - The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: - The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. - All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 - All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. - The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. - Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. - Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All-Ireland Pollinator Plans: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 (latest)	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025 is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. The AIPP 2021-2025 has 186 actions spread across six objectives. Objective 1: Making farmland pollinator friendly Objective 2: Making public land pollinator friendly Objective 3: Making private land pollinator friendly Objective 4: All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators Objective 6: Strategic coordination of the Plan	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Building Regulations	The aim of the building regulations is to provide for the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings.	The building regulations apply to the design and construction of a new building (including a dwelling) or an extension to an existing building.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	- Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. - The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. - The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. - In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Plan 2025	The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.	Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon CAP24 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. - The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; - Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; - The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; - Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; - Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; - Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and - Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	• They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of statutory land use plan on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	The Regulations cover statutory land use plans, including Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Regional Planning Guidelines etc.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2003 (as amended)	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Directive aims to provide a common framework to avoid, prevent or reduce, on a prioritised basis, the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise.	- The Regulations set out a two-stage process for addressing environmental noise (preparation of strategic noise maps and preparation of noise action plans for each area concerned. - The Regulations designate noise-mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making and reviewing of strategic noise maps and action plans. - The Regulations designate the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Authority for the purposes of the Regulations. - The Regulations provide for strategic noise maps and action plans and revised noise maps and action plans to be made available to the general public.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (as amended) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations (as amended)	- Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. - Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. - Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water (now Uisce Eireann) in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	- Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. - Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. - Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. - Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. - Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. - Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. - Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. - Outlines surface water quality standards. - Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Vision 2030	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level Missions for the sector to work toward: 1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector 2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being 3. Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad 4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur. This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. - The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network. - The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027	This plan sets out the direction for the HSE to deliver its national <i>Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025</i>. The HSE aims to support a healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.	This Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 has four main goals: 1. Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life. 2. Reduce health inequalities. 3. Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing. Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland 2040: The National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	• The National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) sets out the Government's overarching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	The key role of the NDP is to set out the updated configuration for public capital investment over the next 10 years in order to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSO), as set out within the NPF. These ten National Strategic Outcomes are as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 5. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	- National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: - To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; - To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; - Greater partnerships for the Goals; - To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and - Strong reporting mechanisms	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)	This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework. The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.	The key features of the plan are as follows: - Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time. - It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000. - Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA. Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, licence specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licences and offshore planning permissions.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ammonia (NH₃) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.	The programme includes: - An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants - An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant - Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030 - Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2019)	The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: - A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. - Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. - The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character	- The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. - Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: - Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; - Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; - Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; - Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive, including: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013	The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Mitigation Plan 2017	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades. The Plan is structured across several key themes: • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: - To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. - To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. - To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. - To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. - To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. - To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. - To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. - This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non- infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025	The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is an action-focused plan that will place Ireland at the vanguard of EU efforts. It will act as a roadmap for Ireland to embrace the opportunities in becoming a circular economy in the upcoming decade.	The overarching objectives of this action plan are to: - Shift the focus away from waste disposal and treatment to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and rewards circularity - Make producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market; - Ensure that measures support sustainable economic models (for example by supporting the use of recycled over virgin materials); - Harness the reach and influence of all sectors including the voluntary sector, R&D, producers / manufacturers, regulatory bodies, civic society; and - Support clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector, including through a strengthened role for Local Authorities (LAs).	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	- The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. - The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: - Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions - Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry - Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources - Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events - Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water - Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies - Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Acts	The principal objectives of these are to provide a framework for land use planning and development control – with a view to promoting proper planning and sustainable development	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning and Development Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	Priority actions for the Strategy include: • Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure. • Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources. • Simplify administrative & regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies • Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen. Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
S.I. No. 296/2009 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009, as amended (latest S.I 355/2018)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: - Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). - Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. - Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	- The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. - It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	- A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; - Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors; - domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; - Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; - Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and - Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	• Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Uisce Éireann Water Services Strategic Plan 2015, Water Services Strategic Plan 2050, and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) presents Uisce Éireann's objectives for the next 25 years and the means by which we will achieve them. It aligns to requirements set out in the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The first Water Services Strategic Plan was published in 2015 and are the draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is in the process of consultation which will replace the current plan.	The new Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 will be an important strategic document that will focus on the provision of safe drinking water and ensure that the environment is protected from the impacts of wastewater discharges.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are (i) to prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status and (ii) to achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022	- Provides the water services infrastructure. - Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. - Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. - Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: - Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. - Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. - Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards - Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. - Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. - Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. - Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. - Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)	It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: - Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. - The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. - The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. - Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. - Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form - Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	- Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow - Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically - The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.	Aims to identify and determine: - The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level - The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council. The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	- Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. - Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. - Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	The Draft Variation/LPF shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Draft Variation/LPF will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

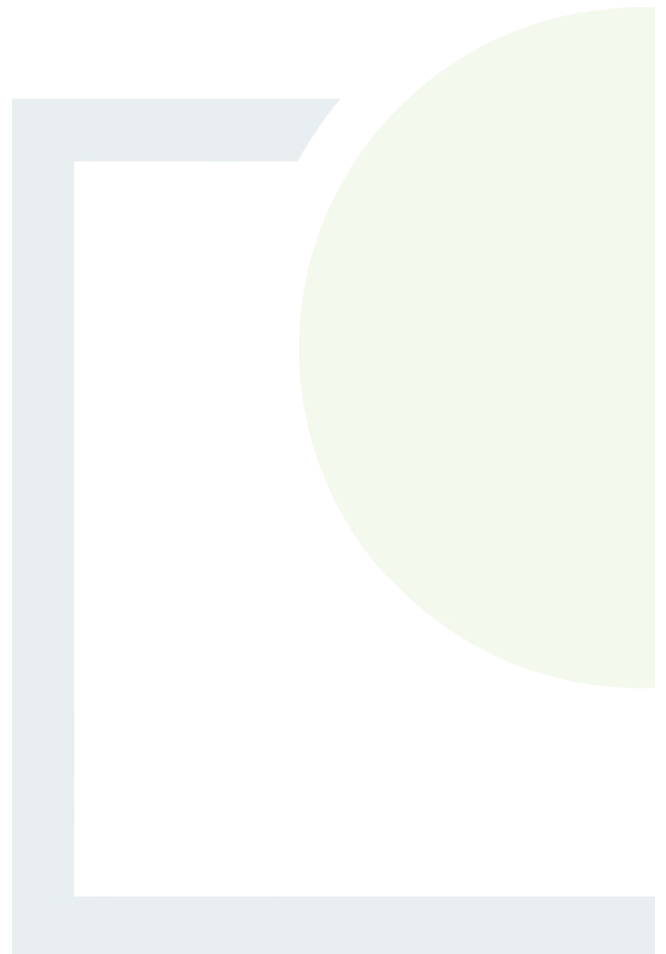
Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve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



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 2

Scoping Consultation
Feedback



The table below shows a list of all Scoping Responses received from the statutory environmental authorities as part of the statutory Scoping consultation process for Draft Variation/LPF

Ref.	Environmental Authority	Date Received
1	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	25/07/2025

This submission is presented overleaf.



SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources

2025 (Version 1.25)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Website: www.epa.ie

E-mail: sea@epa.ie

Lo Call: 1890 335599

PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford, Y35 W821
Tel.: +353-(0)53-9160600

Inniscarra
Co. Cork
P31 VX59
Tel.: +353-(0)21-487 5540

Tracking of Updates for 2025

Version No.	Date	Updates since previous version
Version 1.25	06/01/2025	Link added to latest State of Environment Report (EPA, 2024) Link to water quality report on nitrogen, phosphorous concentrations in 2023 (EPA) Link to National Adaptation Framework 2024 (DECC) Link Circular economy & waste statistics highlights 2022 (EPA) Link to SEA Public Participation Research Report (EPA, 2024) Link to SEA Research report on KPI indicators for SEA Effectiveness (EPA, 2024)

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1. Introduction

This document provides key EPA recommendations for Local Authorities to consider when carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of land-use plans at county and local level. It also includes information on recently published EPA reports and links to other relevant resources.

EPA is one of the statutory Environmental Authorities under the SEA regulations. Our role in SEA focuses on promoting full integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan. It is not the function of the EPA to either approve or enforce Plans or SEAs.

We focus our efforts and resources on reviewing and commenting on key national and regional plans within the planning hierarchy. For Local Authority land use plans at county and local level, we advocate a 'self-service approach' through use of this guidance document. This document is updated regularly.

State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2024

In preparing the *plan/programme/modification* and associated SEA, the relevant information contained in our State of the Environment Report [Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024](#) (EPA, 2024) should be considered and integrated as appropriate.

2. Key Environmental Recommendations to Consider

Drinking Water

In considering additional zoning/development and growth of settlements within the Plan area, it is critical that development be closely linked to the ability to provide a safe and secure supply of drinking water and related critical service infrastructure.

We have produced a series of drinking water quality reports, including the [Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies – 2023](#) (EPA, 2024), that should be consulted to ensure the relevant recommendations are implemented to improve drinking water quality. Key issues identified with particular supplies, including significant issues identified through (Irish Water) Drinking Water Safety Plans, should be highlighted for individual plans. We recommend including a commitment to collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders in the Plan, to provide an adequate and appropriate drinking water supply.

A 'Remedial Action List' (RAL) of problematic drinking water supplies is released by the EPA on a quarterly basis. It is a dynamic list which records identified and reported issues. Once appropriate mitigation measures are established and implemented, supplies are removed from the RAL. You should consider including a commitment in the Plan to support Irish Water, in addressing issues where water supplies servicing the Plan area included on the RAL. Further information can be found at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/>.

Conservation of Water Resources

The Plan should include an Objective/Policy promoting the need for the conservation of water resources and also the need for detection/mitigation of infrastructural leakages. It may also be useful to consider developing a Water Conservation Strategy, in association with Irish Water and adjoining local authorities, where appropriate.

Waste Water

Our [Water Quality in 2023 – Indicators Report](#) (EPA, 2024) highlights that one of the key causes of water pollution is from point sources including discharges from waste water treatment plants. The need to provide and maintain adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure to service zoned lands and proposed developments is critical.

Uisce Éireann maintain “wastewater treatment capacity registers” on their website. These give an indication of whether there's enough wastewater treatment capacity in an area to cater for a proposed development with or without capital upgrades to infrastructure – see [Wastewater treatment capacity register | Connections | Uisce Éireann \(formally Irish Water\)](#)

In addition to the capacity register check, it is recommended that, when considering applications for planning permission, local authorities should preform additional checks on the capacity of wastewater infrastructure to cater for the additional loads that will be generated by the development under consideration.

In the determination of a planning application, a Local authority should always make sure that there is, or will be, sufficient sewage treatment facilities in place and that any connection to a treatment plant will not cause or contribute to non-compliance with existing legislative requirements.

A Local authority should always check the designation of the receiving water and its status on the EPA WFD Application, establish the assimilative capacity of the receiving water, establish whether an additional effluent load from a proposed development can be catered for without deteriorating the Water Framework Directive status of the river and prevent it meeting its environmental objectives and ensure compliance with the obligations as set out in S.I. No. 272/2009 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

In this regard, key enforcement information is available on the EPA website – see [LEAP Online](#). Particular regard should be had to the Annual Environmental Report (AER) which provides an overview of compliance with EPA licence requirements. The “Operational Performance Summary” section in the AER contains information on the peak hydraulic capacity of the plant and the most recent hydraulic capacity of the plant. Any non-compliances recorded in the AERs should be factored into the decision making process as should the hydraulic capacity of the plant.

Agglomerations with no treatment or poorly performing (or at capacity) treatment plants are highlighted in the [Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2023](#) (EPA, 2024). A commitment to support the provision of appropriate measures to address these issues as a priority, in collaboration with Irish Water should be considered where relevant. Measures to ensure that combined storm water overflows, sewers and trade effluent in the area covered by the Plan is also managed properly should also be included as appropriate.

You should also consult the [2021 Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems](#), (EPA, 2021) and the [National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems 2022-2026](#) (EPA, 2021), as appropriate.

Water Framework Directive

Protection of Surface and Ground Water Resources

Protecting our valuable surface and ground water resources is of vital importance to protect both human health and provide for a healthy environment. In this context, you should provide clear commitments in the Plan to protect surface water, groundwater and coastal/estuarine resources and their associated habitats and species, including fisheries within and adjacent to the Plan area. Where

specific recommendations/concerns for water bodies within the Plan area are identified in EPA water quality reports, including the [Water Quality Monitoring Report on Nitrogen and Phosphorus Concentrations in Irish Waters – 2023](#) (EPA, 2024), and [Water Quality in 2023 – An Indicators Report](#) (EPA, 2024), [Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021](#) (EPA, 2022), these should also be addressed/considered at an appropriate level in the Plan.

The Plan should also ensure that any specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies, within the Plan area as set out in the existing relevant Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plan, are provided for in order to ensure water quality is protected/improved/maintained. The Plan should also consider that subsequent water management plans (including catchment management plans) that may arise out of the [Water Action Plan: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027](#) (DHLGH, 2024) should be integrated as appropriate. The ‘integrated catchment management’ approach for protecting and managing water resources, should also be supported in the Plan. The EPA’s www.catchments.ie website provides useful resources such as GIS mapping and related information that should be useful in preparing the Plan.

The [European Union \(Water Policy\) Regulations 2014](#) (S.I. No. 350 of 2014) sets out the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders and the associated requirements in relation to river basin management planning and should be integrated as appropriate. These responsibilities should be reflected in the Plan and the associated environmental monitoring.

Protection of Groundwater Resources

Groundwater aquifers form important sources of drinking water both locally and regionally. Much of the summer seasonal flow in many rivers is also derived from groundwater sources. To maintain high quality water resources within the Plan area, it is important that development is controlled and managed appropriately, in particular in areas of high groundwater vulnerability to avoid transmission of pollutants into important aquifers.

The Plan should include a clear Policy / Objective for the protection of groundwater resources and associated habitats and species. The Plan should also include a commitment to integrate any existing Groundwater Protection Schemes and Groundwater Source Protection Zones, as relevant and appropriate within the Plan area. The Plan should also include a commitment to comply with the [European Communities Environmental Objectives \(Groundwater\) Regulations 2010](#) (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).

Issues to consider relating to protection of groundwater include; enforcement of planning conditions related to installation, operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater treatment / septic tank systems, connection of all remaining houses within settlement boundaries to wastewater treatment plant, the development of a wastewater leak detection programme and the implementation and enforcement of the [European Communities \(Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters\) Regulations 2009](#) and associated [European Union \(Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters\) Regulations 2017](#) (S.I. No 605 of 2017) and [European Union \(Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters\)\(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#) (S.I. No 65 of 2018).

Protection and Management of Bathing Waters

The obligation to protect bathing waters within (and adjacent to) the Plan area should also be reflected in the Plan. Bathing Waters are afforded protection under Directive 2006/7/EC, known as the ‘*Directive on bathing water*’, which is transposed into National legislation by the [Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008](#) (S.I. No. 79) of 2008. In addition, under the Water Framework Directive, recreational waters/bathing water areas are included on the Register of Protected Areas. The Plan should provide for the protection of any waters which are used for bathing within or adjacent to the Plan area.

The EPA's most recent report on bathing water quality [*Bathing Water Quality in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2023*](#), (EPA, 2024) sets out the status of Irish Seawater and Freshwater Bathing areas and should be integrated as appropriate. The EPA's available bathing water advice/guidance includes an online GIS resource beaches.ie, which should be considered.

Water Framework Directive & Biodiversity

Any sites of significant biodiversity value within or adjacent to the Plan area listed on the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas, (such as Fresh Water Pearl Mussel Catchments, designated Salmonid waters, fisheries / shellfisheries), should be protected in preparing the Plan.

Marine Waters

Where the Plan might have an impact on the marine environment, the Plan should consider the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the environmental commitments set out in Ireland's National Marine Planning Framework, as appropriate and where relevant.

Flooding

The Plan should fully comply with [*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities*](#) (OPW/DHLGH, 2009). These Guidelines place requirements on planning authorities to carry out strategic flood risk assessments and also to ensure that development/zoning of vulnerable land uses, in areas at significant risk of flooding (flood zones A and B) is avoided. In effect, only flood/water compatible uses should be built in flood plains. Where this is not possible, any proposal for development/zoning is required to include a '*Justification Test*' in accordance with the Guidelines. Examples of vulnerable land uses include hospitals, residential developments and essential infrastructure such as transport and utilities (electricity generating power stations, water and sewage treatment) and potential significant sources of pollution (SEVESO sites, IPC sites).

The OPW website to access flood risk management plans, flood maps and information on flood risk management in Ireland can be consulted at: www.floodinfo.ie.

The Plan should include a commitment to carry out strategic flood risk assessments, in line with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines, to inform the development and implementation of the County Development Plan and lower level local area plans respectively.

A specific Policy should be included to provide for/promote appropriate flood risk assessments to be undertaken, where development / zoning is being proposed in the Plan area where there is significant risk of flooding, in accordance with the Guidelines referred to above.

The Plan should also promote the development, where appropriate, of adaptation measures to account for the likely increased risk of flooding due to climate change within the Plan area, including implementation of adequate and appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. Additionally, the Plan should provide for protection, management, and as appropriate, enhancement of existing wetland habitats where flood protection/management measures are necessary.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management should also be considered as relevant and appropriate, to inform the preparation of coastal plans and programmes.

Climate Change / Climatic Factors

Urgent action is needed to address climate change and to move Ireland towards a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should be included in the Plan as appropriate and the Plan should be consistent with the *National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development*¹, the *National Climate Action Plan* and the *National Adaptation Framework*, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.

The Agency has published [Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2022-2050](#) (EPA, 2024) and [Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023](#) (EPA, 2024) which should be taken into account in preparing the Plan, as appropriate and relevant. The latest climate change publications by the EPA are available at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/>.

The EPA has published an update of its existing good practice guidance note on how to incorporate climatic factors into plans and programmes falling under the remit of the SEA Directive – [Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland](#) (EPA, 2019²). This guidance dovetails with the updated [Development Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities](#) (DHLGH, 2022). The update and reviews of both these previous guidance documents enhance linkages and create synergies between the plan-making and SEA processes. Key aspects to be considered in the Plan and SEA, where relevant, include:

- Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (Mitigation)
- Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g. the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (Adaptation)
- The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships)

Mitigation

To fulfil national commitments on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, Ireland must effectively switch away from fossil fuel sources of energy by 2050. The Plan should reflect the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to protect, maintain and enhance carbon stocks. The inclusion of specific policies/objectives which promote the integration of climate change mitigation measures at a regional and local level in land use planning within the Plan area should also be considered. In developing and implementing mitigation-related measures, opportunities should be sought to maximise the potential co-benefits of for the wider the environment and society, such as improvements in air quality, water quality, biodiversity, public amenity, renewable energy, tourism etc.

Adaptation

Climate change is already discernible in Ireland, especially within the temperature record, and projected climate change impacts include higher intensity rainfall events, more intense storms and storm surge, sea level rise, warmer temperatures and longer periods of low rainfall.

Under the [National Adaptation Framework 2024](#) (DECC, 2024) a number of Government Departments are required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to the priority sectors they are responsible for. Local Authorities are also required to prepare local adaptation strategies. These plans and strategies will be reviewed at least once every five years in line with reviews of the Framework. These sectoral adaptation plans and local authority strategies can be found at <https://www.climateireland.ie/#/tools/adaptationStrategyExplorer>

¹ <http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/publications/Pages/National-Policy-Position.aspx>

² <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/EPA%20SEA-Climatic-Factors-Guidance-Note.pdf>

In keeping with the approach of the National Adaptation Framework, the local Guidelines say that the local adaptation strategy should be used to mainstream adaptation over time into the plans and policies of the local authority (i.e. during the review of local authority development plan or other plans and policies).

