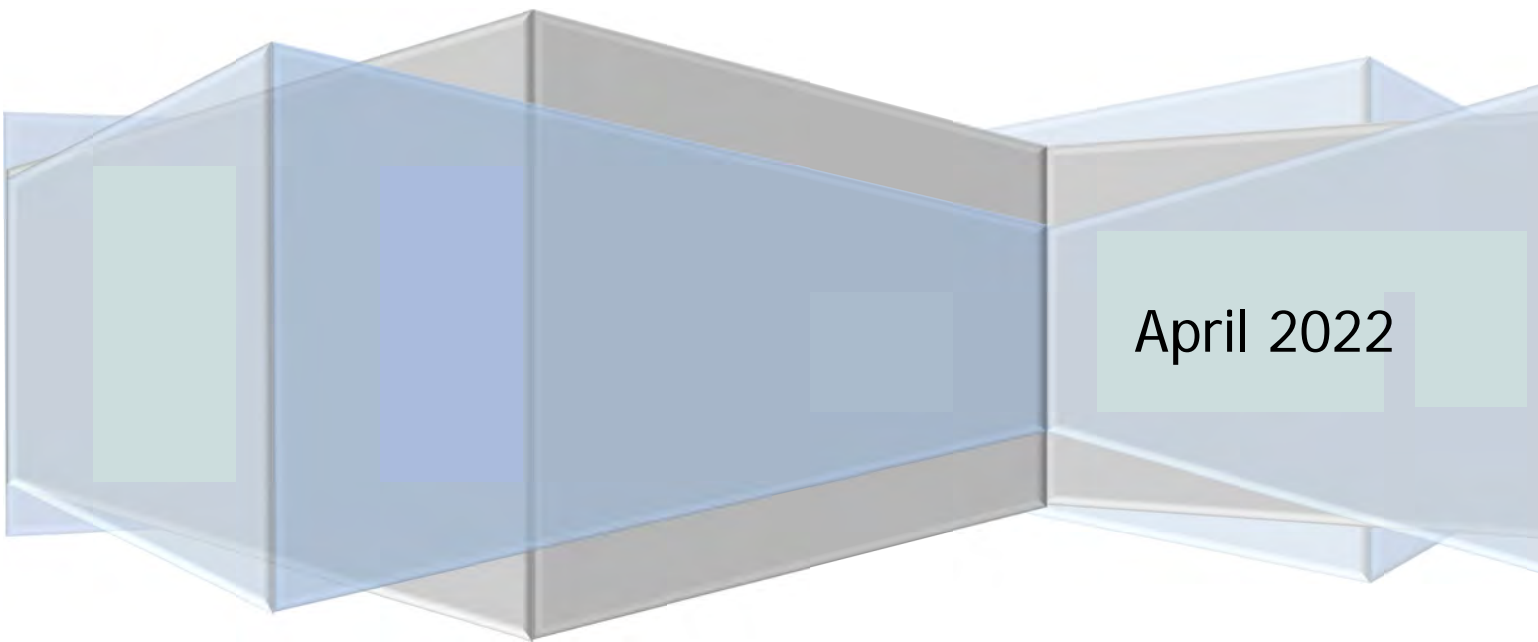




# WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2028

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT PLAN



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin



## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022- 2028**

Notice is hereby given that the Members of Wicklow County Council, at Special Council Meetings on the 28th & 29th March 2022, having considered the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Chief Executive's Report in respect of submissions received, have resolved in accordance with Sections 12(6) and 12(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that the Draft Development Plan be amended. The proposed amendments constitute material alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Proposed Amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the **Environmental Report** which provides information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendments, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

The Proposed Amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the **Natura Impact Report** which provides an evaluation of the impacts, if any, of the proposed amendments on any Natura 2000 / European site either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives, prepared in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

The Proposed Amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which provides an assessment of flood risk, if any, associated with the proposed amendments.

The Material Amendments include proposals to make alterations to:

- The description of previously published and notified proposed additions to the **Record of Protected Structures**
- The description of existing entries on the **Record of Protected Structures**

In accordance with Section 12 of the Planning Act, the Planning Authority shall serve on each person who is the owner or occupier of the protected structure, as the case may be, a notice of the proposed amendment, including the particulars.

#### **Display of Proposed Amendments**

The Proposed Amendments and associated Addenda will be available to view and download from the Council's website [consult.wicklow.ie](http://consult.wicklow.ie) from **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022** to **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022** inclusive.