Policy developments such as the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020, Climate Action Plans and Local Authority Climate Action Charter (DECC, 2019) place additional obligations on local authorities.

The degree to which climate change impacts, individually and in combination, are likely to influence its implementation and operation and coherence with any relevant sectoral adaptation plans should be considered. Aspects to be considered include the resilience of existing and proposed infrastructure and systems to climate variability. This analysis may include an assessment of responses to recent extreme weather events and the adequacy of existing systems and procedures. Other climate change impacts to be considered include changes in native species and habitats and the spread of invasive species, pests and pathogens. To minimise any adverse impacts identified in the SEA, the Plan should include appropriate climate change adaptation measures that can be implemented either directly or through relevant land use plans and/or specific plans e.g. Flood Risk Management Plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans etc.

The 'Climate Ireland' platform provides information, support and advice to help local authorities, sectors and government departments to adapt to climate change and includes a Local Authority Adaptation Support Wizard. It can be consulted at <http://www.climateireland.ie/>

Monitoring

The Plan and SEA should consider monitoring for both climate mitigation and climate adaptation monitoring aspects, where relevant and appropriate.

Role of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) with respect to climate change

One of the statutory functions of the OPR is to evaluate and assess local authority development plans. Whilst neither an environmental authority under the SEA Regulations nor a decision-making authority, the OPR has an important role in ensuring that plans meet their legislative and policy requirements, which includes the requirement to undertake SEA.

As part of the plan evaluation role, the OPR reviews plans to ensure consistency with relevant national and regional policies; including the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. The OPR also has a particular focus on climate change aspects of development plans.

The OPR has published a Case Study Paper entitled '*Climate Action and the Local Authority Development Plan*'. The paper is available from the OPR website using the following link: <https://publications.opr.ie/view-file/89>. The paper demonstrates how local authority development plans have the potential to play a significant role, at local level, in supporting wider efforts to ensure that Ireland meets its ambitious climate mitigation targets.

Air

Air quality legislation in Ireland highlights the need "*to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole*". In addition, it requires that Local Authorities where appropriate "*shall promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development*". These requirements should be incorporated by means of a specific plan objective / policy.

It is also worth noting that the [National Clean Air Strategy](#) (DECC) is currently being prepared, with the intention of developing the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation, in addition to supporting climate change mitigation.

Recent [EPA reports on air quality](#) include [Ireland's Air Pollutant Emissions 2022](#) (EPA, 2024) [Air Quality in Ireland 2023 Report](#) (EPA, 2024) which sets out the most recent status in each of the four air quality zones in Ireland. Where relevant, the EPA have also published [Urban Environmental Indicators for Nitrogen Dioxide levels in Dublin](#) (EPA, 2019) to also take into account.

The EPA manages the national ambient air quality monitoring network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. The EPA's www.airquality.ie website provides information on various substances monitored. More information on this is available at: <https://airquality.ie/information/what-we-monitor>. The pollutants of most concern are those whose main source is traffic such as Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide should to be taken into account. Information in relation to these aspects is available at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/air/ambient-air-monitoring/>

Noise

In Ireland, the Environmental Noise Directive (END) is implemented through S.I. No. 549 of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2018, as amended in 2021^[1]. The END requires Member States to prepare and publish, every 5 years, strategic noise maps and noise management action plans for transport noise sources (roads, rail and airports) and industry. The aim of the END is to provide a common framework to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise. In this context, as appropriate, the Plan should promote the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive and associated national regulations.

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/si/549/made/en/print> & [S.I. No. 663/2021 - European Communities \(Environmental Noise\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](#)

The First Revision to the National Planning Framework <https://npf.ie/> recognises the significance of environmental noise and includes National Policy Objective 93 to '*Promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through Strategic Noise Maps, Noise Action Plans and national planning guidance.*' As part of the LA Performance framework (REMCI) reporting priorities, there are two new targets for noise in 2021 (i) NAPs Reporting Deadline, and (ii) Strategic Noise mapping data collection phase. A local authority working group are currently developing a 'Noise in Transportation - Planning Advice Note'³.

The noise action plans (NAPs) involve the identification of measures needed for the prevention and reduction of environmental noise. The LAs are now required to report progress (each year) on the implementation of their NAPs. The Noise Action Plans should be considered and reviewed by Local Authorities as required, to reflect the Plan period and associated development proposals. Consideration should be given to any relevant noise maps, and action plans. Strategic noise maps are designed to assess population noise exposure resulting from major roads, railways and airports. Noise action plans are designed to act as a means of managing environmental noise through land use

^[1] The Environmental Noise Regulations 2018 both revise and revoke the Environmental Noise Regulation 2006 and transpose the common noise assessment methods (CNOSSOS) Directive 2015/996.

³ The LA group is being led by Kildare Co Council (John O'Neill) and Limerick City & Co Council (Simon Jennings).

planning, traffic management and control of noise sources. The fourth round of noise mapping is currently underway in Ireland. <http://noise.eionet.europa.eu/help.html>.

For larger urban areas, the extra value placed on Quiet areas will be a key priority as part of noise action planning going forward.

While there have been some positive developments around the designation of quiet areas, it's an area that could be promoted further. There might be opportunities to link to initiatives and research around green and blue spaces for health and wellbeing. Dublin City Council has designated eight Quiet Areas (QAs) while South Dublin County Council, Limerick City and County Council as well as Kilkenny County Council are all doing some good work on the identification of quiet areas in their cities. Consideration should also be given to protect designated quiet areas in open country or along the coasts.

Waste Management

The Plan should promote the integration of land use zoning and development to existing and planned availability of waste management infrastructure and capacity. This includes the redevelopment of brownfield sites and management of contaminated soil. The Plan should also refer to and incorporate the relevant aspects of the [Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy](#) (DECC, 2020) and the relevant Regional Waste Management Plan, along with recognition and provision for the beneficial management of materials that are prevented from becoming waste, or those waste materials that have achieved end-of-waste status.

In addition, the Plan should promote and incorporate the relevant recommendations in the following series of EPA reports including:

- [Annual Report on the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027](#) (EPA, 2024)
- [Circular economy and waste statistics highlights report 2022](#) (EPA, 2024)
- [National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027](#) (EPA, 2021)
- EPA [National Waste Statistics](#)
- [National Waste Statistics Summary Report for 2020](#) (EPA, 2022)

These, and other resources are available at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/waste/>

Radon

Where significant concentrations of radon occur within the Plan area, these should be taken into account in the Plan or associated development control measures, as appropriate. Radon Maps are available at <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radon/radon-map/> which should be useful in identifying potential for significant radon accumulations within the Plan area. Reports on radioactivity monitoring of the Irish environment are also available at <https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radon/>.

3. Wider Environmental Recommendations to Consider

Biodiversity

Biodiversity within the Plan area may include designated and undesignated sites, habitats, species and networks of importance at an international, national, regional or local level. The protection of ecological resources is a key consideration which needs to be addressed. In this regard, the Plan should include clear Policies/Objectives to conserve and protect all designated sites within, and in the vicinity of the Plan area (including the habitats and/or species for which they have been selected, or which they support), and should also promote the protection of undesignated sites and local biodiversity features.

The Plan should also promote the need to protect and where possible improve wider aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, the provision of buffer zones between developments and areas of significant biodiversity and ensuring appropriate control and management measures for invasive species.

Plans should be supported / informed by available habitat mapping (including wetland mapping) and other ecological surveys as relevant. The Plan should refer to and reflect the relevant commitments in Ireland's [National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027](#) (NPWS, 2024). Additionally, the NPWS have published the [Article 17 Report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland](#) (NPWS, 2019). Local Heritage/Biodiversity plans should be highlighted and should promote the implementation of key actions set out in these plans. Where not established, commitments should be included to prepare these plans.

Appropriate Assessment

The Plan should make reference to the DECLG Publication '[Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities](#)' (2009; revision 2010), in relation to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

The Plan should refer to the need to comply with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Plan should, where relevant, be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. It should include a clear policy/objective that sets out a requirement for AA Screening for new, reviewed or amended Plans and proposed projects, in relation to potential effects on European sites in view of their conservation objectives. Any potential for cumulative/in-combination effects associated with other relevant Plans/Programmes/Projects should be considered.

You should consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) regarding screening of the Plan for Appropriate Assessment. Where Appropriate Assessment is required, any findings or recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the Plan/Programme, as appropriate.

Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>

Green & Blue Infrastructure

Where the development of new greenways and blueways is considered, these should look to support rather than replace existing green infrastructure. The EPA report '[Our Environment, Our Health, Our Wellbeing: Access to Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland](#)' and associated toolkit (EPA, 2021) explores the key forces and patterns at work in relation to access to blue/green spaces in Ireland and possible impacts in national, regional and local contexts through data analytics, visualisation and mapping.

Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

In 2012, the EPA published guidance on [*Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance*](#). This guidance aims to inform practitioners, plan/project proponents and consent authorities on integrating SEA, EIA and AA processes and requirements in order to streamline biodiversity considerations.

Energy Conservation & Renewable Energy

When considering energy conservation / renewable energy aspects of the Plan, where relevant, the [*Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change*](#) (DHLGH, 2017) should be taken into account. The Government White Paper – *Ireland’s Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030* (DECC) should also be considered.

The relevant renewable energy / energy conservation actions in the National Climate Action Plan should be integrated. Additionally, the Plan should, where relevant, include a commitment to prepare and implement an ‘Energy Conservation Strategy’ and associated awareness campaign within the lifetime of the Plan where feasible.

The Plan should also support and promote the need for energy conservation measures to be incorporated into buildings. Relevant guidance in this regard, can be found on the website of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland: www.seai.ie.

There is merit in including a commitment where relevant and appropriate, to use energy derived from renewable energy systems (e.g. solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal etc.) and energy storage networks and systems within the Plan area.

Landscape

The Plan should provide for the protection of designated scenic landscapes, scenic views, scenic routes and landscape features of national, regional, county and local value. The Plan should also take into account the landscape character adjoining the Plan area. Visual linkages between established landmarks and landscape features and views should be taken into account when land is being zoned and when individual development proposals are being assessed / considered. The *National Landscape Strategy* (DHLGH, 2015) should be taken into account and integrated as appropriate into the Plan.

The EPA has published [*Good practice guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) and landscape*](#) (EPA, 2023) on how to consider landscape aspects in SEA. The aim is to help ensure that landscape management, conservation and the outcomes of development are properly assessed as part of the SEA of plans, policies and programmes in Ireland. Additionally, the EPA funded REFRAME project is finalising a landscape character assessment toolkit to help practitioners undertake assessments of the landscape in a consistent manner.

Geology / Geomorphology

The Plan should protect any designated Geological and Geomorphological NHAs/pNHAs, which may be present/designated within or adjacent to the Plan area in consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Human Health / Quality of Life

In addressing human health and quality of life, the Plan should consider the socioeconomic status of the population within the plan area and in particular should consider any socioeconomic inequalities. This is important to ensure that the Plan does not exacerbate any existing inequalities and ideally promotes and supports the balancing of existing socioeconomic inequalities.

The Plan should ensure provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure and to serve both the existing community and likely future predicted increases in population within the Plan area. In preparing the Plan, there is merit in exploring current practice and opportunities with respect to promote the protection and, as appropriate, improvement of “Quality of Life”. Where relevant, the application of existing “Quality of Life Indices” would be considered in consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies/organisations. We also refer you to the relevant aspects already referred to above under water, biodiversity, air, energy as the links between a high-quality environment and improved health and wellbeing are well established.

The EEA have published a report on the environment and health, that may be useful to consider. This report also highlights the importance of access to good quality green and blue space. It can be consulted at: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/healthy-environment-healthy-lives>.

Transportation

The Plan should promote and as appropriate, provide for the provision of sustainable modes of transport. The National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (DTTAS) and the Draft National Cycle Network Plan (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) should be referred to, in the context of possible initiatives which could be included as objectives within the Plan. The Plan should include and provide support for appropriate access to public transport, dedicated cycleways and pedestrian pathways, access to rapid charging infrastructure etc.

The transport-related actions in the Climate Action Plan and the National Planning Framework, should also be considered and integrated, as appropriate in the Plan. In seeking to support achieving a low carbon economy, it is important to consider and manage transport related emissions within the Plan area. In this regard the Plan should promote, and as appropriate provide for sustainable modes of transport.

Promoting the development of traffic management measures to reduce the potential for traffic congestion and associated vehicular emissions should be considered. In particular, it would be useful to prepare (and review existing) Integrated Traffic Management Plans, where relevant and appropriate, for the existing urban areas and proposed new urban developments to consider and address the short, medium and long-term traffic management requirements within the Plan area.

Infrastructure Planning

Where zoning/rezoning of lands and the introduction of new development is being proposed within the Plan area, the Plan should promote the need for an integrated planning approach to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders.

The Plan should, (when considering additional development proposals), support and promote the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure, surface and storm water drainage, public transport, waste management, community services and amenities etc. on a planned

and phased basis. This is in the context of taking into account and addressing existing infrastructural inadequacies to meet the expected needs of predicted increases in population associated with the Plan implementation.

The potential impact on human health, habitats and species of ecological importance, flood risk and water quality should be taken into account in considering proposed additional infrastructure or in proposed upgrading of existing infrastructure.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Plan should highlight that, under EIA and Planning & Development legislation, certain projects arising during the implementation of the Plan may require an EIA. It should be noted that projects may also need to take into account the requirements of the Habitats Directive and associated regulations. It should be noted that the EPA's role in relation to carrying out EIA relates only to activities which are licensable by the EPA, namely Industrial Emissions (IE), Integrated Pollution Control (IPC), and Waste Management Act activities and licensing of wastewater discharges.

Guidelines on information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements and Advice Notes on Current Practice in preparation of EIS are available at the following link:

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/guidelines-on-information-to-be-contained-in-environmental-impact-statements-ei.php>

The EPA has also published [*Guidelines on information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*](#) (EPA, 2022) These Guidelines are primarily intended to be an authoritative reference to those preparing Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) for projects covered by the EIA Directive. The Guidelines are a statutory document that should be regarded by those preparing EIARs and the decision makers considering the EIARs as part of the EIA process

Appendix 1a: Links to environmental guidance/reports

Air	https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/air/
Bathing Water	https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/
Biodiversity	http://www.npws.ie/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities http://www.npws.ie/publications
Climate Action	https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/Pages/default.aspx https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/ https://www.climateireland.ie/
Community Engagement	https://www.cwi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/guide-for-inclusive-community-engagement.pdf
Cumulative Effects Assessment	https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/good-practice-guidance-on-cumulative-effects-assessment-in-sea.php
DHPLG Guidelines / Legislation	https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/planning
Drinking Water	https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/drinking-water/
EIA	https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/planning
Energy Conservation	www.seai.ie
Flood Risk	https://www.flooding.ie/Planning/
Geology / Geomorphology	www.gsi.ie
Ground Water	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/groundwater/
Landscape Character Assessment	http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/
Marine	https://www.marine.ie/Home/home
Noise	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/noise/noise-mapping-and-action-plans/#d.en.86024
Radon	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/radiation/
SEA EPA resources	https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/Updated Draft SEA Guidelines (DHLGH, 2021)
State of Environment	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/irelands-environment/state-of-environment-report/
Surface Water	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/#
Transportation	https://www.nationaltransport.ie/planning-policy/ https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/environment/
Waste Management	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/waste/national-waste-statistics/ https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/waste/
Waste Water	https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/waste-water/

Note: The above list is indicative only; all of the above may not be relevant to a particular plan

Appendix 1b: Links to spatial environmental resources

Air	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/air/# https://airquality.ie/
Bathing Water	http://www.beaches.ie
Biodiversity	https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/ https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/OurWork/PolicyAdvocacy/BirdSensitivityMapping/tabid/1312/Default.aspx https://www.npws.ie/research-projects/ecosystems-services-mapping-and-assessment http://www.wetlandsurveysireland.com/wetlands/map-of-irish-wetlands--map-of-irish-wetlands---map/
Drinking Water	https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/drinking-water/
EIA	https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/environmental-assessment/environmental-impact-assessment-eia/eia-portal
Flood Risk	www.floodinfo.ie
Geology / Geomorphology	http://www.gsi.ie/Mapping.htm
Ground Water	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Groundwater.aspx https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/groundwater/ https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/#Water%20Levels
Noise	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ (Under Environment & Wellbeing)
Radon	https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/radon/radon-map/
SEA EPA resources	www.enviromap.ie https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA (SEAGIS Search and Reporting Tool) http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/seaspatialinformationsourcesinventory.html
Spatial Planning GIS	www.myplan.ie https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/mapping/ http://gis.epa.ie/SeeMaps https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA https://www.opr.ie/resources/ https://www.opr.ie/library/
Surface Water	http://www.catchments.ie https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water
Green Procurement	https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/green-public-procurement-guidance.php

EPA SEAGIS Search and Reporting Tool

Our SEA WebGIS Tool has is publicly available at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>. It allows users to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

One of the statutory functions of the OPR is to evaluate and assess local authority development plans. A further statutory role of the OPR relates to research, training and public awareness. The relationship between SEA and plan-making is an area identified for further research and training, by

both the EPA and OPR. The OPR works closely with the EPA and other agencies in driving innovation and learning in order to achieve shared objectives.

To that end, the OPR has developed a number of resources on their website including an online planning library, webinars and research papers. <https://www.opr.ie/research-and-training/>

Appendix II: Key national & regional plans and programmes⁴

National	
<i>Planning</i>	- National Planning Framework (DHLGH) - Rural Development Programme (DAFM) - Urban Development & Building Heights Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH)
<i>Agriculture</i>	- CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 / FoodVision 2030 / Agri Food Strategy 2030 (DAFM)
<i>Biodiversity</i>	- National Biodiversity Plan (DHLGH) – 4th in preparation - National Peatland Strategy, SAC Raised Bog Management Plan (DHLGH)
<i>Climate</i>	- Climate Action Plan 2025 (DECC) - Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps - National Adaptation Framework (DECC) - National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (DECC) - EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2021
<i>Communications</i>	- National Broadband Plan (DECC)
<i>Energy</i>	- National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DECC) - Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid) - Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (DoT) - Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DECC) - National Bioenergy Plan (DECC)
<i>Forestry</i>	- National Forestry Programme 2023-2027 / Forestry Policy Review (DAFM)
<i>Landscape</i>	- National Landscape Strategy (DHLGH)
<i>Tourism</i>	- 10 Year Tourism Strategy (Fáilte Ireland)
<i>Transport</i>	- All Island Strategic Rail Review (in preparation) - Strategic Framework for Integrated Land Transport (DoT) - National Greenway Strategy (DoT)
<i>National Overview</i>	- State of the Environment (SOE) Report 2024 (EPA)
<i>Waste</i>	- Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (DECC, 2020) - National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA)
<i>Water</i>	- Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHLGH) - National Marine Planning Framework (DHLGH) - Seafood Operation Programme / Strategic Aquaculture Programme (DAFM) - Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (DAFM) - Water Services Strategic Plan (Irish Water) - Capital Investment Programme (Irish Water) - Water Resources Management Plan (Irish Water) - National CFRAMS Programme (OPW)
Regional	
<i>Planning</i>	- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
<i>Climate</i>	- Local Authority Climate Action Plans
<i>Energy</i>	- County Renewable Energy / Wind Energy Strategies - Designated Maritime Area Plans (in preparation)
<i>Forestry</i>	- Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan (DAFM, in preparation)
<i>Tourism</i>	- Regional Tourism Strategies (Failte Ireland) - County Tourism Strategies / Visitor Experience Development Plans
<i>Transport</i>	- Transport Strategy for Greater Dublin Area - National Investment Framework for Transport Investment - Metropolitan Area Transport Strategies
<i>Water</i>	- Relevant CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plans - Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters - Regional Water Resource Management Plans (Uisce Eireann)

⁴ Plan-makers should identify key relevant plans/programmes/strategies in the SEA. The above list is indicative only; all of the above may not be relevant to a particular plan.

Appendix III – List of EPA SEA Guidance Notes

Year	Title
2024	Guidance on how KPIs can be used to evaluate effectiveness of SEA
2024	Guidance note on public participation in SEA
2023	Good practice guidance on SEA and landscape
2023	Good practice guidance on SEA for the Tourism Sector
2023	Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring
2022	Good practice guidance note on SEA in the Water Sector
2021	Good practice guidance on SEA Screening
2021	Good practice guidance note on SEA for the Energy Sector
2021	SEA Process Flow
2021	Good practice guidance on cumulative effects assessment in SEA
2019	Integrating Climatic Factors into SEA in Ireland – A guidance note
2019	Good practice guidance note on SEA for the Waste Sector
2019	Good practice guidance note on SEA for the Forestry Sector
2015	Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA



Headquarters, PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
County Wexford, Ireland

Ceanncheathrú, Bosca Poist 3000
Eastát Chaisleán Chaile Sheáin
Contae Loch Garman, Éire

T: +353 53 916 0600
F: +353 53 916 0699
E: info@epa.ie
W: www.epa.ie
LoCall: 1890 33 55 99

Regional Inspectorate,
Inniscarra,
County Cork, Ireland
Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Inis Cara
Chontae Chorcaí, Éire

T: +353 21 487 5540
F: +353 21 487 5545
E: info@epa.ie
W: www.epa.ie
LoCall: 1890 33 55 99

Ms Ryan
Senior Planner
Wicklow County Council
Station Road
Wicklow Town

25th July 2025

Our Ref: SCP250702.1

Re. SEA Scoping for Variation No 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Dear Ms Ryan,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 22nd July 2025, in relation to Variation No 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022- 2028 (the Variation).

The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.

As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document ['SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'](#). This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use Plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Variation and SEA.

In preparing the Variation, Wicklow County Council should also ensure that the Variation aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region.



The EPA may provide additional comments upon receipt of the SEA Environmental Report and Draft Plan/Programme/Variation at the next stage of the SEA process.

Available Guidance & Resources

Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:

- SEA process guidance and checklists;
- Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA;
- Topic and sector specific SEA guidance (including [SEA and Integration Guidance](#) (EPA, 2025), [Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment](#) (EPA, 2020), [Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA](#) (EPA, 2015), and [Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment](#) (EPA, 2012)).

You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance-/>

EPA SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool

Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now available at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>. It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

Catchments.ie

Our <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water> website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.

EPA AA GeoTool

Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is also available through EPA <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>.

Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024

In October 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report. This report should be considered, and relevant aspects integrated as appropriate, in implementing the Plan outputs/ recommendations. It is available at: <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report-/>.

Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society

You should ensure that the Variation aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.



Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; and,
- Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.

- any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

Eleanor Ryan

Eleanor Ryan

SEA Section

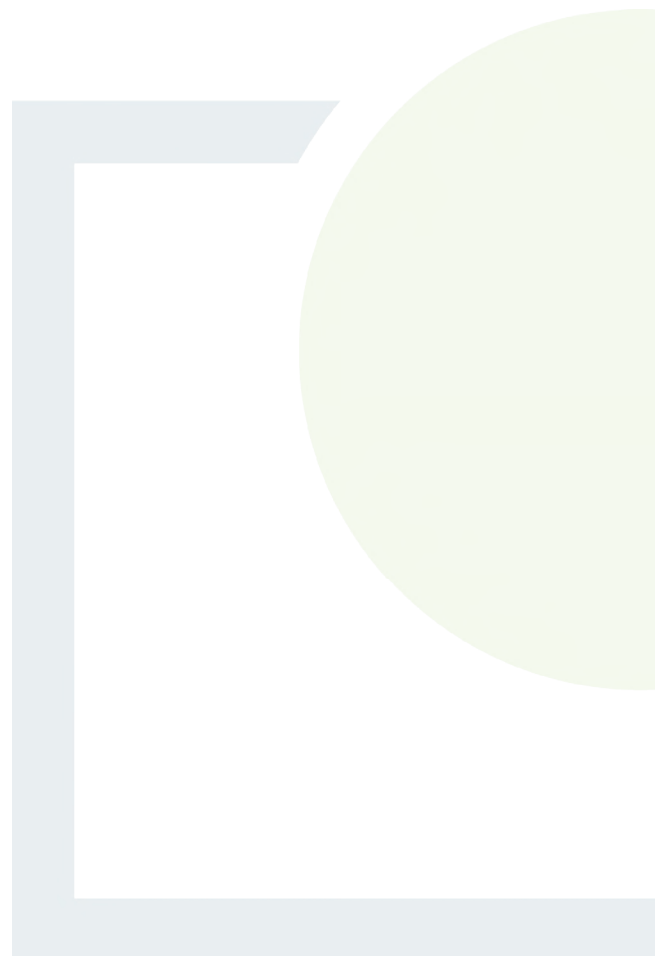
*Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
Environmental Protection Agency*



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 3

Detailed Evaluation of the
Environmental Effects of Plan
Implementation



Approach and Methodology for the Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects of Implementation of the Draft Variation/Draft LPF

A detailed evaluation of the potential effects of the Draft Variation/Draft LPF on the baseline environment has been carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines. This evaluation has considered the Draft Variation/LPF in the absence of environmental mitigation. An evaluation matrix template has been developed to facilitate the evaluation of the Draft Variation/Draft LPF on Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) relevant to each Environmental Component.

A dedicated evaluation matrix has been prepared for the Draft Variation/Draft LPF. The potential environmental effects of Draft Variation/Draft LPF objectives are then described. An evaluation of the environmental effects of objectives on Environmental Components, having regard to the SEOs relevant to each Environment Component, was then carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. Potential effects of the Draft Variation/Draft LPF on Environmental Components/SEOs have been categorised as follows:

- Potential Positive Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '+').¹
- Potential Negative Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '-').²
- Potential Positive and Negative Environmental Impacts (indicated in the matrix by a '+/-').
- Uncertain Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '?').
- Neutral, No or Insignificant Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '0').

The evaluation considers all potential direct, indirect/secondary, cumulative,³ synergistic,⁴ short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative environmental effects.

Completed Evaluation Matrices for the Draft Variation/Draft LPF are presented below.

¹ Potential Positive Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to support the achievement of an SEO.

² Potential Negative Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to hinder the achievement of an SEO.

³ The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.

⁴ The addition of effects to create a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects so that the nature of the final impact is different to the nature of the individual impact

[illegible]

Reference	Text	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
Proposed Variation 5: Part 1.2	Volume 1, Chapter 3 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028	Factual detail relating to the CDP has been contemporised. Land use zoning and key development objectives for the Wicklow Town-Rathnew and Blessington LAPs have been integrated into the CDP. The list of LAPs/LPFs has been updated.												
	Vary Section 3.5 as follows: 3.5 Zoning <i>This development plan provides the population and housing targets for all 21 settlements in the County up to 2031. However, Upon adoption in 2022, it only provides provided plans for 13 settlements, the remainder of the settlements having their own stand-alone 'Local Area Plans' at that time. , which will be reviewed after the adoption of this County Development Plan. As part of the LAP adoption process for the settlements of Wicklow Town – Rathnew and Blessington, the land use zoning and key development objectives maps for these LAP settlements / areas are integrated into Volume 2 of this County Development Plan by way of variation.</i>	Detail on prospective LPFs)in Blessington and Greystones-Delgany-Kilcoole and their order of priority, relative to other prospective local level plans, have now been provided.												
	<i>For the remaining settlements (Bray, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Greystones – Delgany, Kilcoole and Arklow), 'Local Planning Frameworks'</i>	These changes do not introduce any sources of environmental impact and do not result in interactions with environmental components.	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 2	To support and facilitate improvements to the public realm in Arklow Town Centre to provide an attractive, comfortable environment for pedestrians of all mobility levels, cyclists and users of public transport. Such improvements may include the following: - Improvements in the ‘walkability’ and ‘legibility’ of the town centre via improved wayfinding signage, enhancement of pedestrian facilities along public roads and local laneways and improving connections from the town centre to the waterfront, Arklow Train Station and edge of centre residential areas; - Reduction in the dominance of private vehicles and space dedicated to private vehicles in the public realm, thereby facilitating the enhancement of space for social interaction and potential use for community and business uses; - By improving the appearance of junctions and gateway areas into the Main Street, particularly the Main Street – Bridge Street junction and on approach from Back Street and Tinahask/Harbour Road. - To seek as part of the redevelopment/refurbishment of properties along Main Street and Lower Main Street the reinstatement of former	This objective supports public realm and active travel development in and around the town centre. It has the potential to support sustainable travel and transport and enhance mobility and connection and create better sense of place. It has the potential to result in positive effects on PHH, air quality and noise, climate, land-use, tourism and recreation, and material assets.											
		This objectives supports the carrying out development, including linear development, that may generate a range of construction and operational phase effects on the environment; such as noise nuisance, dust and polluting surface water run-off. Development in the vicinity of the Avoca River or Arklow Town Marsh pNHA, which are both located close to the town centre and in the vicinity of/at 19 Arches Bridge, may generate specific effects on water quality, hydrology and ecological sensitivities associated with these features.	+/ -	-	-	-	-	+	+/ -	-	+/ -	0	+

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Objectives OP2	- Where possible this site should be the subject of a comprehensive integrated scheme of development encompassing the entire lands. Individual site redevelopment proposals may be considered if they can demonstrate how they comply with the objectives of this opportunity site. - Any new scheme should seek to protect the character and appearance of the traditional shop fronts including the Morgan Doyle facade and canopy and any architectural details on buildings of high architectural value wherever possible.	This objective dictates the policy that has been set out in regards to Opportunity Site (OP) 2 'Main Street', identified in the LPF, which if developed would contribute to the enhancement of the Arklow Town Centre. The objectives set out for OP2 will ensure that development within this area is done under an integrated planning approach where individual facilities and amenities all take a cohesive approach in their planning. The objectives set out standards that must be followed to ensure the town centre's character and amenity is not compromised but rather enhanced with increased usefulness to the general public. These objectives will have a positive effect on PHH, landscape character and visual amenity, land-use, material assets, biodiversity, cultural heritage, climate and air quality.	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	0	+
	- Proposal shall provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating retail, commercial, residential, tourism, community and cultural development, all contained within a high quality architectural, landscaped, streetscape and high quality public realm environment. - A high density development will be required to be achieved across the site that is sensitive and appropriate to its immediate built and natural context and accords with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for	In general, this site supports development which has the potential to cause negative effects on a wide range of environmental receptors. The construction phases of development has the potential to result in environmental impacts, such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, that may affect various environmental components, including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, cultural heritage, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of this development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, material assets, landscape character and visual amenity.	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	0	+

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 5	To vigorously protect and promote the vitality and viability of the town centre. Development proposals not according with the fundamental objective to support the vitality and viability of the town centre must demonstrate compliance with the 'sequential approach' before they can be approved. The 'sequential approach' shall be applied and assessed in accordance with the 'Retail Planning Guidelines, (DoECLG, 2012)'. The Planning Authority will discourage new retail developments if they would either by themselves or cumulatively in conjunction with other developments seriously damage the vitality and viability of existing retail centres within the County.	This objective ensures that new development proposals support the vitality and viability of the town centre. The objective also requires that where the proposals cannot demonstrate how they contribute to this, that they must demonstrate compliance with the 'sequential approach'. This approach calls for development that extends outwards from the town centre, ensuring compact growth and preventing intensive development on the outskirts of downs that may not be easily accessible. This will support the objectives under the Wicklow County Development Plan to rejuvenate the town centres so as to encourage their role as a focal point for commerce, increasing accessibility and reducing unnecessary travel. In particular the development plan wants to halt the recent decline observed within the town centre. This objective will positively impact on several environmental components (PHH, tourism, climate, air quality, material assets, land use and cultural heritage) primarily by reducing urban sprawl and increasing accessibility. The objective does not conflict with any SEOs or environmental components.	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	

Arklow LPF - Arklow Waterfront Zone

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 8	To support in-depth development of the Waterfront zone (WZ), north and south, for a mix of residential, commercial, employment, leisure and tourism uses in accordance with the development objectives for SLO1 and SLO2. Applications for the development of such lands shall include a detailed survey of the existing site conditions, proposals for demolition and remediation of previous site activities and a management plan for the disposal of such materials.	This objective supports County Policy Objective CPO 9.1 defined in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, to support all forms of employment creation, particularly where this can mitigate long distance commuting. It seeks to support the redevelopment of the Arklow Waterfront Zone in accordance with higher-level objectives.											
		This objective however supports the carrying out of development. In the absence of mitigation, this has the potential to result in typical construction and operational-phase impacts. The construction phases of development supported by this objective have the potential to result in environmental impacts such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, which may affect various environmental components including population and human health, the air quality environment, the noise environment, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. Such a brownfield site may contain contaminated land. Improper management land, material or waste arising at these sites has the potential environmental pollution.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+	+
		The operational phases of said development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, biodiversity (through disturbance/nuisance), traffic and transport conditions, material assets, landscape character and visual amenity.											

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 15	To encourage and facilitate tourism and leisure related uses at appropriate locations in the Waterfront Zone including hotel / accommodation facilities and leisure uses to complement this maritime location.	This objective pertains to the focussed and selective development of tourism amenities the Arklow Waterfront Zone. This will ensure that tourism and leisure development within the Arklow Waterfront Zone is closely aligned with and supportive of the existing character and function of the area. This objective will have a positive effect on population and human health, tourism and recreation, landscape character and visual amenity, and land-use.												
		This objective supports County Policy Objective CPO 5.6 defined in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, to revitalise the centre of Arklow, including the harbour area, and to deliver a mix of uses including employment, high density residential and leisure. The objective supports tourism and leisure related development in the area, including hotel development. This has the potential have a range of construction and operational phase impacts, such as noise impacts, dust impacts, impacts on traffic and transport dynamics, landscape and visual impacts, impacts on existing heritage, including maritime heritage features, and impacts on sensitive ecological features.	+/-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	+/-	+	0	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 16	To ensure that any development projects in and around the Arklow quays preserve and enhance any valuable structures or items of Arklow's maritime heritage.	This objective ensures that new development proposals support the vitality and viability of the town centre, particularly adjoining the Arklow quays. This objective will positively impact on several environmental components such as tourism and recreation, population and human health, material assets and cultural heritage. This objective in and of itself does not support new development within the area. This objective establishes development standards in line with environmental considerations.	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 21	Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure is adequate or is being provided to match the needs of new residents. New significant residential or mixed use development proposals (of which residential development forms a component) , shall be required to be accompanied by a Social Infrastructure Audit, to determine if social and community facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services.	This objective requires that housing development be managed and phased in a way that ensures adequate infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of new residents. By requiring relevant development proposals to carry out a Social Infrastructure Audit, this objective ensures new residential areas are set up in a way that promotes a sense of community and place, encourages physical and mental wellbeing, and allows for the reduced need for excessive movement outside the neighbourhood to access facilities which are lacking. This will have a positive effect on PHH, material assets, and land-use.	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
		No conflicts with any environmental receptor or SEOs have been identified for this objective.											

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 24	To facilitate and support Arklow town centre as the priority for new employment, particularly 'people'-based employment development.	This objective supports County Policy Objective CPO 9.1 defined in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, to support all forms of employment creation, particularly where this can mitigate long distance commuting. Focused employment growth within the town centre, as proposed, will potentially enhance socio-economic resilience of Arklow and may have reduce dependency on long distance commuting or travel outwards. This has the potential to positively affect population and human health through an improvement in quality of life, air quality through reduced travel times and greenhouse gas emissions, and potential improvements to infrastructure and material assets within the town centre.												
		+/-	+/-	0	-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	0	+		
		This objective however supports development within Arklow town centre, which if not mitigated or supported by appropriate infrastructure, may contribute to impacts on traffic and architectural or cultural assets. Development associated with this objective has the potential to result in typical construction and operational-phase impacts. The construction phases of development supported by this objective have the potential to result in environmental impacts such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, which may affect various environmental components including population and human health, the air quality and noise conditions, the water environment, biodiversity and traffic and transport conditions. The operational phases of said development has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, and material assets, landscape character and visual amenity.												