Printed copies will be on display at the following locations from **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022** to **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022** inclusive

- **Wicklow Town** Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow Town
- **Arklow** Arklow Municipal District Office, Castle Park, Arklow Town

- **Blessington** Blessington Civic Offices, Blessington Business Park, Blessington
- **Bray** Bray Municipal District Office, Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray
- **Greystones** Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones

Hard copies of the Proposed Amendments document will be available to purchase only **on request** (please call 0404 20100).

### **Making a submission**

Submissions or observations regarding the **Proposed Material Amendments** to the Draft Plan and the associated Addenda are hereby invited from the public and interested bodies between **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to 5pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022** inclusive.

Any valid submission will be taken into consideration before the making of any amendment.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12 (7) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT ONLY SUBMISSIONS IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND/OR THE ADDENDA REPORTS CAN BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AT THIS STAGE OF PLAN MAKING. SUBMISSIONS NOT ADHERING TO THESE CRITERIA WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID.**

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways

1. **Via the Consultation Portal** [consult.wicklow.ie](http://consult.wicklow.ie), or
2. **Write to:** County Development Plan Review, Planning Department, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow Town

Email submissions will not be accepted.

**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

- All submissions are to be clearly marked with '**WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**' and the **PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER**.
- All submissions should include your name and a contact address, a map (where appropriate) and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent.
- Please make your submission by one medium only, i.e. via the portal or hard copy.
- All submissions will form a part of the statutory Chief Executive's report to be presented to the elected members of Wicklow County Council.
- Please be advised that all submissions received will be published online in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act. You should ensure that no vexatious, libellous or confidential information, including confidential information relating to a third party (in respect of which the third party has not, expressly, or impliedly in the circumstances, consented to its disclosure) is included in your submission. The Planning Authority reserves the right to redact any submission or part thereof that does not comply with this requirement. Please be advised that the name of the person(s)/group(s) who made the submission will be published, but personal data will be redacted.

**Wicklow Local Authorities are committed to Access For All. All of the above documents are available in alternative format on request. Please contact Wicklow County Council on 0404-20100 should you have any specific access requirements.**

## **SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 went on public display for a 12-week period between 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. 306 submissions were received in response to that public consultation process.

Following this period of public consultation, the Chief Executive prepared and distributed to the elected members of the County Council a report on the submissions received, including his opinion thereon and any recommended amendments to the draft plan.

Having considered the Draft County Development Plan 2022- 2028 and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received it was resolved by the elected members at Council meetings of 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to amend the Draft Development Plan.

At the meetings the Council resolved that as these amendments constitute a material alteration to the Draft Development Plan, the proposed amendments would be placed on public display for a period of not less than 4 weeks in accordance with Section 12(7)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

### **1.1 Purpose of this document**

The function of this report is to set out the proposed amendments in order for the public and other interested bodies to consider same and make a submission on any proposed amendment if so desired.

Written observations or submissions regarding the proposed amendments to the Draft County Development Plan are invited from members of the public and other interested parties. Written submissions or observations must be received between **27 April 2022 and 25 May 2022**.

### **1.2 Format of this document**

The proposed amendments to the draft plan are set out in **Section 2**. They include changes to the text of the Draft County Development Plan written statement, plans, appendices and accompanying maps. The proposed amendments are set out in the order in which they would appear in the draft plan.

The proposed amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the Environmental Report which provides information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendments, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended). This Addendum report is set out in **Section 3** of this document.

The proposed amendments are accompanied by an Addendum to the Natura Impact Report which provides an evaluation of the impacts, if any, of the proposed amendments on any Natura 2000 / European site either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives, prepared in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). This Addendum report is set out in **Section 3** of this document.

The proposed amendments are also accompanied by an Addendum to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which provides a Stage 1 flood risk identification assessment of the proposed zoning amendments. This has

been prepared in accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG / OPW). This addendum is presented in **Section 2, Amendment Number V3 – 131**.

Amendments to the text are shown through the **red type** to indicate new text and ~~blue strikethrough~~ to indicate deleted text.