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 25	To protect employment zoned land from inappropriate development that would undermine future economic activity or the sustainable development of such areas.	This objective relates to zoning enforcement within the area. Protecting employment zoned land from inappropriate development will ensure the economic and sustainable development capabilities of said areas are not compromised. This will have a positive effect on population and human health, landscape and material assets.	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	
ARK 26	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the area and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.	This objective supports various County Policy Objectives defined in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, including CPO 5.12, CPO 5.6, CPO 9.1, CPO 9.10 and CPO 9.22. By supporting sustainable land use via the promotion of brownfield sites for development, it alleviates the potential for urban sprawl. The objective therefore delivers positive impacts on environmental components such as population and human health, landscape, soils, land use and material assets. Brownfield sites would require additional assessments to determine historic land-use and potential contamination at these sites. The carrying out of development at such brownfield sites may result in a range construction and operational phase effects, including dust, noise, impacts on sensitive ecological receptors (including receptors that may utilise derelict/vacant buildings at brownfield sites e.g., bat species), demolition impacts and impacts on existing heritage features.	+/-	+/-	0	-	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	0	+/-	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 30	To facilitate and encourage the exploration and exploitation of aggregates and minerals, in a manner which is consistent with the principle of sustainability, the protection of residential, environmental and tourism amenities within the area and the objectives relating to the Extractive Industry in Chapter 9 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.	This objective supports the exploration and potential extraction of aggregates and minerals in accordance with objectives defined in Chapter 9 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. Activities such as this have the potential to result in negative environmental impacts on population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, landscape, seascape and visual amenity, soils, land use, air quality and noise, water and climate change if not carefully managed.	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	+/-	0	+/-

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 31	To require that all employment zoned lands are developed as follows: - At the highest standard of architectural design and finish, in particular where development sites adjoin or are visible from the Dublin Road on approach to Arklow Town from Junction 20, and along the Wexford Road, on approach to Arklow Town from Junction 21. - That the layout makes provision for well supervised, public green routes (including foot and cycleways) through any employment lands and that such roads connect with the cycle lanes/tracks along the Dublin and Wexford Road via the most direct route possible shorted commute times by foot and cycle.	This objective supports active travel principles outlined in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, specifically CPO 9.1, the objective of which is to support all forms of employment creation, particularly where this can mitigate long distance commuting. Encouraging and facilitating active travel within the area may have long-term positive effects on environmental components such as population and human health, air quality and noise, tourism and recreation, biodiversity, flora and fauna and climate change. The requirement to meet the highest standards of architectural design and finish where development may be fronted by main roads will have a positive effects on the receiving landscape/cityscape.												
		This objective however supports future infrastructure development which, by nature, has the potential to result in typical construction and operational-phase impacts. The construction phase of development supported by this objective has the potential to result in environmental impacts such as dust, noise, or traffic disruption, which may affect various environmental components including population and human health, the air quality and noise conditions, the water environment, biodiversity or traffic and transport conditions. The operational phase of said developments has the potential to result in environmental effects on various environmental components, such as population and human health, traffic and transport conditions, material assets, landscape character and visual amenity.	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 32	In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to: • comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents; • where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account: (i) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, (ii) public health and safeguarding of public health, (iii) protection of the environment; • ensure that land use objectives must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest; and • have regard to the advice of the Health and Safety Authority when dealing with proposals relating to Seveso sites and land use plans in the vicinity of such sites.	This objective supports risk reduction, public safety and environmental health and safety in accordance with higher-order legislation and guidance. Through adherence to said legislation and guidance, this objective may have positive effects on environmental components such as population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, soils, air quality and noise, water, tourism and recreation and climate change.	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 34	To support and facilitate the provision of tourist information services and tourist signage at appropriate locations in the LPF area, with particular emphasis on locations close to existing public transport nodes and existing tourism/recreation facilities/assets. To cooperate with Wicklow County Tourism, Fáilte Ireland and other appropriate bodies in facilitating the development and erection of standardised and branded signage for tourism facilities and tourist attractions.	This objective seeks to enhance tourism amenities and support services within the area. The provision of signage at appropriate locations within the area will improve visitor experience and accessibility and will encourage sustainable travel by calling attention to public transport options in the area. This will have positive impacts on environmental components such as population and human health, cultural heritage, material assets and tourism and recreation. Signage proposed as part of this objective however has the potential to create visual impacts, especially as the objective pertains to sensitive locations with amenity value. Depending on the scale and nature of development proposed for the provision of tourist information services, there may be potential for temporary or short-term construction and long-term or permanent operational phase effects in the absence of mitigation. Impacts could arise from noise and dust emissions, disturbance to sensitive receptors (biodiversity and population and human health), potential for runoff and consequent degradation to the soils and water environments. Operational phase impacts may include changes in the traffic and transport conditions and a change in the noise baseline.	+/-	-	-	+	-	0	-	-	+/-	+	0

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 36	To protect and enhance existing, and support the development of new walking, cycling routes / trails, including facilities ancillary to trails (such as sign posting and car parks) and the development of linkages between existing trails in the area. In particular, to encourage and facilitate the maintenance and improvement of: • The Avoca River Walk and linkages to Vale Road and Arklow Main Street; • Lamberton Avenue/Woodlands Park leading to Glenart Woods; • Walking infrastructure along North Quay linking to the coastal walk and Kynoch Park; • Walking infrastructure along South Quay linking to Arklow South Beach via Arklow Port and the former Arklow Pottery site.	This objective supports active travel and accessibility within the area. Improved connectivity between existing trails and attractions will improve accessibility and encourage tourism within the area. This has the potential to result in direct positive effects on population and human health and tourism and recreation through increased access to nature trails, and the development of material assets. Indirect positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, air quality and noise conditions, and climate may occur through a modal shift from private car use to active travel, therefore resulting in a reduction in noise and greenhouse gas emissions. This objective however supports the development of active travel infrastructure, which can result in adverse construction phase impacts on receiving biodiversity (habitat loss/degradation, impacts on sensitive ecological receptors), landscape (visual impacts), soils and water environments (potential polluting runoff). The construction phase will also involve short-term noise and dust emissions impacting sensitive receptors locally and may disrupt traffic and transport conditions.	+/-	+/-	-	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	+	+

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
		This objective seeks to enhance sustainable tourism amenities and attractions within the area. This will generally have positive effects on users of these amenities (i.e., population and human health and tourism and recreation). Co-location of these amenities with compatible and existing infrastructure and land-use will align with the SEOs for land use and material assets.											
ARK 42	To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos. To facilitate and promote the development of small-scale tourist enterprises that are developed in conjunction with established rural activities such as agriculture. Such enterprises may include open farms, health farms, heritage and nature trails, pony trekking etc.	Depending on the type and scale of project, however, there may be short-term construction phase (impacts to sensitive receptors including biodiversity, flora and fauna, the soils and water environments, air quality and noise conditions) and long-term operational phase impacts in the absence of mitigation. Key operational phase impacts will emanate from increased foot traffic, which can result in changes in traffic and transport dynamics, disturbance to local wildlife, and additional pressure on services and utilities (material assets, including waste).	+/-	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	+/-	+	0

Arklow LPF – Social and Community Development

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 43	Having regard to the potential longer term education needs in the Arklow area which have not been determined at this time but may arise; the physical and environmental constraints present in the area; and the space required particularly for new secondary schools, the development of new schools shall be permissible in principle in all land use zones in this LPF, other than OS1 and OS2, subject to the following criteria (in addition to all normal planning considerations) being fulfilled: • In order to ensure an appropriate spatial distribution of schools throughout the LPF area and to ensure maximum accessibility of all residential areas to schools, no new primary school shall be located within a 10-minute walking time of any existing primary schools or no new secondary school shall be located within a 20-minute walking time of any existing secondary schools; • The site has excellent public transport and active travel infrastructure in situ, or planned and committed to coincide with a new school opening at the site; • No such development will be considered on lands in existing community use where the loss in the use / facility is not being made up for elsewhere within the settlement.	This objective puts in place the future policy for the long term educational needs in the Arklow area. It sets out the spatial and social requirements of new schooling facilities. The policy established under this action will contribute positively to the community (population) and material assets of the area. Good distribution of schooling facilities will increase the educational accessibility for the community and reduce transportation time and traffic with the area. The requirement of sites to be well-served by public transport and active travel reduce the use of private car, therefore potentially improving or preserving the receiving air quality and noise conditions and contributing to public / human health through increased movement. There will also be long-term positive implications for climate through a potential reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The objective does however, supports the carrying out of development of educational facilities, and therefore, in the absence of mitigation, are likely to result in construction phase impacts on a range of environmental receptors. Construction phase impacts may include habitat loss from land-take, dust and noise emissions impacting sensitive receptors, runoff impacting the water and soils environments, etc. Operational phase impacts may include changes to noise conditions and traffic and transport dynamics and conditions, therefore also impacting population and human health.	+/ -	-	0	-	-	0	+/ -	-	+/-	0	+

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 45	Without exception, to require the provision of childcare facilities in all new residential developments comprising 75 houses or more (including local authority and social housing schemes). In accordance with Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government guidelines, childcare places shall be provided at a ratio of 20 places per 75 residential units, having regard to cumulative effects of permitted development. Where such childcare facilities are required as part of new developments, they shall be; - designed from the outset as childcare facilities, with internal and external spaces meeting national standards for childcare use, - of such a location, design and scale to ensure childcare use is viable, and - shall be provided ready for occupation upon the occupation of the 75th house in the development. Without substantial cause, it is the policy of the Planning Authority not to allow a change of use of these premises within five years of first occupation of the development.	This objective requires the provision of childcare facilities in all new residential developments comprising 75 houses or more. The objective sets out the requirements that need to be met with regards to these childcare facilities. This objective will have a positive effect on the community (population and human health) and material assets by ensuring adequate provisions of childcare facilities in conjunction with residential development within the Area. The co-location of compatible uses contributes positively to land use SEOs.	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 46	To facilitate and encourage the co-location of childcare facilities with other educational facilities such as schools. Applications for the development of new educational facilities, or the significant redevelopment or extensions of existing facilities, should consider the provision of co-located childcare facilities within the development.	This objective supports smart urban planning by ensuring that child-related facilities are co-located with other compatible infrastructure, such as educational facilities. This reduces the sprawl of urban facilities. This has positive effects on population and human health and material assets. The co-location of compatible uses contributes positively to land use SEOs.	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 47	To support and facilitate the development of new health / medical facilities and community facilities in principle in all land use zones in this LPF, other than OS1 and OS2, subject to the following criteria (in addition to all normal planning considerations) being fulfilled: - The site has public transport and active travel infrastructure in situ, or planned and committed to coincide with a new health / medical facility opening at the site; - No such development will be considered on lands in existing community uses where the loss in the use/facility is not being made up for elsewhere within the settlement.	This objective puts in place the future policy for the long term health and medical needs in the Arklow area. It sets out the spatial and social requirements of new health/medical facilities. The policy established under this objective will contribute positively to the material assets of the area and community needs (population and human health). The requirement of sites to be well connected to public transport and active travel infrastructure will reduce the need for private car use, as well as contributing positively to population and human health through a potential reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and increased movement. These will both have a positive impact on climate change. By ensuring these sites are connected to present/future public transport routes it also increases the accessibility of the facilities to more members of the public. The objective does however, supports the carrying out of development, and therefore, in the absence of mitigation, are likely to result in typical construction phase impacts on a range of environmental receptors. Construction phase impacts may include habitat loss, dust, noise etc. Operational phase impacts may include changes to noise conditions and traffic and transport dynamics and conditions.	+/-	-	0	-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+	0	+	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 48	To facilitate and encourage the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview as funding becomes available.	This objective supports the redevelopment of the public park areas zoned OS1 at Kynock Park, Fernhill/Marian Villas and Churchview. This will improve the utility of these lands for recreational use within the community, therefore directly benefitting population and human health and tourism and recreation. There will be positive effects on the landscape and visual amenity of the receiving environment. Depending on the type of redevelopment works involved, the objective has the potential to result in construction and operational phase impacts in the absence of mitigation. Construction phase impacts can include short-term dust and noise emissions and visual impacts, affecting sensitive receptors (residential dwellings and local biodiversity), potential runoff impacting soil and water. Operational phase impacts may include changes in the noise baseline and lighting impacts (if lighting is included within the proposed schemes) on receiving biodiversity and residents.	+/-	-	+/-	0	-	0	-	-	+/-	+	0

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 49	To facilitate and encourage the development and/or improvement of public sports facilities on the AOS lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas as funding becomes available.	This objective supports the development of the public sports facilities on the AOS (Active Open Space) lands to the north and south of Seaview Avenue and at Fernhill/Marian Villas. This will increase the amount of provide recreation facilities for the public within the area and contribute positively to population and human health and material assets.	+/-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	+/-	0	0
		The objective does however, supports the carrying out of development, and therefore, in the absence of mitigation, are likely to result in construction phase impacts on a range of environmental receptors. Construction phase impacts may include habitat loss, dust, noise etc impacting sensitive receptors (residents and local wildlife), infringement upon unrecorded heritage features and visual impacts. Operational phase impacts may include changes to noise conditions and traffic and transport dynamics and conditions. The objective also holds the potential to impact upon the landscape/seascape character along the coastline.											

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 50	To require the development of new sports facilities, parks and equipped play spaces in tandem with residential development as detailed in the phasing requirements of SLOs 3, 4 and 5.	This objective supports smart urban planning by ensuring the co-location of recreational facilities and residential development. This reduces the sprawl of urban facilities. By ensuring recreational facilities are located near residential areas it encourages use by residents in the area. These will all have positive effects on population and human health, land-use, and material assets. The objective does however, supports the carrying out of development, and therefore, in the absence of mitigation, are likely to result in construction phase impacts on a range of environmental receptors. Construction phase impacts may include habitat loss, dust, noise etc impacting sensitive receptors (residents and local wildlife), infringement upon unrecorded heritage features and visual impacts. Operational phase impacts may include changes to noise conditions and traffic and transport dynamics and conditions.	+/-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+/-	0	0

Arklow LPF - Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 51	To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures. To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.	This objective supports the protection of features of cultural heritage as contained in the Record of Protected Structures. This will ensure that the historical character of Arklow is preserved. This will have a positive effect on cultural heritage. The conservation of these structures has the potential to provide touristic offerings and therefore will have a positive effect on tourism. This objective supports retrofitting of historical structures. This not only improves the energy efficiency of these structures and reduces the demand for new development that can have negative effects on environmental components and increases limited resource use. There is potential for damage to historical structures through the retrofitting process, however this will be mitigated by having all projects subjected to architectural heritage assessment and demonstration by a suitably qualified expert.	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
ARK 52	To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and sustainable uses/re-use of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, sash windows, archways, historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.	This objective aims to provide greater protection and enhancement of vernacular buildings and features within the Area. The protection of these assets of historical significance positively supports cultural heritage within the area and provides case studies into more sustainable construction practices that were previously carried out in Ireland's past, offering a framework for future building development. There is however potential to affect the historical character of these buildings and features through inappropriate and incompatible restoration.	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 53	To protect the historic, traditional and maritime character of Arklow Town Centre through the implementation of the following requirements: • All new developments shall provide a high standard of urban design that is reflective of and is influenced by Arklow's historical maritime and traditional character. • In the consideration of new development, particular attention shall be paid to ensuring that the character and setting of both protected structures and non-protected but vernacular buildings are maintained and enhanced.	The protection of the historical, traditional and maritime character of the Arklow Town Centre, as proposed in this objective, will have a positive effect on Cultural Heritage and the visual character within the area, as well as tourism,	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 54	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	This objective supports the protection and enhancement of the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets within the area. This will have a positive effect on cultural heritage as well as biodiversity. Tourism and landscape and visual amenity will also positively benefit from this. The protection and enhancement of natural heritage will also have positive effect on a range of other environmental receptors, including biodiversity, water, soil, and air quality, etc. By focusing on structures that contribute to the assets features of special interest it ensures a more targeted tiered approach to protection that will enable the greatest benefits to be realised. By complying with objectives set out under the Wicklow County Development Plan, this ensures a collaborative approach across the county with more local, specific actions that support the overall strategic vision of the plan.												
			+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 56	Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the LPF area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geomorphological 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.	By requiring development proposals to support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological corridors this objective has a positive effect on biodiversity. Ecological connectivity is an important factor in biodiversity protection as it prevents fragmentation of habitats that prevents the movement of ecological species, thus isolating them and reducing their resilience to threats and ability to adapt to natural and human-related changes. The loss of connectivity can contribute to habitat degradation which has the potential to effect other environmental receptors which interact with that habitat, thus causing a loss of ecosystem services such as flood attenuation, air and water purification etc. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the area has the potential to generate positive effects on biodiversity components, such as habitats and key species, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components.	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 59	To protect non-designated sites including identified GI corridors, from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.	This objective aims to protect non-designated sites within the area from inappropriate development. The protection on non-designated sites is vital as not only do they provide spaces for local fauna and flora to thrive, but they also expand the ecological network for key and vulnerable species living within sites designated protection. This increases the resilience and adaptation abilities of these key species. The support of biodiversity enhancement and protection has indirect positive effects such as human induced benefits from biodiversity, improvements to water quality, soil quality, air quality and climate,.	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+
ARK 60	Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.	This objective requires that development applications must demonstrate that the project will not affect a waterbodies ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive. This supports the protection of water quality and has indirect positive effects on biodiversity and population and human health.	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 62	To require the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the LPF area. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).	This objective supports the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundaries within the area. These boundaries are of important cultural significance within Ireland and contribute towards the visual character of the Irish landscape. Their retention will contribute positively to cultural heritage. The protection of hedgerows is important as they are an integral biodiversity feature that act as important habitat and ecological corridors. This objective has the potential to have positive effects for biodiversity, as well as co-benefits for other environmental components such as water quality and noise reduction.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	

Ref.	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 63	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the LPF area, except where absolutely necessary and justified. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan.	This objective requires that watercourses within the area not be culverted unless absolutely necessary and justified. Culverting a watercourse has a range of negative environmental impacts such as increasing the flood potential of a waterbody, changing the watercourse morphology and fragmenting the ecological corridor, thus leading to a loss in environmental features. It also impacts on the general water quality through disturbing of biological processes within the waterbody. By encouraging proposals in development applications for 'daylighting' culverted waterbodies within the proposed sites, this will contribute to the restoration of these systems, having a positive effect on water quality and associated environmental receptors. This objective does still however support culverting in watercourses, this can have a negative effect on the waterbody and its environmental receptors. Clear, scientifically informed guidance must be provided for these works and ecological assessment must be carried out by a suitably qualified specialist to ensure no significant environmental effect.	0	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	0	0	+/-

Arklow LPF Physical Infrastructure

[illegible]

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 72	To overcome overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between the north and south of the river, by promoting and supporting the development of; • The Kilbride Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge between the Avoca River Walk and Arklow Town Marsh/Ferrybank, including associated east-west pedestrian links connecting this crossing with Ferrybank / Dublin Road (short/medium term), the River Avoca Industrial Park (long term) and Arklow to Laragh Greenway(long term) (AT 1, AT 15, AT 19, CY 2) • A second pedestrian and cycling bridge between South Quay and North Quay with upgrades to Doyle's lane, serving to connect Arklow Main Street with the Bridgewater Shopping Centre (AT 2)	The objective intends to reduce overreliance on the Nineteen Arches Bridge, which crosses the River Avoca to connect the 'old' and 'new' town centres. The lack of additional river crossings contributes heavy traffic congestion and a significant Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) presence along the Arklow Central Spine. The proposed pedestrian and cycling bridges and associated road and junction upgrades will ease some of the existing pressure on the Nineteen Arches Bridge and provide a safer alternative for active travel users. This is positive for population and human health, material assets and climate (through an anticipated shift to active travel through the provision of alternative routes). The objective proposes the construction of bridges. In the absence of mitigation, this can lead to construction phase impacts such as habitat destruction, water and air pollution, increased noise and vibration, and alterations to hydrological and hydrogeological regimes, which can increase flood risk and erosion. Construction phase impacts can include changes to traffic and transport conditions, and changes to built heritage and visual amenity.	+/-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	+/-	+/-	+	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 73	To improve the existing Avoca River Walk by promoting and supporting the following improvements: • Widening the existing path and entrances according to standards set out in national policy and guidance; • Improved lighting and wayfinding, in particular at access points; • The provision of age-friendly seating along the route; • Improved accessibility for people with additional mobility needs from St Marys carpark; • Ensuring a seamless transition between existing active travel facilities on Vale Road and Ballyraine Lane with the Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway and; • In the long-term: Providing a new walking and cycling link to Vale Road utilising the old railway bridge north of Glendale. (AT 17-18, CY 5)	The Avoca River Walk is a trail following the Avoca River, parallel to the R752. The proposed upgrade works will improve the safety of the trail by improving visibility and signage, and increasing accessibility and inclusivity by providing seating and wheelchair accessibility. The objective will have positive effects on population and human health and tourism and recreation.											
		The objective also intends on providing a new walking and cycling link to Vale Road to the east of the River Walk using an existing railway bridge. The delivery of this will involve short-term construction works with typical construction phase impacts such as changes to built heritage and visual amenity, biodiversity impacts, disruptions to traffic dynamics, temporary dust and noise emissions, and disruptions to services and utilities.	+/-	-	-	-	-	0	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	0

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 75	With regard to accessibility and the public realm, it is an objective to: • Address Street Clutter in particular in the town centre and to implement a programme to remove unnecessary signage, guardrails advertising, poles and other obstacles which clutter the public realm and impede pedestrian movement. • Ensure that future improvements to the public realm and active travel network are accessible to all. • Ensure that all streetscape and public realm improvements follow the principles of Universal Design and consider the safety and perception of public spaces so that all members of the community feel welcome and safe. (WK 2, 5-8)	The objective is aimed at the protection and improvements of the public realm by addressing street clutter, improving accessibility for all, and ensuring that all such improvements are undertaken following the principles of Universal Design to enhance safety and positive perception of public spaces. The implementation of this objective will have positive effects on population and human health, landscape/cityscape, tourism and recreation and material assets. No conflicts or adverse effects on any other environmental receptor has been identified.	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 80	To support the development of Mobility Points at appropriate highly visible and publicly accessible locations to encourage sustainable mobility and multimodal trips as the following locations: • Castle Park Car Park. • St Mary's Car Park. • Inbhear Mór Square, Dublin Road. (PK 5)	The development of Mobility Points at highly visible and accessible locations to encourage modal shift will be undertaken at established Council-owned car parks. These Mobility Points will comprise small-scale, on-street interventions that will congregate bus stops, cycle parking, car club spaces with electric vehicle charging facilities and bike share schemes.											
		No significant works are anticipated with the development of these Mobility Points, apart from the installation of road signage, installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and surface mounts for cycle stands, and re-allocation of road space. Some minor disruption to traffic and transport dynamics and temporary dust and noise emissions and vibration may occur depending on the extent and nature of works to be carried out. Installation of signage can result in visual impacts.	+/-	0	-	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	+	+

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 83	To support the continued development and implementation of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.	The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme is centred around the prevention of periodical, localised flooding of lands and properties within the Arklow Town area. The scheme involves the construction of flood defences and an embankment, as well as conveyance improvements in the Avoca River (deepening of the river channel, introduction of new debris and gravel traps, and strengthening of existing quay walls and Arklow Bridge.											
		The objective to support the delivery of the scheme is positive for population and human health and material assets (protection of life and assets), land-use, the soils and water environments (prevention of erosion and pollution), and climate (increased resilience against climate change). The Flood Relief Scheme was subject to a project-level Environmental Impact Assessment, which was informed by supplemental assessments (archaeological surveys and investigations and ecological surveys). The scheme was assessed for likely significant effects and mitigated for, as necessary.	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 84	To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas. To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the ECRIPP and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the LPF. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible.	The objective is aimed at improved flood defences along the coastline and watercourses in the LPF area, through the use of NBS (where feasible). The objective is positive for a range of receptors, including population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna and material assets (protection of life and property and assets), and-use, the soils and water environments (prevention of erosion and pollution), and climate (increased resilience against climate change).											
		However, such works will need to be designed and carried out appropriately to prevent and mitigate certain environmental impacts that can include (but are not limited to) altered hydrological and hydrogeological regimes, habitat fragmentation and reduced aquatic biodiversity, saltwater intrusion, and visual impacts. Depending on the type of flood barriers and associated construction methodologies, there may also be increased dust and noise emissions. Maintenance of these structures over their lifetime will also be required to undertaken with care to prevent further disruption and environmental impacts.	+/-	+/-	-	0	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	0	+

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
ARK 85	Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area identified as at risk of flooding (Flood Zones A and B) as set out in the SFRA and flood maps appended to this LPF OR in Flood Zone C but within an area: - that is deemed by the Local Authority at any time to be at possible risk of flooding having regard to new information with respect to flood risk in the area that has come to light; or - that is identified as at possible future risk of flooding having regard to climate change scenarios either on Map 4C attached to this LPF or on any future maps prepared by the OPW during the lifetime of the LPF; shall comply with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines 2009 (as may be amended, supplemented or replaced during the lifetime of this LPF) and shall be accompanied by a site specific Flood Risk Assessment. Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and the LPF SFRA.	The objective requires that any proposals for new development or alteration to existing development in an area identified to be at risk of flooding (Flood Zones A and B, or Flood Zone C within the stipulated conditions) to manage flood risk within the scope of Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment. This will ensure that inappropriate development does not take place within these higher risk flood zones and exacerbate flood risk to third-party lands. This will have positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna and material assets (safeguarding of life and property), land-use and climate (increased resilience against impacts of climate change), and the soil and water environments through the prevention of flooding-related impacts (erosion, pollution, etc.). No conflicts or adverse effects on other environmental receptors have been identified.	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 87	To support Eirgrid with the implementation of their Powering up Wicklow programme and facilitate the expansion and upgrading of electricity supply infrastructure serving the LPF and wider area.	The Powering Up Wicklow Programme is an Eirgrid initiative to strengthen key electricity infrastructure within Wicklow and surrounding areas to aid Ireland's transition to renewable energy. Key objectives of this programme includes the installation of a replacement transmission substation in Arklow, adjacent to an existing substation that is approaching end of life.											
			+/-	-	-	0	-	0	+/-	-	+	0	+/-
		The delivery of this replacement substation will support new development (residential and commercial) and improve supply security as well as enhance the contribution of renewable energy to the national grid. This will have positive effects on population and human health, material assets and air and climate.											
		In the absence of mitigation, however, the construction of the substation will have short-term construction phase effects on population and human health and biodiversity through increased noise and vibration, dust emissions, potential for surface water run-off. These impacts can similarly affect the receiving water and soils environments, and lead to landscape and visual impacts.											

Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 88	To require that the development of Public Utility lands on the eastern side of the Dublin to facilitate the expansion of the existing electricity substation Road comprise of high quality design and boundary treatments, include planting and landscaping proposals to mitigate their visual impact having regard to their prominent location along the northern gateway entrance to Arklow Town.	The objective requires that the expansion of the electricity substation road within the LPF area comprises high-quality design and landscaping treatments to mitigate any visual impacts and have regard to its location in the context of Arklow Town. Under the assumption that such landscaping treatment is planned and carried out by an appropriate landscape architect, the implementation of the objective is positive for population and human health, landscape, and biodiversity, flora and fauna, and the soils and water environments. The planting of trees can additionally contribute to improved air quality and a reduction in the heat island effect within urban areas.	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+

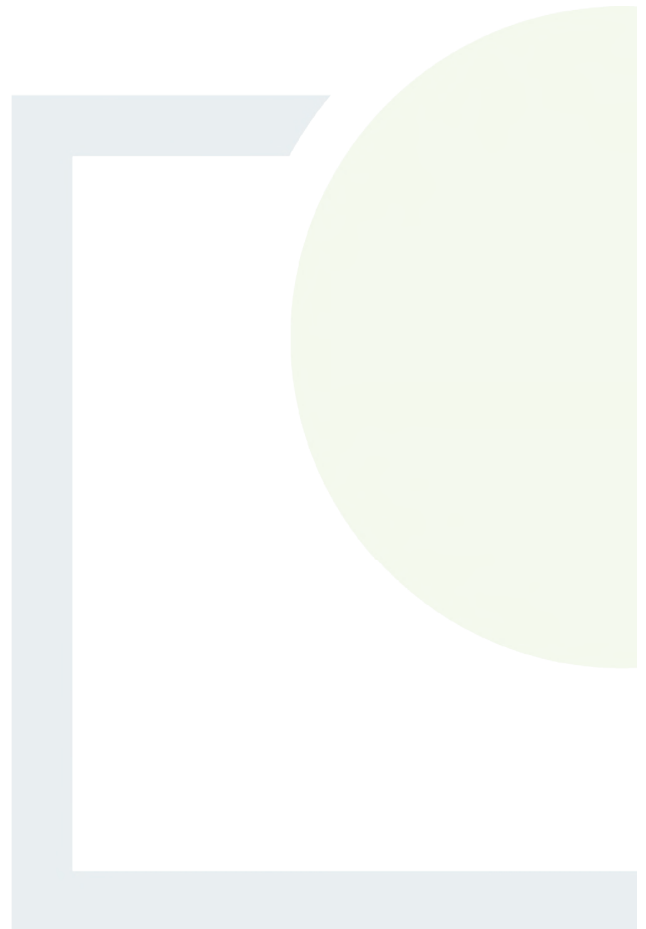
Reference	Objective	Potential Environmental Effects (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects (Assessment Text)	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
			PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
ARK 90	Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and in particular, to ensure that all surface water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved surface water system;	The objective is supportive of sustainable development and the proper management of surface water, with the potential to generate positive effects for the soil and water environments, population and human health (minimised flood risk), biodiversity, flora and fauna and landscape and visual (with the incorporation and creation of Nature-Based Solutions such as green roofs and attenuation ponds). No conflicts or adverse effects on any environmental receptor has been identified in relation to this objective.	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 4

SEA Screening-SEA of
Material Alterations to the
Proposed Variation





DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PROPOSED VARIATION TO THE WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028 (AS VARIED)

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening of Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation

Prepared for:

Wicklow County Council



Date: July 2026

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

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

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

www.fehilytimoney.ie

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening for Material Alterations to Proposed Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
0	For Issue	ESD/NSC	RD	RD	29/04/2026
1	For Issue	ESD/SND/NSC	RD	RD	13/07/2026

Client: Wicklow County Council

Keywords: SEA, Screening, Material, Alterations, Proposed, Variation, Wicklow, County, Development, Plan

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this SEA Screening Report to Wicklow County Council for the Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).

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1. INTRODUCTION

SEA Screening of Material Alterations (MAs) has been completed. This assessment is presented in Table 1. All MAs Screened In for SEA have been subject to full SEA (presented in Table 3). Mitigation measures that mitigate effects of MAs on the environment have been identified and comprehensively cross-referenced. These include Policies and Objectives defined in the County Development Plan and in the Arklow Local Planning Framework. It has been assessed that the environmental mitigation measures already integrated into the County Development Plan (as Varied) will prevent and minimise negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the CDP (as Varied) and the Arklow Local Planning Framework.

Table 2 relates to amendments made to the Variation in reflection of Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. This Variation revised the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets and a number of related housing objectives set out in the CDP, including the removal of the distinctions between RN1 and RN2. The lands that were formerly referenced under RN1 and RN2 are now collectively referred to as RN New Residential. A number of corresponding text changes have been made.

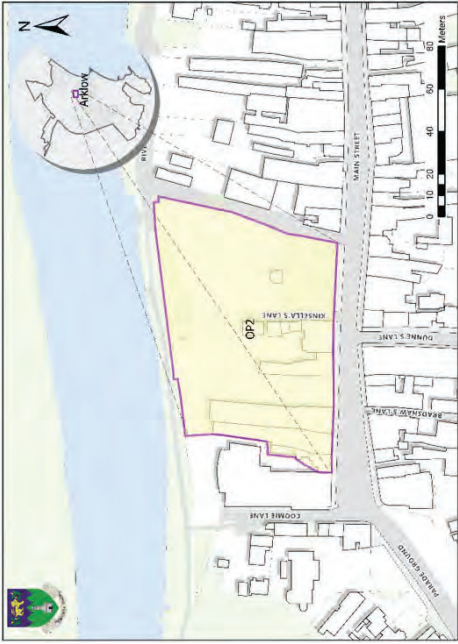
Note: Table 1 and Table 3 detail the SEA Screening of MAs and SEA of MAs respectively. These alterations are inclusive of the alterations proposed to the Draft Variation as agreed in the Chief Executive's Report and by way of Elected Member Motion. Additional text included in the Variation is denoted in **Red text**. Text that has been removed from the Variation is denoted by ~~Blue Strikethrough~~ text.



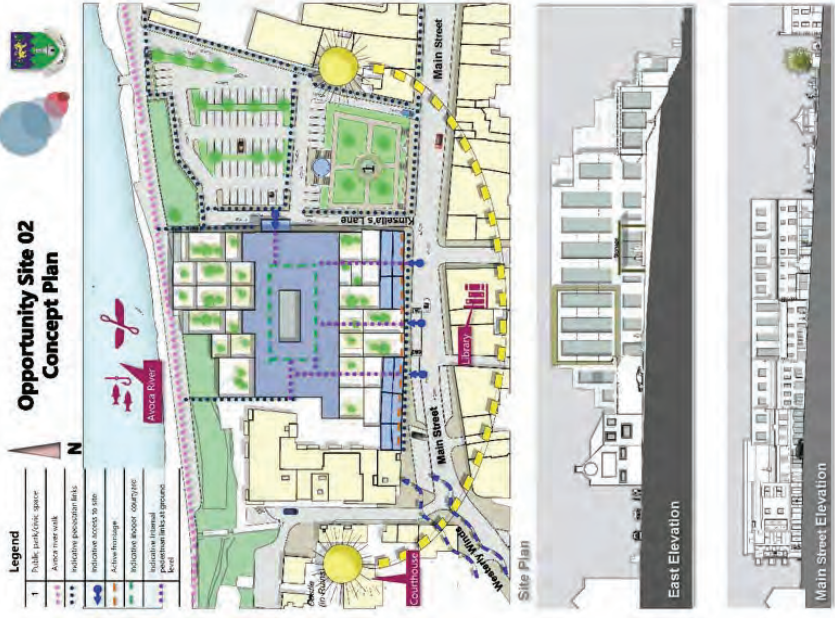
Table 1: Sea Screening of Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation

Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 1	Include a new Objective 'ARK2(B)': <i>“To support and promote the improvement of the key central area of Arklow town centre from the Parade Grounds to St. Mary’s Park, including (but not limited to) the following improvements:</i> <i>• The extension of the existing public realm improvements along the Main Street from the Parade Grounds as far as River Lane; this shall entail a high-quality urban realm design with particular reference to enhanced pedestrian connectivity and accessibility, and improved linkages to the river corridor.</i> <i>• The improvement of St. Mary’s park and car park, including the access and egress roads. Any redevelopment / enhancement proposals for these areas shall be so designed to integrate the riverwalk, car park and park as a unified space which supports multi-functional uses including community, cultural and outdoor performance / market uses, while protecting the character and heritage (particularly archaeology) of the area;</i> <i>• To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the riverbank linking Coomie Lane to St. Mary’s Park.”</i>	This alteration has the potential to drive land use change and development, and introduce likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen In
No. 2	Amend Objective OP1 to read as follows: <i>“The topographical challenges of this site area recognised. Proposals shall carefully balance the challenges of this site with its highly accessible town centre location whilst been sensitive to its immediate built and natural context, including Protected Structure (A39 – Former Ormonde Cinema) and the Ormonde Castle National Monument (W1040-029002-Castle – Anglo Norman masonry castle), and its location within an area of Archaeological Significance or Potential (Arklow Town). Proposals shall demonstrate how they accord with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities.”</i>	This alteration serves to clarify the regard to be had for Protected Structures and Areas of Archaeological Significance or Potential within the area. This alteration will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 3(a)	Alter the boundary of 'OP2' as follows: Change from  Change to 	This alteration has the potential to change the extent and magnitude of potential environmental effects, drive land use change and development, and introduce likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 3(b)	Alter the 'OP2 Concept Plan' as follows: Change from 	This alteration has the potential to change the extent and magnitude of potential environmental effects, drive land use change and development, and introduce likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen In

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Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
	- Any redevelopment proposal shall include the provision of an indoor multi-functional community space of not less than 600sqm which shall be devoted to the use of the public¹. - A high density development will be required to be achieved across the site that is sensitive and appropriate to its immediate built and natural context and accords with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities. - A maximum height of 3 storeys fronting onto Main Street shall be permitted. - Primary facades with a continuous streetscape, active frontage and passive surveillance shall address the river, Kinsella's Lane, St. Mary's Park and Main Street. In particular buildings along the River Walkway to the north shall be a minimum height of 3 storeys with active uses/windows/balconies directly overlooking this walking route. - To ensure, where possible, there are active ground floor uses in the buildings along public spaces, walkways and streets and that all new structures present an appropriate façade to the river, walkways and roadside with strong passive surveillance, a continuous streetscape and building frontage where appropriate. - Additional links from the Main Street to the river should be incorporated through the site where feasible with active ground floor uses fronting public spaces, walkways and streets. In this regard proposals shall retain and reopen the existing archway addressing the Main Street. Where feasible this archway shall serve as the entrance to a new pedestrianised link between the Main Street and the river and/or provide access to a new internal courtyard to the rear of these properties with active uses at ground level. - To facilitate the enhancement and extension of the adjacent public car park into a public amenity civic open space area to the northern riverside aspect of the site.		

¹ In the event that the re-development of this OP does not come forward as a single project, any individual application shall provide such internal community floor space on a pro rata basis having regard to their share of the overall development lands in this OP.



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
	- To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the river bank, including an accessible pedestrian link to Coomie Lane. - Any redevelopment proposals for properties on the east side of St. Marys Park shall make provision for the western facades / gables to be orientated towards the new civic town square establishing an active vibrant connection between the Main Street and the riverwalk. - The Local Planning Framework supports the integration of open space and potential civic functions in Arklow town centre revitalising the historic street frontage, creating a focal entry point and bus stop, providing new green space, using the site's topography for a public amphitheatre/stepped seating/viewing area, and connecting visually and physically to the Avoca River.		
No. 4	Include a new Objective 'ARK X-1': "To continue to facilitate the development of large-scale employment development (including ICT development and associated energy infrastructure) on E zoned lands at Avoca River Park and Bogland / Money Big."	This alteration supports and acts as a driver for large-scale employment development and may generate likely, significant effects.	Screen In
No. 5	Include a new Objective 'ARK X-2': "Any future development of 'Employment' (E1) lands at Ballynattin located to the west of the M11, shall be accompanied by the delivery of active travel connectivity (pedestrian and cycle infrastructure) to Knockmore / public transport services on the east side of the M11."	This alteration supports the delivery of footpaths and cycle way connectivity along an existing public road. Works associated with these infrastructure upgrades have the potential to generate likely, significant effects.	Screen In
No. 6	Amend Objective ARK 35 to read as follows: "To support and facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of additional recreational infrastructure at beaches, harbours and coastlines in the LPF area, including (but not limited to):	This alteration expands the types of recreational activities supported/promoted. The alteration does not introduces sources of potential impact beyond the scope those already considered and mitigated under the SEA.	Screen Out



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 7	Amend Objective ARK 36 to read as follows: “To protect and enhance existing, and support the development of new walking, cycling routes / trails, including facilities ancillary to trails (such as sign posting and car parks) and the development of linkages between existing trails in the area. In particular, to encourage and facilitate the maintenance and improvement of: • improvements to coastal access, including for those with disabilities, in particular improvements to the visual and physical connectivity between the town centre and Arklow South Beach;; • improvement of existing or development of new toilets, changing facilities, waste disposal facilities etc; • improvement of existing or development of new appropriately scaled and located car parking; • infrastructure supporting swimming, sailing, marina/quayside berthing, rowing and other water sports, and shore fishing subject to ensuring no adverse environmental or visual impacts”. • The Avoca River Walk and linkages to Vale Road and Arklow Main Street; • Lamberton Avenue/Woodlands Park leading to Glenart Woods; • Walking infrastructure along North Quay linking to the coastal walk and Kynoch Park; • Walking infrastructure along South Quay linking to Arklow South Beach via Arklow Port and the former Arklow Pottery site; • Walking infrastructure along the Port Access Road linking to Arklow South Beach, The Cove, Nun’s Beach and onto Clogga Beach.	This alteration supports linear development and will promote visitor access to coastal habitat, and may generate likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 8	Amend Objective ARK 43 to read as follows: “Having regard to the potential longer term education needs in the Arklow area which have not been determined at this time but may arise; the physical and environmental constraints present in the area; and the space required particularly for new secondary schools, the development of new schools shall be permissible in principle in all land use zones in this LPF, other than OS1 and OS2, subject to the following criteria (in addition to all normal planning considerations) being fulfilled: • In order to ensure an appropriate spatial distribution of schools throughout the LPF area and to ensure maximum accessibility of all residential areas to schools, no new primary school shall be located within a 10-minute walking time of any existing primary schools or no new secondary school shall be located within a 20-minute walking time of any existing secondary schools; • The site has excellent public transport and active travel infrastructure in situ, or planned and committed to coincide with a new school opening at the site; • No such development will be considered on lands in existing community use where the loss in the use / facility is not being made up for elsewhere within the settlement. • In relation to flood risk, the sequential approach shall be applied in site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of flood plain. Only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding.	This alteration clarifies flood risk requirements for this area. It does not introduce sources of impact or conflict with SEOSs; and will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out
No. 9	Amend Objective ARK57 to read as follows: “To ensure development is planned in a manner that has appropriate regard to specific ecological sensitivities associated with the Arklow area, including those associated with pNHAS within and around the Arklow LPF area the Arklow pNHA, the Avoca River, coastal habitats and species, and sites suitable for wintering birds. In particular, to ensure the protection and where possible the restoration of the biodiversity associated with Avoca River and its riparian (bankside) habitats. Proposals for development at or in the vicinity of the Avoca River should be informed by ecological surveying and ecological impact assessment.”	This alteration is a minor text change that clarifies ecological sensitivities within and surrounding the Arklow area. This alteration will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 10	Alter Objective ARK64 as follows: “To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links: • The Avoca River Walk and Shillelagh to Arklow Greenway Route; • Glenart Woods Forest; • Arklow Seafront and Waterfront Zones; • Arklow Rock Cliff Walk; • Arklow North and South Quays; • Arklow South Beach, The Cove, Nun’s Beach and onto Clogga Beach. • A biodiversity and ecological woodland-type corridor, with a minimum width of not less than 20 metres, linking OS2 lands and open spaces from Arklow South Beach, along the former town boundary, connecting to the Maples and Kish, extending to the rear of Knockmore and onwards to Glenart, and linking into the Arklow–Shillelagh Greenway (as shown as AT-X on Map No. 6). This corridor shall be integrated into the design of adjoining and future development lands, including SLO4, ensuring continuity, accessibility and ecological function throughout².	This alteration supports linear development/green infrastructure and may generate likely, significant effects.	Screen In

² Where this route runs along the proposed SPAR, it shall comprise a segregated green spine separated from the SPAR by mature hedgerows and planting.