Amendments are in numerical order with Volume 1, 2 or 3 referenced as a prefix to the amendment no. (e.g **AMENDMENT V1 – 77**)

### 1.3 Next Stage of the Plan Making Process

Written observations or submissions, submitted during the consultation period, regarding the proposed amendments and the likely significant effects on the environment of their implementation will be taken into consideration, at the next stage in the development plan process. After the consultation period ends, the Chief Executive will prepare a further report on all submissions and observations received during the above time period and subsequently submit the report to the Elected Members for their consideration. Having considered the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received, the Elected Members will make the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 with or without amendment in Q3 2022.

### 1.4 How to Make a Submission

Written submissions or observations made **on or before 5.00pm on 25 May 2022** specifically in relation to the **proposed amendments** and/or the Addendum Reports, will be taken into consideration before the making of any amendment.

Submissions may be made in one of the following ways:

#### 1. Write to:

Administrative Officer,  
Planning Department,  
Wicklow County Council,  
Station Road,  
Wicklow.

#### 2. Via the Consultation Portal

[consult.wicklow.ie](http://consult.wicklow.ie).

Email submissions will not be accepted.

All submissions should include

- the **proposed amendment number(s)** that is /are the subject of the submission;
- the name and a contact address of the submitter, and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., represented.

In accordance with Section 12 [7] of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), only submissions in relation to the Proposed Amendments and/or the addendum reports will be taken into consideration.

Submissions not adhering to these criteria will be considered invalid.

**SECTION 2 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

**VOLUME ONE**

**CHAPTER 2 DEVELOPMENT PLAN STRATEGY**

**AMENDMENT V1 – 1**

**Section 2.2.2 Integration of climate considerations into the County Development**

The approach taken in crafting this County Development Plan is to identify what are the impacts and sources of climate change, identify the key sectors of the sources of impacts that are relevant to the County Plan as a land use plan and to ensure that these are considered in the crafting of all policies and objectives. ~~In order to ensure that this is done in a comprehensive manner, the plan will also include an appendix which audits the provisions of the plan, to show how and where climate considerations have indeed been fully and adequately incorporated into the plan provisions.~~

**AMENDMENT V1 – 2**

**Section 2.4.3 Strategic County Outcomes**

<p><b>SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities</b></p>	<p>Places should facilitate a high quality of life for all regardless of age or ability. Access to quality housing, employment, childcare, education, health services, community facilities and a clean unpolluted, environment including clean air and water, are defining elements of healthy, attractive and successful places. Investment in a well-designed public realm which includes public spaces, parks, playgrounds, streets and recreational <b>and sport</b> infrastructure to cater for all ages is essential.</p>
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**CHAPTER 3 CORE STRATEGY**

**AMENDMENT V1 - 3**

**Section 3.0 Introduction**

The purpose of the Core Strategy is provide relevant information to show that the development plan provisions, in particular its population, housing, retail and transport ~~and climate action~~ strategies are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and with Specific Planning Policy Requirements specified in guidelines under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Planning Act.

**AMENDMENT V1 - 4**

**Section 3.2 Housing**

The methodology for translating the population targets of the NPF Roadmap into housing targets is set out in Ministerial Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning' (DHLGH December 2020). As part of the understanding and implementation of these guidelines, additional County specific tabulations and calculations were provided by the Department, in order to assist in the accurate determination of housing targets for the lifetime of the development plan, which will be the 6-year period Q3 2022 to Q2 2028.

These tables and calculations are all presented and explained in the Housing Strategy appended to this development plan; only the summary tables or those necessary to explain the Core Strategy are set out in this chapter.

**Table 3.2 Housing Completions & Targets Co. Wicklow 2020, 2022, 2028, 2031**

County Wicklow	Units delivered 2017-2020	Estimated completions Q1 2021 – Q2 2022	Target Q3 2022 – Q2 2028	Target Q3 2028 - 2031	Total
New housing demand	3,230	1,404	8,467	1,848	14,949

**Table 3.2: ~~Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2017-2031~~**

County Wicklow	Total	Per annum
ESRI NPF scenario projected new household demand 2017 to 2031	10,976	732
Actual new housing supply 2017-2019	2,190	730
Homeless households, and estimated unmet demand as at Census 2016	150	
Housing demand 2020 - 2031	8,936	745

**Source:** Ministerial Guidelines Appendix 1, 2020

~~Methodology is provided in the guidelines to establish the housing demand up to 2026, taking into account the 25% 'headroom' up to 2026 that is afforded to County Wicklow in the NPF 'Roadmap', as well as the number of units completed in 2020.~~

In this regard, the housing demand up to for the period from 2021 up to 2026 is 4,981 units. Thereafter it is assumed that housing demand will be delivered evenly up to 2031, up to the total target of 11,126 units (10,976 + 150 as per the table above).