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 11	Include a new Objective 'ARK X-3': "Development, where relevant, should have regard to the structure and setting of Arklow/Ormonde Castle."	This alteration serves to clarify the need to consider the heritage value of Arklow/Ormonde Castle during development planning. This alteration does not promote/support development or introduce conflicts with SEOs, and will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out
No. 12	Update Objective ARK 77 as follows: To promote and support the delivery of connections which would significantly reduce walking times to Arklow Train Station including but not limited to the following: - The provision of a new link/bridge over the railway line between Arklow Train Station and Tesco; - A new pedestrian/cycle link between Yellow Lane and Arklow Train Station; - Improvements to existing pedestrian links between the Main Street and the Train Station in particular Ditch Lane and Tom's Lane. These links shall be designed to high-quality standards, fully accessible, and integrated into the broader town centre regeneration and public-realm improvement programmes. (PT4)	This alteration serves to clarify the design quality and requirements of infrastructure supported. The alteration will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out
No. 13	Include a new Objective 'ARK X-4': "To support the development and optimisation of off-street car-parking facilities in or adjacent to the town centre so that on-street, all-day parking can be relocated. On-street spaces shall be managed and repurposed where feasible to favour set-down/drop-off areas, short stay visitor parking and active loading rather than long-stay parking."	This alteration may result in land use change and changes to traffic and transport dynamics resulting in likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 14	Alter Objective ARK82 as follows: “Support and promote the development of the following new regional/distributor roads and road improvements: - The Southern Port Access Road (SPAR) to (a) facilitate development in SLO4 (Tinahask-Money Big) and (b) provide a more suitable road network for larger vehicles and reduce reliance on the South Quays and Nineteen Arches Bridge for HGV movement and (c) ensuring safer conditions are provided for active travel improvements in Arklow Town Centre, the Nineteen Arches Bridge and along South Quay and (d) improve amenity/pedestrian access to Arklow South Beach, The Cove, Nun’s Beach and onto Clogga Beach. The design of the road including its final alignment and boundary treatments shall be take into account its proximity to the coastline whilst ensuring minimal impact on Arklow Golf Club and the Roadstone Quarry (RN 3, 6) - To require as part of the development of SLO4 (Tinahask-Money Big) the development of distributor road access to SLO3 (Abbeylands-Tinahask) to the north and to the employment zoned lands to the south - To require as part of a possible Western Distributor Road from Kilbride to the Vale Road, the development of a distributor road through SLO5 from the L-6179 to the northern boundary of Arklow Town Marsh at a location to be agreed with Wicklow County Council (RN 4) - To improve, as funding allows, the principal access routes into the town centre from surrounding tourism locations, particular the Coast Road north of the town, the Clogga Road, the Vale Road, and access to potential northern waterfront zone developments.	This alteration supports linear development and visitors accessing coastal habitat, and may generate likely, significant effects.	Screen In
No. 16	Include a new Objective ‘ARK X-6’: “To support and promote the implementation of the recommended measures set out in the Local Transport Plan.”	This alteration does not introduce potential sources of impact not already considered and mitigated under the SEA process.	Screen Out

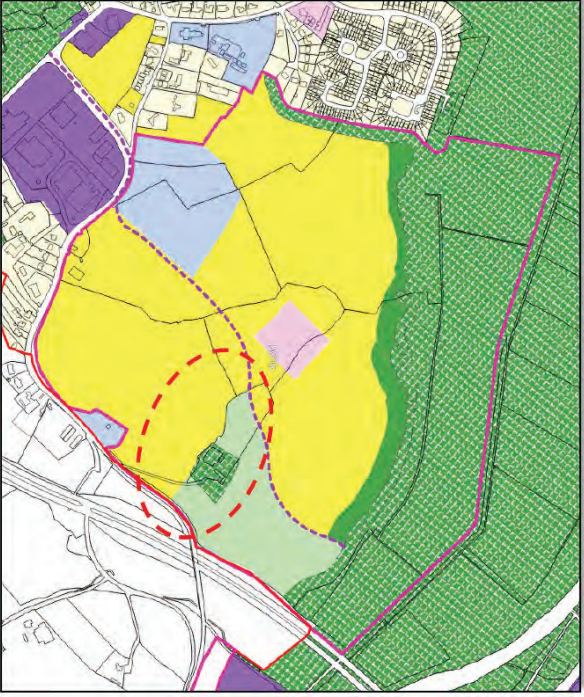


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 17	Add a new bullet point under Objective ARK 85 as follows: “Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area identified as at risk of flooding (Flood Zones A and B) as set out in the SFRA and flood maps appended to this LPF OR in Flood Zone C but within an area: - that is deemed by the Local Authority at any time to be at possible risk of flooding having regard to new information with respect to flood risk in the area that has come to light; or - that is deemed by the Local Authority at any time to be at possible risk of flooding having regard to nearby watercourses that lack corresponding indicative flood zones; - that is identified as at possible future risk of flooding having regard to climate change scenarios either on Map 4C attached to this LPF or on any future maps prepared by the OPW during the lifetime of the LPF; shall comply with the ‘Justification Test for Development Management’, as set out in Box 5.1 of ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management’ Guidelines 2009 (as may be amended, supplemented or replaced during the lifetime of this LPF) and shall be accompanied by a site specific Flood Risk Assessment. Site Specific Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and the LPF SFRA.”	This alteration serves to clarify the requirements related to new development in areas at risk of flooding. The alteration will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out
No. 18	Replace the word ‘eastern’ with ‘western’ under Objective ARK 88 to read as follows: “To require that the development of Public Utility lands on the eastern western side of the Dublin Road to facilitate the expansion of the existing electricity substation comprise of high-quality design and boundary treatments, include planting and landscaping proposals to mitigate their visual impact having regard to their prominent location along the northern gateway entrance to Arklow Town.”	This alteration corrects a clerical error in the LPF as the incorrect location was referenced. This alteration supports/promotes development which has the potential to result in likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen Out

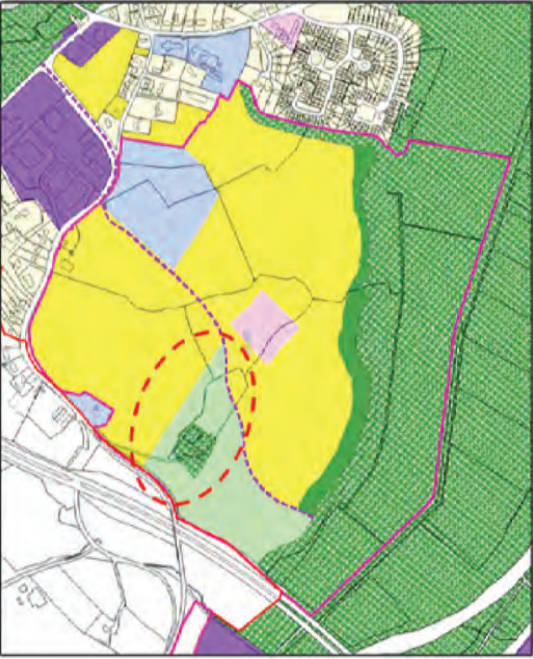


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 19	Include a new subsection and Objective under Arklow Physical Infrastructure Objectives: “PUBLIC REALM INFRASTRUCTURE OBJECTIVES ARK X-7 Public-realm works in Arklow town centre (including lighting, accessible street furniture, paving and signage) shall wherever feasible be carried out in a coordinated, locally distinctive manner which advances high-quality design, reduces visual clutter, reinforces the town’s heritage, and improves the overall visitor and community experience, in particular: • New lighting, wiring and communications infrastructure shall be placed underground wherever feasible, to reduce over-head cabling, poles and visual intrusion. • Lighting design shall wherever feasible be site-specific, using decorative standards in plazas and along quays, emphasising heritage frontages, town-centre gateways and riverside links • The public-realm works shall wherever feasible reflect Arklow’s heritage (boat-building, pottery, seaside identity) and integrate craft/design elements, coordinated across streets, junctions and the waterfront to create a cohesive sense of place. • Infrastructure renewal shall wherever feasible, be planned and delivered as part of a comprehensive public-realm master-scheme rather than piecemeal, ensuring continuity of design, materials, branding and quality across the town-centre regeneration area.” •	This alteration reinforces the requirement to carry out public realm works to a high design standard. It does not introduce sources of potential impact.	Screen Out
No. 20	Alter text under SLO2 Southern Waterfront Zone Objectives as follows: • Maintaining ease of access to the waterfront for existing and future marine users (such as the Sea Scouts and Arklow Rowing Club) as well as emergency services shall be a key consideration in the regeneration of this area.	This alteration is minor in nature and serves to clarify permitted access to existing infrastructure. The alteration will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 21(a)	Amend Map No. 1 (Land Use Zoning) for lands at SLO 5 – Kilbride as follows: Increase AOS by 20%. Amend land use zoning at SLO5 of c. 1.24ha from New Residential 'RN' to Active Open Space 'AOS'. Change from:  Change to:	This alteration is protective in nature, aligns with SEOs, and is unlikely to introduce significant effects on the environment given its nature and extent.	Screen Out

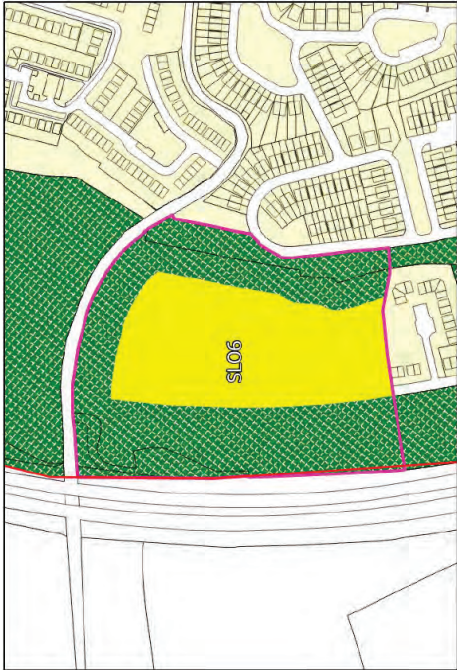


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 21(b)	 Amend SLO5 as follows: “An area of 5ha zoned CE: Community & Education shall be reserved to facilitate the planned development of a new school campus (primary and post primary). No more than 250 dwellings may be occupied in this SLO until the CE lands have been transferred to the relevant authorities or otherwise made available for the provision of a schools campus.”	This alteration acknowledges that the lands referenced have since been transferred to the relevant authorities. This alteration is clerical in nature and will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA.	Screen Out



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 21(c)	Amend SLO5 as follows: “To achieve a sense of place and allow for visual diversity any residential application should provide for a number of identifiable and distinct residential areas (not exceeding 150 200 units) each containing materially different house designs and typologies within an overall unified theme.”	This alteration corrects a clerical error and is proposed in order to align with the Wicklow CDP. The alteration will not result in any likely, significant environmental effects which have not already been considered in the SEA of the Wicklow CDP.	Screen Out
No. 21(d)	Include an additional bullet point under Objective SLO5: “Development of this SLO shall ensure that views of the Howard Mausoleum from Ferrybank, and local road L-6179 Ticknock – Kilbride are maintained where feasible.”	This alteration clarifies the need need to protect views of the Howard Mausoleum from these viewpoints. This alteration does not introduce conflicts with SEOs and will not result in any likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen Out
No. 22(a)	Amend Map No. 1 Land Use Zoning and add SLO6 – Ballyrairie as follows: Amend MAP NO. 1 LAND USE ZONING for lands at Ballyrairie from Natural Areas ‘OS1’ (c. 6 ha) to New Residential ‘RN’ (c. 2.5 ha) and Natural Areas ‘OS2’ (c. 3.5 ha) and add new SLO boundary.	This alteration may result in land use change and development resulting in likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
	Change from: 		
	Change to: 		



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 22(b)	Include new text objectives under SLO6 – Ballyraine: These lands measuring c. 6 ha are located in the townland of Ballyraine to the west of Arklow town centre and are zoned for new residential (RN – c. 2.5ha) and open space use (OS2 – c. 3.5ha). This area may be developed for a mix of uses including residential, community and open space uses, in accordance with the following requirements: a) Approximately 2 ha of this site, along the boundary with the M11 (zoned OS2), shall be reserved free of development (other than the lands required for the car parking required by part (e) to follow) and shall be dedicated to nature restoration in a manner to be agreed with the Planning Authority; b) Approximately 0.7 ha of this site along the boundary of Lamberton Lane (zoned OS2) and corresponding to a 35m set back from the lane shall be reserved free of development and shall be dedicated to nature restoration in a manner to be agreed with the Planning Authority; c) Any development shall safeguard and retain existing watercourses, wetlands, and ponds, incorporating them into the site design with the appropriate setbacks (in accordance with objective ARK63 and County Development Plan Objective CPO 17.26); d) Any development shall ensure the retention and protection of all existing mature trees on site in accordance with County Development Plan Objectives CPO 17.20, 17.21, 17.22 and 17.23), in particular those identified on the drawing below, which shall be identified and evaluated by a qualified arborist in any application for development and justification provided where any removal is proposed; e) A permeable surface car park adjoining Lamberton Lane of 20 No. spaces shall be delivered as part of any development on the OS2 zone along the M11 described in part (a) above. Said car park shall be accessed only from the south with pedestrian and cycling links to Lamberton Lane only (no vehicular access from Lamberton Lane will be considered).	This alteration sets a framework of rules for development at this area, and may result in land use change and shape development, resulting in likely, significant effects.	Screen In

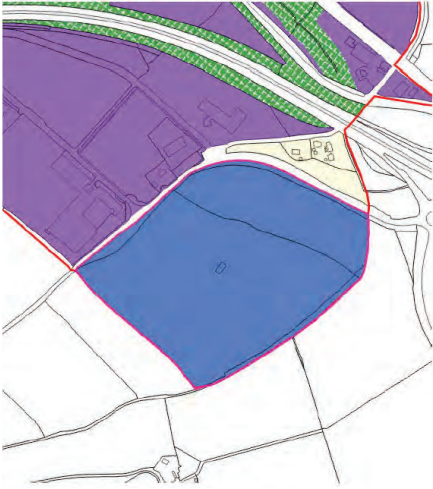
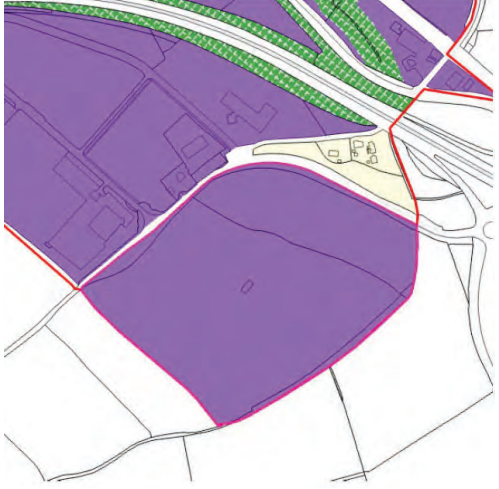
CLIENT:
PROJECT NAME:
SECTION:

Wicklow County Council
Proposed Variation to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)
SEA Screening of Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation

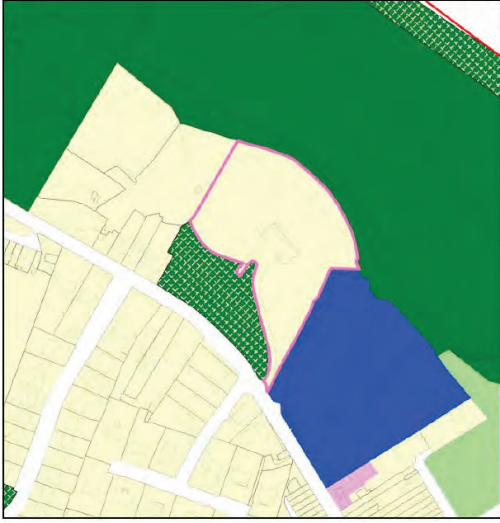
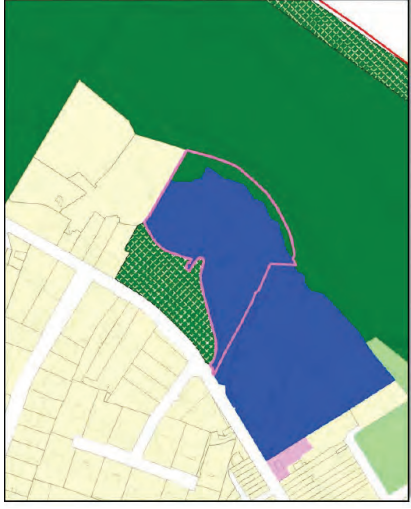


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion

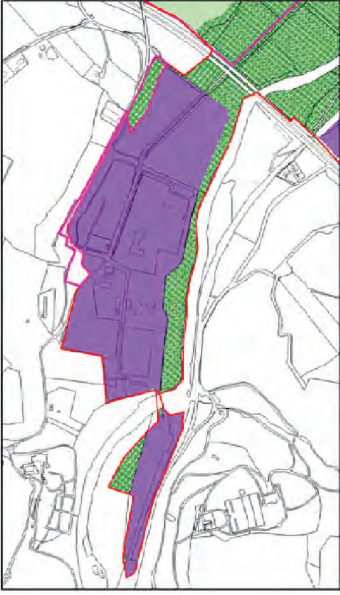
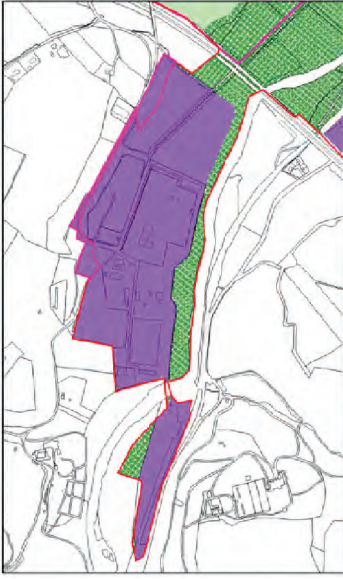


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 23	Amend zoning of land at Ballynattin from Tourism 'T' (c. 17ha) to Employment 'E1' (c. 17ha). Change from:  Change to: 	This alteration is supportive of the carrying out of economic development, and may result in likely, significant effects.	Screen In

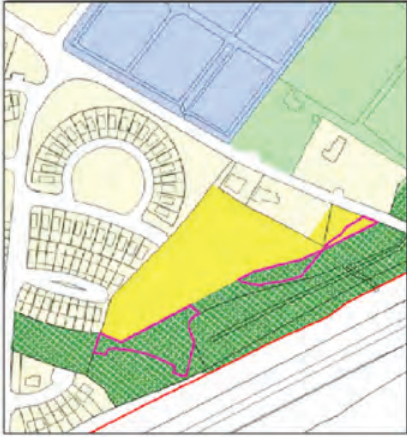
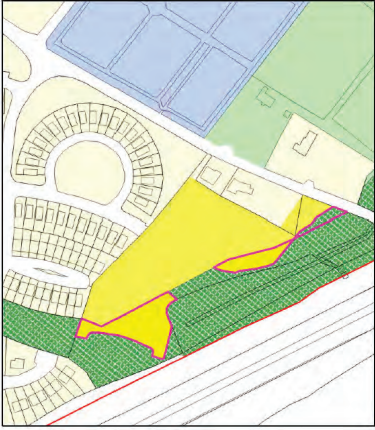


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 24	Amend zoning of lands at Kynoch Lodge, Sea Road from c. 0.96ha of 'RE – Existing Residential' to c. 0.83ha 'T – Tourism' and c. 0.13ha 'OS1 – Open Space'. Change from:  Change to: 	This alteration is supportive of the carrying out of tourism related development at a sensitive location, and has potential to result in likely, significant effects.	Screen Out

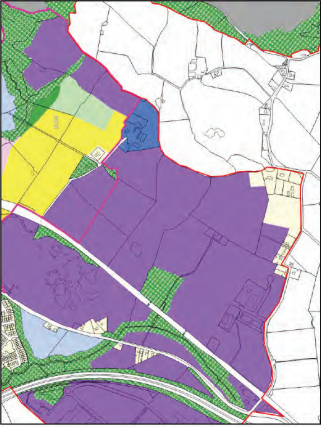
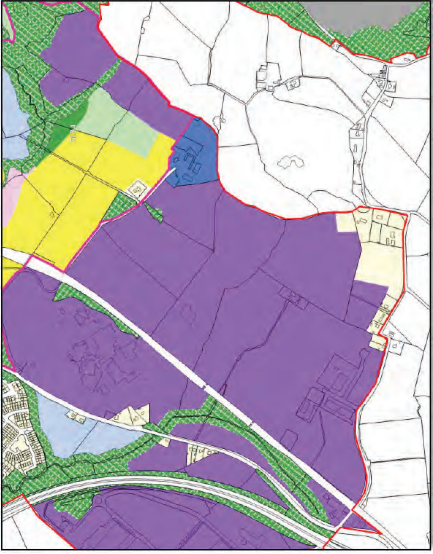


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 25	Amend lands at Avoca River Park as follows: - Change c. 1.32ha from 'OS2 Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment' - Change c. 1.4ha from 'unzoned' to 'E – Employment' Change from:  Change to: 	This alteration is supportive of the carrying out of economic development, may result in land use change, and may result in likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 26	Amend lands at Lamberton as follows: - Change c. 0.3ha from 'OS2 Natural Areas' to 'RN – New Residential' - Change c. 0.04ha from 'RN - New Residential' to 'OS2 Natural Areas' Change from:  Change to: 	This alteration is supportive of the carrying out of residential development, and may result in likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 27	Amend lands at Money Big as follows: - Change c. 2.5ha from 'OS2 – Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment' - Exclude c. 6.1ha of Employment 'E' zoned land from SLO4 Change from:  Change to: 	This alteration is supportive of the carrying out of economic development, may result in land use change, and may result in likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 28	Amend Map No. 6 Active Travel Strategy to include new active travel route (ATX) (depicted in bright green): Change from:  Change to:  Plus any changes consequent to LTP	This alteration is supportive of the new linear development, and may result in likely, significant effects.	Screen In



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
No. 29	Update Appendix 4: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as follows: Update flood mapping as detailed in Addendum 1.2 to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.	This alteration is made to reflect outputs from the updated SFRA. In and off itself, it does not introduce likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen Out

Note on Made Variation No. 5 Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Variation No. 5 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 was made and came into effect on 30 March 2026. This variation revised the Wicklow Core Strategy and associated housing targets, and a number of related housing objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 Written Statement. This variation had the effect of essentially removing the distinction between RN1 and RN2 and placing them at equal status with regard to phasing / prioritisation.

As this variation is now in effect, the 'New Residential RN1' and 'New Residential RN2' lands that were presented in the Draft Arklow Local Planning Framework Land Use Objectives maps are henceforth now all identified as RN New Residential' and the following text changes in Table 2 will be made to reflect this variation (deleted text shown in ~~strike through~~ text). There will also be a number of changes consequent to the text, table and maps of the Arklow LPF to remove reference to 'RN1' and 'RN2' and to change them to 'RN'.

Table 2: SEA Screening of Amendments made in reflection of Variation No. 5 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied

Amendment	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
Text under B3: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT was amended as follows: - <i>Edge of centre' locations will be considered the priority location for such new greenfield residential development and will generally be zoned as 'New Residential – Priority 1' (zoned RN1). These sites are generally within a 15 minute walk of the Arklow Main Street and/or a 15 minute walk of Arklow Train Station.</i>	The amendment has been made considering Amendment No. 5 to WCDP, and relates to an obsolete referencing system. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen Out



Amendment	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
- More 'out of centre' housing sites (zoned 'New Residential - Priority 2' RN2) will only be considered where Objective ARK 18 is satisfied and on the basis of integrated housing / community facilities / open space schemes that can be well connected to the existing built up area.		
Text under B.3.3 Housing Targets & Extant Planning Permissions was amended as follows: <i>In order to ensure a long term supply of zoned land, in particular to ensure flexibility in the event of an increase in housing targets during the lifetime of this LPP with particular regard to the new housing targets for County Wicklow set out in the 'NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' issued by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Act (July 2025), this LPP also provides for additional zoned serviced / serviceable residential lands, over and above that needed to meet current targets, zoned 'RN2 - New Residential Priority 2'. Permission will only be considered during the lifetime of this LPP for RN2 where the following conditions are satisfied:</i> • <i>At least 75% of Priority 1 new residential lands (RN1) lands have been activated (i.e. consent obtained and development initiated);</i> • <i>It can be shown that the housing / population generated by the proposed development would not result in the prevailing Core Strategy targets at the time of the decision to grant permission being significantly breached.</i>	The amendment has been made considering Amendment No. 5 to WCDP, and relates to an obsolete referencing system. The amendment has removed text around Housing Targets and Extant Planning Permission that related to zonings RN1 and RN2. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on the environment.	Screen Out
The following objective was removed from Arklow Housing Objectives: ARK 18 Notwithstanding the zoning/designation of land for new 'greenfield' residential development (RN), permission will only be considered for RN2 Priority 2 lands where the following conditions are satisfied: • At least 75% of Priority 1 new residential lands (RN1) have been activated (i.e. consent obtained and development initiated); 57	The amendment has been made considering Amendment No. 5 to WCDP, and relates to an obsolete referencing system. The amendment has removed objective ARK 18 as it related to zonings RN1 and RN2. The amendment will not	Screen Out



Amendment	SEA Screening Assessment	SEA Screening Conclusion
<i>It can be shown that the housing / population generated by the proposed development would not result in the prevailing Core Strategy targets at the time of the application being significantly breached.</i>	introduce any likely, significant effects on the environment.	



Table 3: SEA of Material Alterations

SEO Codes used in the table: Population and Human Health (PHH); Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (BFF); Landscape (L); Cultural Heritage (CH); Soils (S); Land Use (LU); Air Quality and Noise (AQN); Water (W); Material Assets (MA); Tourism and Recreation (TR); Climate Change (CC).

- Potential Negative or adverse effects on SEOs are indicated in **red text**.
- Potential Positive effects on SEOs are indicated in **green text**.
- Potential Positive and Negative effects on SEOs are indicated in **amber text**.
- Neutral, No or Insignificant effects on SEOs are indicated in **grey text**.

Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 1	Include a new Objective 'ARK2(B)': "To support and promote the improvement of the key central area of Arklow town centre from the Parade Grounds to St. Mary's Park, including (but not limited to) the following improvements: • The extension of the existing public realm improvements along the Main Street from the Parade Grounds as far as River Lane; this shall entail a high-quality urban realm design with particular reference to enhanced pedestrian connectivity and accessibility, and improved linkages to the river corridor.	This alterations supports and drives development at the key central area of Arklow town centre. The construction and operational phases of this development may generate a range of adverse effects. Construction phase effects may arise due to noise, dust, construction traffic, polluting surface water run-off, effects on heritage features and their settings etc. Operational phase effects may include increased noise, changes in traffic and changes in traffic and transport dynamics, and urban run-off.	PHH, L, S, AQN, W, TR, CC, BFF, LU, MA	ARK 51, ARK 53, ARK 54, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 60, ARK 90, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.14, CPO 17.4, CPO 8.12, CPO 8.10, CPO 8.15, CPO 12.12, CPO 12.31



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	- The improvement of St. Mary's park and car park, including the access and egress roads. Any redevelopment / enhancement proposals for these areas shall be so designed to integrate the riverwalk, car park and park as a unified space which supports multi-functional uses including community, cultural and outdoor performance / market uses, while protecting the character and heritage (particularly archaeology) of the area; - To facilitate the enhancement of the landscaped linear open space park along the riverbank linking Coomie Lane to St. Mary's Park."	A range of positive effects may generated through this amended objective, such as green infrastructure development/biodiversity enhancement, heritage conservation, enhancement of amenity value, including visual amenity, better management of urban run-off (in line with SuDS principles), promotion of sustainable travel etc.		
No. 3(a)	Alter the boundary of 'OP2' as follows: Change from	This alteration increases the footprint of development, leading to an increased extent and magnitude of potential environmental effects. Construction phase effects may include noise, dust, construction traffic, waste generation, polluting surface water run-off, effects on heritage features and settings, visual effects, land-take etc. Operational phase may include changes in traffic and transport dynamics, increased waste generation, operational noise, urban run-off etc.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 5, ARK 8, ARK 12, ARK 19, ARK 51, ARK 53, ARK 54, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 15.2, CPO 17.4, CPO 17.5, CPO 17.6, CPO 17.12, CPO



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
		This alteration may lead to positive effects on the following environmental components - population and human health, land use and material components		17.26, CPO 18.3, CPO 8.10, CPO 12.30, CPO 12.31, CPO 12.34



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to 			

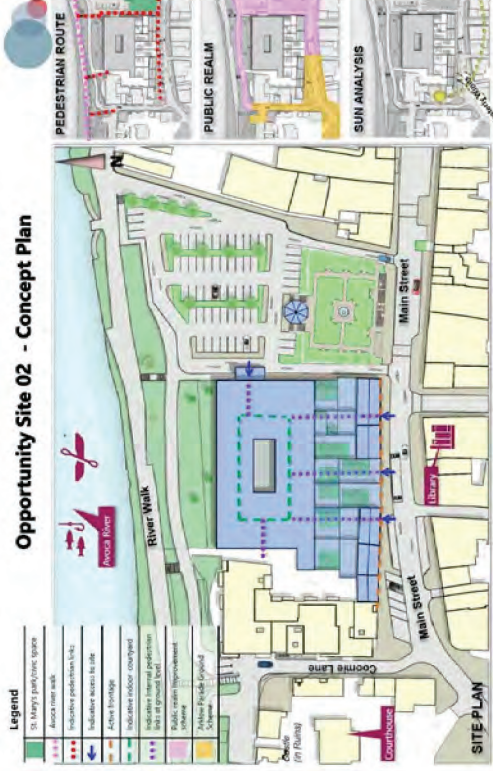


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 3(b)	Alter the 'OP2 Concept Plan' as follows: Change from	This alteration increases changes the layout of the concept plan, potentially leading to an increased or differing potential environmental effects. Construction phase effects may include noise, dust, construction traffic, waste generation, polluting surface water run-off, effects on heritage features and settings, visual effects, land-take etc. Operational phase may include changes in traffic and transport dynamics, increased waste generation, operational noise, urban run-off etc. This alteration may lead to positive effects on the following environmental components - population and human health, land use and material components.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 5, ARK 8, ARK 12, ARK 19, ARK 51, ARK 53, ARK 54, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 15.2, CPO 17.4, CPO 17.5, CPO 17.6, CPO 17.12, CPO 17.26, CPO 18.3, CPO 8.10, CPO 12.30, CPO 12.31, CPO 12.34



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Opportunity Site 02 Concept Plan The concept plan shows a site layout with various buildings, parking areas, and green spaces. A legend identifies symbols for public parking, access roads, pedestrian routes, and other features. The plan is oriented with North at the top. Below the plan are three elevation drawings: a side elevation, an east elevation, and a main street elevation, showing the building's profile and integration with the surrounding urban context.			



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to  Opportunity Site 02 - Concept Plan			
No. 4	Include a new Objective 'ARK X-1': “To continue to facilitate the development of large-scale employment development (including ICT development and associated energy infrastructure) on E zoned lands at Avoca River Park and Bogland / Money Big.”	This new objective will support and drive employment development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna etc.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
		Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased employment, benefitting population and human health, land use and materials assets		13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 5	Include a new Objective 'ARK X-2': "Any future development of 'Employment' (E1) lands at Ballynattin located to the west of the M11, shall be accompanied by the delivery of active travel connectivity (pedestrian and cycle infrastructure) to Knockmore / public transport services on the east side of the M11."	This new objective will support and drive linear development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, including habitat fragmentation, loss of ecological connectivity, lighting effects etc. Operational phase effects may include operation noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased active travel, resulting in better alignment with sustainability and climate related SEOs.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 7	Amend Objective ARK 36 to read as follows: “To protect and enhance existing, and support the development of new walking, cycling routes / trails, including facilities ancillary to trails (such as sign posting and car parks) and the development of linkages between existing trails in the area. In particular, to encourage and facilitate the maintenance and improvement of: • The Avoca River Walk and linkages to Vale Road and Arklow Main Street; • Lamberton Avenue/Woodlands Park leading to Glenart Woods; • Walking infrastructure along North Quay linking to the coastal walk and Kynoch Park; • Walking infrastructure along South Quay linking to Arklow South Beach via Arklow Port and the former Arklow Pottery site; • Walking infrastructure along the Port Access Road linking to Arklow South Beach, The Cove, Nun’s Beach and onto Clogga Beach.	This alteration supports the carrying out of works at or close to a riverine location. Construction phase effects may include water quality impacts, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, noise, dust etc. Operational phase effects may include increased visitors to sensitive or important habitats, noise, litter, disturbance, trampling etc. The alteration may support positive effects for tourism and recreation in the area.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, CPO 17.4, CPO 17.5, CPO 17.6, CPO 17.7, CPO 17.8, CPO 17.12, CPO 17.14, CPO 12.12



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 10	Alter Objective ARK64 as follows: “To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links: • The Avoca River Walk and Shillelagh to Arklow Greenway Route; • Glenart Woods Forest; • Arklow Seafront and Waterfront Zones; • Arklow Rock Cliff Walk; • Arklow North and South Quays; • Arklow South Beach, The Cove, Nun’s Beach and onto Clogga Beach. • A biodiversity and ecological woodland-type corridor, with a minimum width of not less than 20 metres, linking OS2 lands and open spaces from Arklow South Beach, along the former town boundary, connecting to the Maples and Kish, extending to the rear of Knockmore and onwards to Glenart, and linking into the Arklow–Shillelagh Greenway (as shown as AT-X on Map No. 6).	This new objective will support and drive linear development and green infrastructure. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, including habitat fragmentation, loss of ecological connectivity, lighting effects etc. Operational phase effects may include increased visitors to sensitive or important habitats, noise, litter, disturbance, trampling etc. The alteration may support positive effects for tourism and recreation in the area, and may promote increased active travel, resulting in better alignment with sustainability and climate related SEOs.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 13	This corridor shall be integrated into the design of adjoining and future development lands, including SLO4, ensuring continuity, accessibility and ecological function throughout. Include a new Objective 'ARK X-4': "To support the development and optimisation of off-street car-parking facilities in or adjacent to the town centre so that on-street, all-day parking can be relocated. On-street spaces shall be managed and repurposed where feasible to favour set-down/drop-off areas, short stay visitor parking and active loading rather than long-stay parking."	This alteration has the potential to change traffic and transport dynamics in the town centre. Positive effects may include reduced congestion, improved ambient air quality in the town centre, reduced noise etc. The alteration may result in unintended consequences if not appropriately implemented e.g., increased traffic congestion, traffic noise, reduction in ambient air quality.	PHH, LU, MA, AQN, CC BFF, L, CH, S, W, TR	Design and Development Standards defined in Appendix 1 to the CDP.



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 14	Alter Objective ARK82 as follows: “Support and promote the development of the following new regional/distributor roads and road improvements: - The Southern Port Access Road (SPAR) to (a) facilitate development in SLO4 (Tinahask-Money Big) and (b) provide a more suitable road network for larger vehicles and reduce reliance on the South Quays and Nineteen Arches Bridge for HGV movement and (c) ensuring safer conditions are provided for active travel improvements in Arklow Town Centre, the Nineteen Arches Bridge and along South Quay and (d) improve amenity/pedestrian access to Arklow South Beach, The Cove, Nun’s Beach and onto Clogga Beach. The design of the road including its final alignment and boundary treatments shall be take into account its proximity to the coastline whilst ensuring minimal impact on Arklow Golf Club and the Roadstone Quarry (RN 3, 6) - To require as part of the development of SLO4 (Tinahask-Money Big) the development of distributor road access to SLO3 (Abbeylands-Tinahask) to the north and to the employment zoned lands to the south	This alteration supports the carrying out of works at or close to a riverine location. Construction phase effects may include water quality impacts, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, noise, dust etc. Operational phase effects may include increased visitors to sensitive or important habitats, noise, litter, disturbance, trampling etc. The alteration may support positive effects for tourism and recreation in the area.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, CPO 17.4, CPO 17.5, CPO 17.6, CPO 17.7, CPO 17.8, CPO 17.12, CPO 17.14, CPO 12.12

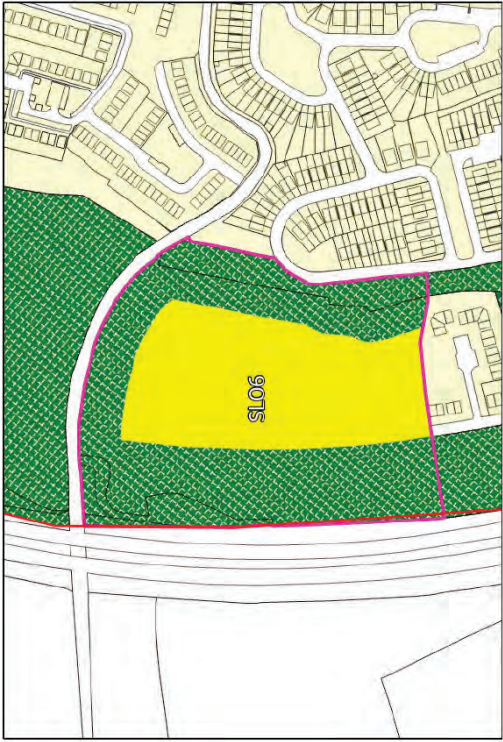


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	- To require as part of a possible Western Distributor Road from Kilbride to the Vale Road, the development of a distributor road through SLO5 from the L-6179 to the northern boundary of Arklow Town Marsh at a location to be agreed with Wicklow County Council (RN 4) - To improve, as funding allows, the principal access routes into the town centre from surrounding tourism locations, particular the Coast Road north of the town, the Clogga Road, the Vale Road, and access to potential northern waterfront zone developments.			