**Table 3.3: ~~Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2026, 2028, 2031~~**

<del>County Wicklow</del>	<del>Units delivered 2017-2020</del>	<del>2021-2026</del>	<del>2027-2028</del>	<del>2029-2031</del>	<del>Total</del>
<del>New housing demand</del>	<del>3,230</del>	<del>4,981</del>	<del>1,166</del>	<del>1,749</del>	<del>11,126</del>

Neither the NPF 'Roadmap' nor the 2020 Guidelines take account of the additional population allocation to Bray as per the MASP. This equates to 3,820 units<sup>1</sup>, and assuming they will be delivered over a 10 year period from 2022 to 2031, this equates to 382 units per annum. This will be assumed to be delivered in a linear even manner and no 'front loading' for 2026 is provided for as per the MASP:

**Table 3.4: ~~Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2026, 2028, 2031~~  
~~+MASP~~**

<del>County Wicklow</del>	<del>Units delivered 2017-2020</del>	<del>2021-2026</del>	<del>2027-2028</del>	<del>2029-2031</del>	<del>Total</del>
<del>New housing demand</del>	<del>3,230</del>	<del>6,891</del>	<del>1,930</del>	<del>2,895</del>	<del>14,946</del>

<sup>1</sup> ~~Using the same ratio of population:housing units as provided for in the guidelines~~



**AMENDMENT V1 – 5****Section 3.4 Population & Housing Allocations**

This development plan is for the period Q3 2022- Q2 2028 and the population and housing unit targets for each settlement / aggregate settlement grouping in order to ensure that it provides a robust and responsive long term framework, the population and housing targets up to 2031 for each settlement / tier in the settlement hierarchy are herewith identified. These targets have been sourced and derived for the overall County population targets set out in Table 3.1 above and the housing targets set out in Table 3.2. Local plans for each settlement<sup>2</sup> as well as the application of the objectives of this plan, will provide for a flexible development framework, including phasing, to ensure that the 2026 and 2028 targets can be fulfilled.

In determining appropriate growth rates for each settlement / tier, cognisance has been taken of the NPO 9 of the NPF which states:

**National Policy Objective 9**

*In each Regional Assembly area, settlements not identified in Policy 2a or 2b of this Framework, may be identified for significant (i.e. 30% or more above 2016 population levels) rates of population growth at regional and local planning stages, provided this is subject to:*

- *Agreement (regional assembly, metropolitan area and/or local authority as appropriate);*
- *Balance with strategies for other urban and rural areas (regional assembly, metropolitan area and/or local authority as appropriate), which means that the totality of planned population growth has to be in line with the overall growth target; and*
- *A co-ordinated strategy that ensures alignment with investment in infrastructure and the provision of employment, together with supporting amenities and services.*

*While the above planning considerations will generally apply to all urban and rural areas, this specific provision is intended to ensure that in settlements identified for significant population growth, it is aligned with the provision of employment and/or infrastructure and supporting facilities, to ensure a good quality of life for both existing and future residents.*

*The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies for each Regional Assembly area shall address the potential of towns and their catchments in conjunction with consideration of growth targets for cities and rural areas. In applying a tailored approach to urban development, that can be linked to the Rural and Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, key considerations further to NPO 7 will include:*

- *The extent to which a settlement is located inside or outside one of the five defined City- Region catchments and may be characterised as commuter focused or as more self-contained;*
- *The scale of employment provision and net commuting flows;*
- *The extent of local services and amenities provision i.e. administration, education – particularly higher education institutes, health, leisure and retail;*
- *The extent to which trips may be made by sustainable modes of travel, i.e. walking, cycling or public transport, and the scale of planned investment in such;*
- *The rate and pace of development from 1996-2016 and the extent to which there are outstanding requirements for infrastructure and amenities;*
- *Accessibility and influence in a regional or sub-regional context;*
- *Particular sub-regional interdependencies, for example, where a settlement may be located in relation to a number of nearby settlements and scope for collaboration and complementarity;*
- *Track record of performance and delivery, as well as ambition and initiative and scope to leverage investment;*
- *Commitment to achieve compact growth*

<sup>2</sup> Local Area Plans in the case of settlements in Levels 1-3 in the hierarchy; and Small Town Plans for settlements in Levels 4-5 (which are contained within this County Development Plan)

~~Growth rates targeted for each settlement / settlement tier are reflective of the respective position of each settlement or groups of settlement in the overall hierarchy, the capacity of that settlement / settlement tier for growth having regard to the asset based assessment.~~

Housing and population growth rates targeted for each settlement / settlement tier are reflective of the respective position of each settlement or groups of settlement in the overall hierarchy, the tier designation and any growth parameters associated with same as may be provided in the NPF or RSES, and the capacity of that settlement / settlement tier for growth having regard to the asset based assessment.

In a small number of cases, the targeted housing growth rate has had to take account of significant legacy housing developments already in train, which would result in a higher growth rate than may have been appropriate for the settlement given its position in the hierarchy and asset capacity.

Level	Settlement	Justification
1, 2	Bray	Key Towns are identified for growth rates of c. 35% having regard to their identification on the RSES are towns suitable for higher levels of growth.
	Wicklow - Rathnew	
3	Arklow	Towns in Level 3 are targeted for growth rates of 25%-30%, with slight variations based on capacity / past trends.
	Greystones - Delgany	
	Blessington	
4	Baltinglass	Towns in Level 4 are generally targeted for growth rates around 20%-25%. Newtownmountkennedy (at c.65%) and Rathdrum (at c.45%) will significantly exceed this target due to legacy housing developments under construction. The goal for these towns is to limit further development, other than for town centre infill / regeneration.
	Enniskerry	
	Kilcoole	
	Newtownmountkennedy	
	Rathdrum	
5	Ashford	Towns in Level 5 are generally targeted for growth rates of 15%-20%. Ashford (at c.60%) will significantly exceed this target due to legacy housing developments under construction. The goal for this town is to limit further development, other than for town centre infill / regeneration.
	Aughrim	
	Carnew	
	Dunlavin	
	Tinahely	
6	Avoca	Towns in Level 6 are generally targeted for growth rates of 10%-15%.
	Donard	
	Kilmacanogue	
	Newcastle	
	Roundwood	
	Shillelagh	
7-10	Villages / clusters Open countryside	Growth rate of 5%-10% identified as appropriate for rural villages and open countryside.

**Table 3.46 Wicklow Settlement / Aggregate Settlement Population Targets 2016, Q2 2028-2031**

Level	Settlement	Population 2016		Population target Q2 2028	Population target 2031	% of total County growth To Q2 2028 2031 by tier	
1	Bray	29,646		38,565	40,425	KEY TOWNS	52% 49%
2	Wicklow - Rathnew	14,114		18,515	19,470		
3	Arklow	13,226		15,419	16,440	SELF SUSTAINING GROWTH TOWNS	25%
	Greystones - Delgany	18,021		21,727	21,630		
	Blessington	5,234		6,145	6,035		
4	Baltinglass	2,251		2,607	2,725	SELF SUSTAINING TOWNS	10% 12%
	Enniskerry	1,877		2,106	1,920		
	Kilcoole	4,244		4,778	4,315		
	Newtownmountkennedy	3,552		5,179	5,220		
	Rathdrum	1,716		2,339	2,480		
5	Ashford	5,710		6,695	7,210	SMALL TOWNS TYPE 1	5% 5%
	Aughrim						
	Carnew						
	Dunlavin						
	Tinahely						
6	Avoca	3,835		4,230	4,345	SMALL TOWNS TYPE 2	2%
	Donard						
	Kilmacanogue						
	Newcastle						
	Roundwood						
	Shillelagh						
7-9	Villages / clusters	5,672	38,999	41,352	6,010	VILLAGES	1% 9%
10	Open countryside	33,327					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142,425</b>		<b>169,658</b>	<b>173,505</b>		<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 3.5** Wicklow Settlement / Aggregate Settlement Housing Targets to Q2 2028 and Q4 2031