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 22(a)	Amend Map No. 1 Land Use Zoning and add SLO6 – Ballyraine as follows: Amend MAP NO. 1 LAND USE ZONING for lands at Ballyraine from Natural Areas ‘OS1’ (c. 6 ha) to New Residential ‘RN’ (c. 2.5 ha) and Natural Areas ‘OS2’ (c. 3.5 ha) and add new SLO boundary. Change from: 	This new objective will support and drive residential development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, habitat loss etc. Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in operational phase waste generation traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased sustainable housing, benefitting population and human health and materials assets.	PHH, LU, MA, CC BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W TR	ARK63, CPO 17.26, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22, CPO 17.23, ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15,



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to: 			CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 22(b)	Include new text objectives under SLO6 – Ballyraine: These lands measuring c. 6 ha are located in the townland of Ballyraine to the west of Arklow town centre and are zoned for new residential (RN – c. 2.5ha) and open space use (OS2 – c. 3.5ha). This area may be developed for a mix of uses including residential, community and open space uses, in accordance with the following requirements: a) Approximately 2 ha of this site, along the boundary with the M11 (zoned OS2), shall be reserved free of development (other than the lands required for the car parking required by part (e) to follow) and shall be dedicated to nature restoration in a manner to be agreed with the Planning Authority; b) Approximately 0.7 ha of this site along the boundary of Lamberton Lane (zoned OS2) and corresponding to a 35m set back from the lane shall be reserved free of development and shall be dedicated to nature restoration in a manner to be agreed with the Planning Authority; c) Any development shall safeguard and retain existing watercourses, wetlands, and ponds, incorporating them into the site design with the appropriate setbacks (in accordance with objective ARK63 and County Development Plan Objective CPO 17.26);	This new objective will support and drive residential development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, habitat loss etc. Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in operational phase waste generation traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased sustainable housing, benefitting population and human health and materials assets. A range of embedded mitigation will serve to appropriately guide supported development – in a manner that promotes alignment with SEOs.	PHH, LU, MA, CC BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	d) Any development shall ensure the retention and protection of all existing mature trees on site in accordance with County Development Plan Objectives CPO 17.20, 17.21, 17.22 and 17.23), in particular those identified on the drawing below, which shall be identified and evaluated by a qualified arborist in any application for development and justification provided where any removal is proposed; e) A permeable surface car park adjoining Lamberton Lane of 20 No. spaces shall be delivered as part of any development on the OS2 zone along the M11 described in part (a) above. Said car park shall be accessed only from the south with pedestrian and cycling links to Lamberton Lane only (no vehicular access from Lamberton Lane will be considered).			15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3

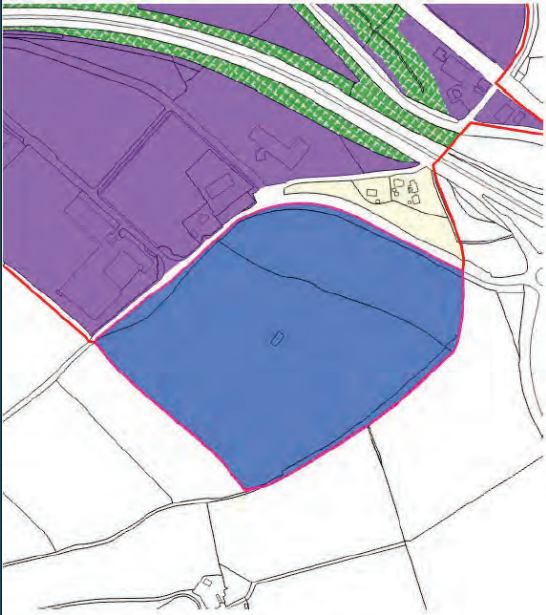


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment

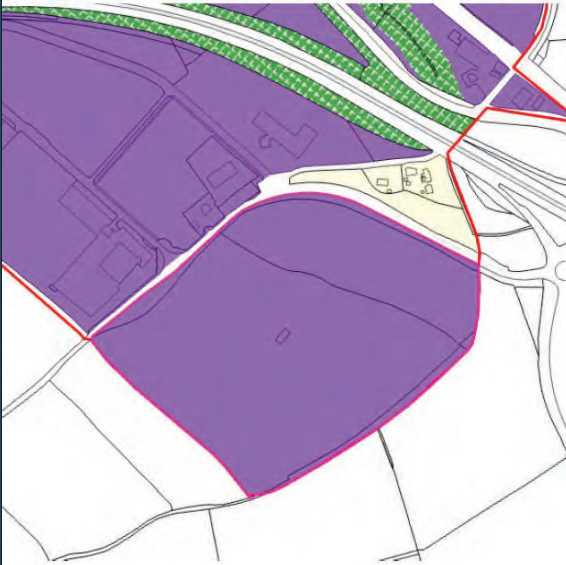


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 23	Amend zoning of land at Ballynattin from Tourism 'T' (c. 17ha) to Employment 'E1' (c. 17ha). Change from:	This new objective will support and drive employment development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna etc. Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased employment, benefitting population and human health and materials assets	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15,

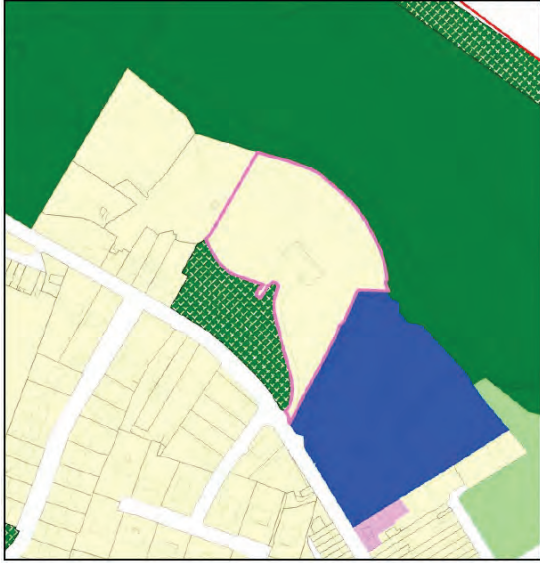


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
				CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3
	Change to:			

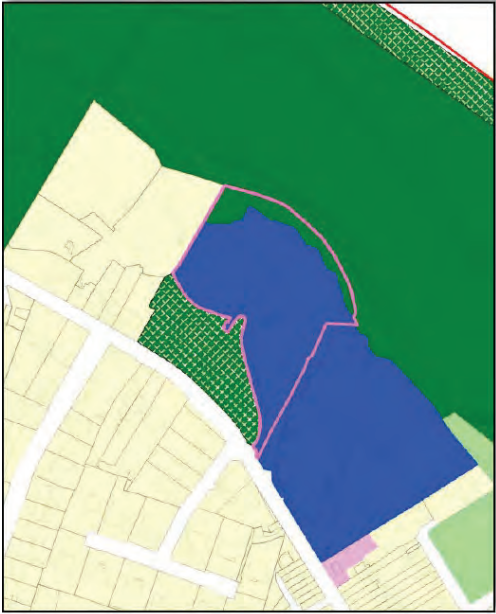


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
				

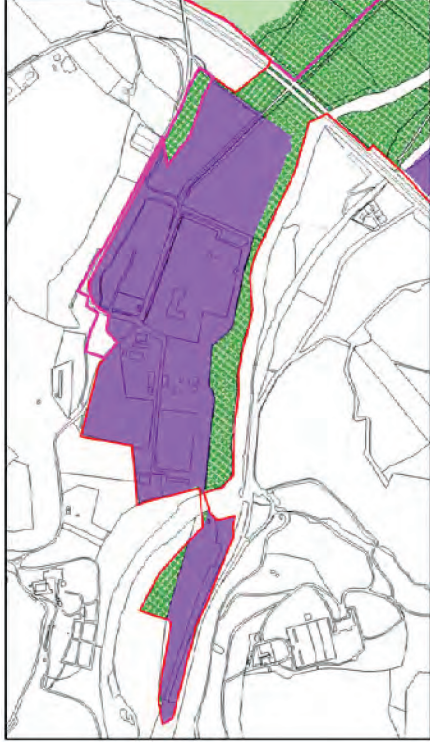


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 24	Amend zoning of lands at Kynoch Lodge, Sea Road from c. 0.96ha of 'RE – Existing Residential' to c. 0.83ha 'T – Tourism' and c. 0.13ha 'OS1 – Open Space'. Change from: 	This alteration supports the carrying out of works at or close to a sensitive coastal location. Construction phase effects may include water quality impacts, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, noise, dust etc. Operational phase effects may include increased visitors to sensitive or important habitats, noise, litter, disturbance, trampling etc. The alteration may support positive effects for tourism and recreation in the area.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, CC TR	ARK 8, ARK 47, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, CPO 17.4, CPO 17.5, CPO 17.6, CPO 17.7, CPO 17.8, CPO 17.12, CPO 17.14, CPO 12.12

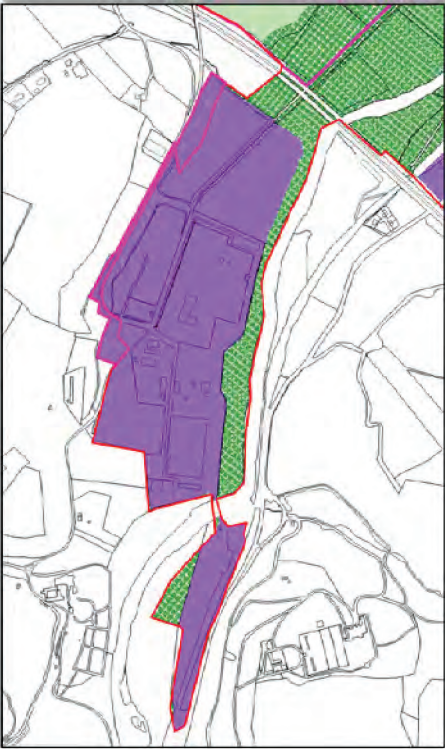


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to: 			

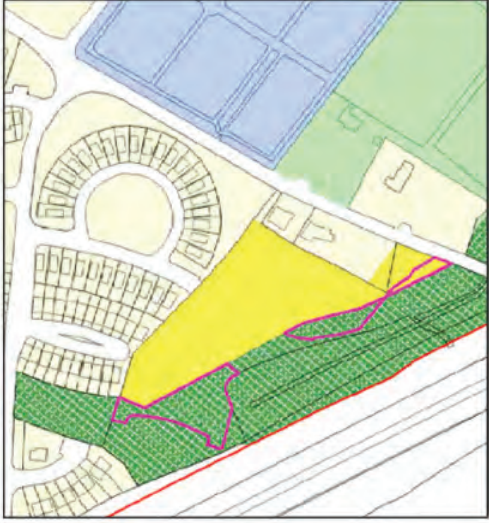


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 25	Amend lands at Avoca River Park as follows: - Change c. 1.32ha from 'OS2 Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment' - Change c. 1.4ha from 'unzoned' to 'E – Employment' Change from: 	This new objective will support and drive employment development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna etc. Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased employment, benefitting population and human health and materials assets	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3

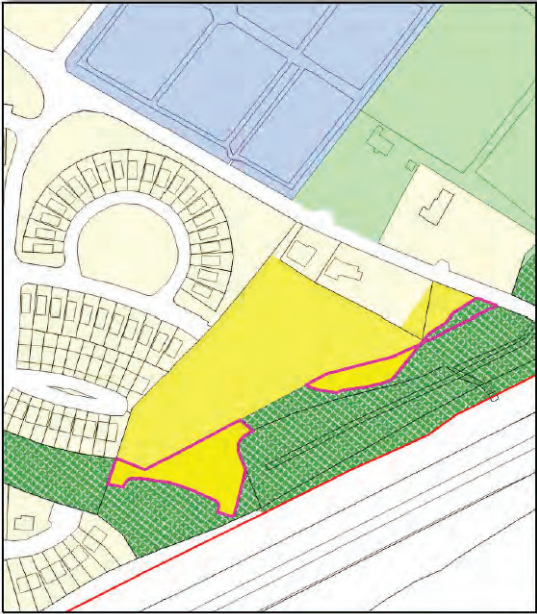


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to: 			

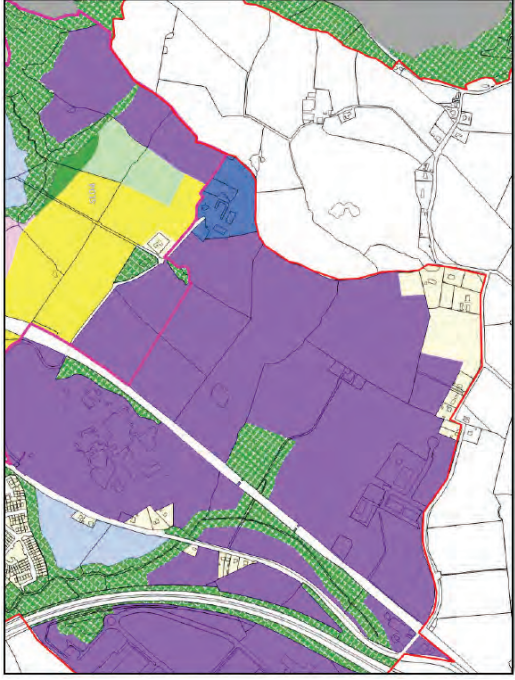


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 26	Amend lands at Lamberton as follows: - Change c. 0.3ha from 'OS2 Natural Areas' to 'RN – New Residential' - Change c. 0.04ha from 'RN - New Residential' to 'OS2 Natural Areas' Change from: 	This new objective will support and drive residential development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, habitat loss etc. Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in operational phase waste generation traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased sustainable housing, benefitting population and human health and materials assets	PHH, LU, MA, CC BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3

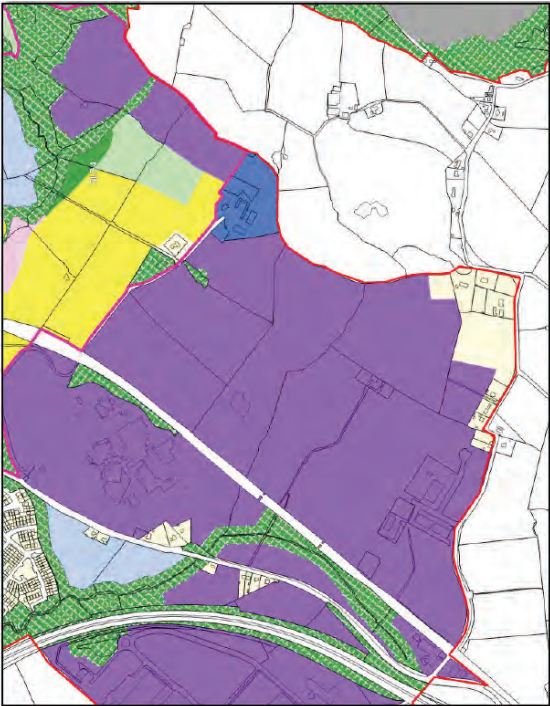


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to: 			

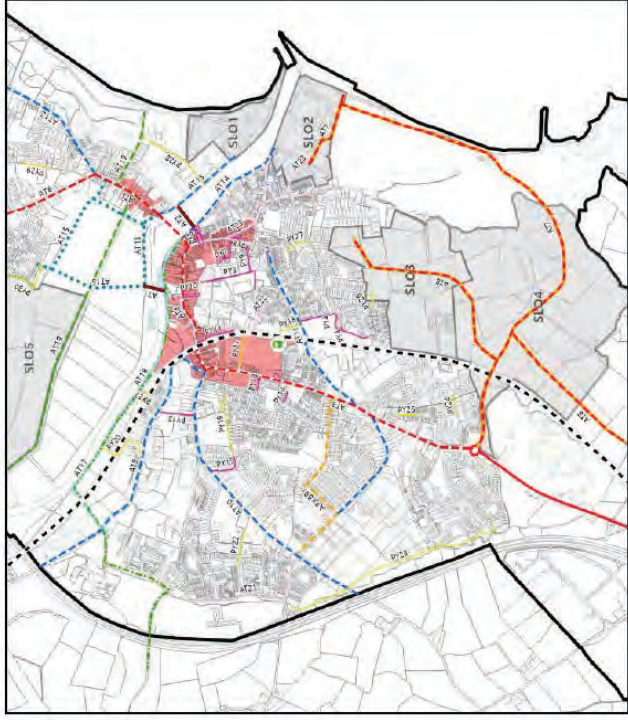


Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 27	Amend lands at Money Big as follows: - Change c. 2.5ha from 'OS2 – Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment' - Exclude c. 6.1ha of Employment 'E' zoned land from SLO4 Change from: 	This new objective will support and drive employment development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna etc. Operational phase effects may include operational noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased employment, benefitting population and human health and materials assets	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W,CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
	Change to: 			



Reference	Material Alteration	SEA Assessment	Interaction with Strategic Environmental Objectives	Example/s of other Policies / Objectives that mitigate Potential Adverse Effects on the Environment
No. 28	Amend Map No. 6 Active Travel Strategy to include new active travel route (ATX) (depicted in bright green): Change from: 	This new objective will support and drive linear development. Such development has the potential to generate a range of effects. Construction effects may include dust, noise, visual effects, construction traffic, construction waste generation, land-take, effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, including habitat fragmentation, loss of ecological connectivity, lighting effects etc. Operational phase effects may include operation noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics etc. Positive effects may include increased active travel, resulting in better alignment with sustainability and climate related SEOs.	PHH, LU, MA BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, CC TR	ARK 23, ARK 55, ARK 56, ARK 59, ARK 60, ARK 61, ARK 62, ARK 85, ARK 90, CPO 13.1, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.20, CPO 13.21, CPO 13.22, CPO 13.14, CPO 13.9, CPO 13.10, CPO 14.01, CPO 14.10, CPO 14.13, CPO 15.1, CPO 15.2, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.10, CPO 15.11, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.14, CPO 15.15, CPO 15.16, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.18, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.20, CPO 8.3



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