Level	Settlement	Housing Stock 2016	Completions 2017-2020	Estimated completions 2021-Q2 2022	Housing Growth Q3 2022-Q2 2028	Housing Growth Q3 2028-Q4 2031	Total Housing Growth 2016-2031
1	Bray	11,232	165	100	4,026	771	5062
	Wicklow - Rathnew	5,456	650	200	1,267	275	2392
3	Arklow	5,406	165	100	790	166	1,221
	Greystones - Delgany	6,766	875	400	508	170	1953
	Blessington	1,914	5	40	393	81	519
4	Baltinglass	903	46	40	85	24	195
	Enniskerry	648	34	40	36	15	125
	Kilcoole	1,451	97	20	140	30	287
	Newtownmount-kennedy	1,222	250	100	433	99	882
	Rathdrum	669	132	100	68	31	331
5	Ashford	2,390	255	90	129	41	515
	Aughrim						
	Carnew						
	Dunlavin						
	Tinahely						
6	Avoca	1,534	46	30	114	28	218
	Donard						
	Kilmacanogue						
	Newcastle						
	Roundwood						
	Shillelagh						
7-9 10	Villages / clusters Open countryside	15,395	510	134	478	117	1249
	Total	54,968	3,230	1,404	8,467	1,848	14,949

**Table 3.7 — Wicklow Settlement / Aggregate Settlement Housing Targets 2016-2031**

Level	Settlement	Housing Stock 2016	Housing Stock Growth Target 2016-2031 <sup>3</sup>	Housing Units completed post 2016	Further Housing Unit Growth Target up to 2031
1	Bray	11,232	5,062	165	4,897
2	Wicklow – Rathnew	5,456	2392	650	1,742
3	Arklow	5,406	1221	165	1,056
	Greystones – Delgany	6,766	1953	875	1,078
	Blessington	1,914	519	5	514
4	Baltinglass	903	195	46	149
	Enniskerry	648	125	34	91
	Kilcoole	1,451	287	97	190
	Newtownmountkennedy	1,222	882	250	632
	Rathdrum	669	331	132	199
5	Ashford	2,390	515	255	260
	Aughrim				
	Carnew				
	Dunlavin				
	Tinahely				
6	Avoca	1,534	218	46	172
	Denard				
	Kilmacanogue				
	Newcastle				
	Roundwood				
	Shillelagh				
7-10	Villages / clusters Open countryside	15,395	1249	510	739
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54,986</b>	<b>14,949</b>	<b>3,230</b>	<b>11,719</b>

<sup>3</sup> As per the population growth targets set out in Table 3.7

**Table 3.8** — Wicklow Settlement / Aggregate Settlement Housing Targets 2026, 2028, 2031

Level	Settlement	Housing Stock 2016	Further Housing Unit Growth up to 2026	Housing Unit Growth up to 2028	Housing Unit Growth up to 2031
1	Bray	11,232	2880	3686	4896
2	Wicklow—Rathnew	5,456	1024	1311	1742
3	Arklow	5,406	-621	795	1056
	Greystones—Delgany	6,766	-634	811	1078
	Blessington	1,914	302	-387	514
4	Baltinglass	903	88	112	149
	Enniskerry	648	54	68	91
	Kilcoole	1,451	112	143	190
	Newtownmountkennedy	1,222	372	476	632
	Rathdrum	669	117	150	199
5	Ashford	2,390	153	-196	260
	Aughrim				
	Carnew				
	Dunlavin				
	Tinahely				
6	Avoca	1,534	-101	-129	172
	Denard				
	Kilmacanogue				
	Newcastle				
	Roundwood				
	Shillelagh				
7-10	Villages / clusters Open countryside	15,395	435	-556	739
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54,986</b>	<b>6,893</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>11,718</b>

In order to ensure that adequate services are delivered in tandem with new housing, service delivery agencies shall have regard to both the future housing growth targets set out in Table 3.5 above, and the housing delivery already completed and underway in the County since 2016, as well as permitted further housing development as yet to commence, as shown on Table 3.69 to follow.

**Table 3.69 Housing development completed, underway and permitted in Co. Wicklow**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Housing Units completed post 2016</b>	<b>Units under construction<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Extant permission<sup>5</sup></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Bray</b>	165	409	876
<b>2</b>	<b>Wicklow - Rathnew</b>	650	376	481
<b>3</b>	<b>Arklow</b>	165	181	109
	<b>Greystones - Delgany</b>	875	1050	688
	<b>Blessington</b>	5	45	307
<b>4</b>	<b>Baltinglass</b>	46	50	69
	<b>Enniskerry</b>	34	69	88
	<b>Kilcoole</b>	97	23	17
	<b>Newtownmountkennedy</b>	250	587	11
	<b>Rathdrum</b>	132	137	173
<b>5</b>	<b>Ashford</b>	255	101	225
	<b>Aughrim</b>			
	<b>Carnew</b>			
	<b>Dunlavin</b>			
	<b>Tinahely</b>			
<b>6</b>	<b>Avoca</b>	46	30	109
	<b>Donard</b>			
	<b>Kilmacanogue</b>			
	<b>Newcastle</b>			
	<b>Roundwood</b>			
	<b>Shillelagh</b>			

<sup>4</sup> As of 31 March 2021

<sup>5</sup> As of 31 March 2021, granted but uncommenced

## AMENDMENT V1 – 6

### Section 3.5 Zoning

#### Local Area Plans (LAPs)

New Local Area Plans will be made for the following settlements in the period 2022-2024 in the following order of priority:

1. Wicklow Town – Rathnew
  2. Greystones - Delgany - Kilcoole
  3. Blessington
  4. Arklow and Environs
  5. Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)
- ~~Bray Municipal District (including Enniskerry and Kilmacanogue)~~  
~~Wicklow Town – Rathnew~~  
~~Greystones – Delgany – Kilcoole~~  
~~Arklow and Environs~~  
~~Blessington~~

While each LAP will cover a period of 6 years, zoning will be provided on the basis of the land needed to meet the 2031 population target, with clear objectives to ensure 2026 targets can be reached.

Core Strategy Table 3.7 to follow shows the housing unit requirements for the LAP towns, up to the year 2031 and the housing unit capacity of lands zoned in current LAPs.

This table shows that the majority of current LAPs have a surplus of zoned land having regard to the revised 2031 targets set out in the NPF Roadmap and the RSES for the EMRA. Prior to the adoption of new LAPs reflecting the targets set out in this plan, in the assessment of applications for new housing development (or mixed use development of which housing forms a significant component) shall be assessed against the population and housing targets set out in the Core Strategy of this County Development Plan and the Council will strictly adhere to the compact growth, sequential development and phasing principles set out in this plan.

~~Until such a time as new LAPs are adopted, the current plans for these towns are herewith subsumed into this County Development Plan.~~



**AMENDMENT V1 – 7****Section 3.5 Zoning****Zoning Principles****Principle 1: Compact Growth**

In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built up footprint of the settlement.

**Levels ~~1-4~~ 1-5 of Settlement Hierarchy**

For larger towns in Levels ~~1-5~~ ~~1-4~~, where more significant growth is targeted that is unlikely to be possible to accommodate wholly within the existing built up envelope, a minimum of 30% of the targeted housing growth shall be directed into the built up area of the settlement. In cognisance that the potential of town centre regeneration / infill / brownfield sites is difficult to predict, **there shall be no quantitative restriction inferred from this Core Strategy and associated tables on the number of units that may be delivered on town centre regeneration / infill / brownfield sites within the built up envelope of the town.**

In order to ensure however that overall housing and population targets are not exceeded to any significant degree, the amount of land zoned for the housing development outside of the built up envelope of any existing settlement shall not exceed 70% of the total housing target for that settlement.

**Level ~~5-9~~ of Settlement Hierarchy**

It has been determined that all of the targeted housing growth in towns / villages at Levels ~~5-9~~ of the hierarchy can be accommodated within the existing built up footprint of these settlements.

**Table 3.9 — Compact Growth Housing Targets 2022–2031**

Level	Settlement	Further Housing Unit Growth Target up to 2031	Minimum target for compact growth <sup>6</sup>	Maximum allowance outside built up envelope
1	Bray	4896	1469	3427
2	Wicklow – Rathnew	1742	523	1219
3	Arklow	1056	317	739
	Greystones – Delgany	1078	323	755
	Blessington	514	154	360
4	Baltinglass	149	45	104
	Enniskerry	91	27	64
	Kilcoole	190	57	133
	Newtownmountkennedy	632	190	442
	Rathdrum	199	60	139
5	Ashford	260	260	0
	Aughrim			
	Carnew			
	Dunlavin			
	Tinahely			
6	Avoca	172	172	0
	Donard			
	Kilmacanogue			
	Newcastle			
	Roundwood			
	Shillelagh			

<sup>6</sup> Defined as development within the existing built up envelope of the settlement

**Principle 2: Delivery of Population and Housing Targets**

The zoning provisions of each Local Area Plan and Small Town Plan will be crafted on the basis of ensuring that the population and housing unit targets set out in the tables above can be fulfilled.

Where the targets set out in the tables above can't be fulfilled within the quantum of land identified due the lack of infrastructure as set out in Appendix 9, prioritisation will be given to fulfilling the targets set out in the tables above on land identified within Local Area Plans and Small Town Plans where infrastructure is or will be available and based on the sequential approach set out in Principle 4.

Town centre regeneration / infill / brownfield developments normally located within the existing built up part of the settlement, generally on lands zoned 'town centre', 'village centre', 'primary area', 'existing residential' and other similarly zoned, already developed lands will be prioritised and promoted in the first instance for new housing development.

The exact capacity of such lands is not possible to quantify as it is not possible to predict what infill opportunities might arise for new development on existing developed or brownfield lands. However, the Council will utilise all mechanisms available to it to stimulate development in these locations, such that at least 30% of all new development is delivered in these areas.

Where a need for new housing development outside of the 'compact growth boundary' is identified, the quantum of land zoned shall accord with the targets set out in Table 3.10, having regard to density assumptions made in accordance with **Principle 3** to follow and the sequential approach set out in **Principle 4**.

**Table 3.10 — Future zoning requirements outside compact growth boundary (Levels 1-4)**

Future Plan Type	Settlement	Core Strategy Housing Unit Target maximum permissible outside compact growth boundary	Housing Yield of existing undeveloped zoned land outside compact growth boundary <sup>7</sup>	Shortfall/surplus (UNITS)	Method of addressing shortfall/surplus
LAP	Bray	3427	4,126	+699	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Wicklow—Rathnew	1219	1,959	+740	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Arklow	739	2,890	+2151	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Greystones—Delgany	755	823	+68	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Blessington	360	870	+510	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Kilcoole	104	328	+224	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Enniskerry <sup>8</sup>	64	198	+134	To be addressed in new LAP.
STP	Baltinglass	133	90	-43	Requirement exceeded
STP	Newtownmountkennedy	442	590	+148	Requirement not met – legacy planning permissions under construction
STP	Rathdrum	139	0	-139	Requirement exceeded

<sup>7</sup> For LAP towns, estimated in accordance with current local plan zoning provisions; zoned housing lands or lands zoned for a mix of housing and other uses, excluding lands already developed for housing (by November 2020) or where new housing development is currently underway (as of November 2020); disregarding extant permissions as yet to commence. For Small Towns, based on zoning provisions / development objectives set out in this plan.

<sup>8</sup> as part of Bray MD LAP

**Principle 4: Sequential approach**

Where there is a surplus of land identified for residential development (or a mix of residential and other uses), one or a combination of the following option will be utilised:

*Prioritising / phasing of development:* by indicating on relevant tables and maps, where any surplus capacity of land and/or housing will be regarded as a strategic reserve and that proposals for the development of such lands or housing will not be considered for development purposes during the plan period;

*Alternative Objectives:* by indicating lands that will be considered for alternative appropriate uses within the plan period such as employment, amenity, community or other uses;

*Discontinuing the Objective:* by deletion of the zoning objective and related lands from the written statement and maps of the development plan.

Detailed 'Infrastructural Assessments' in accordance with NPO 72 and the methodology for a Tiered Approach to Zoning set out under Appendix 3 of the NPF shall be carried out for all lands proposed to be zoned and de-zoned in future Local Area Plan.

**AMENDMENT V1 – 8**

**CORE STRATEGY TABLES**

**Table A:** LAP Towns

This analysis utilises the 2031 housing targets, having regard the likely timeframes of future LAPs (6-10 years), due to be adopted in the 2023 – 2025 period.

SETTLEMENT		POPULATION & HOUSING				ZONING							
Settlement Type	Settlement name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
		Census 2016 Population	Census 2016 (%)	Housing Target 2016-2031 (less completed units 2017-2020) (units)	Housing Target (as % of County 2031 target)	Development capacity of existing zoned lands (units) <sup>9</sup>	Development capacity of existing zoned land within built up area (units)	Development capacity of existing zoned land outside built up area (units)	Development capacity of existing zoned land within built up area as % of total development capacity (F/E)	Units required to be provided outside of built up area (units) (C – F)	Surplus capacity of existing zoned land outside built up area (units) (G – I)	Surplus land outside of existing built up area (ha)	Method of addressing shortfall / surplus
County	Wicklow	142,425		11,719	100%								
Key Town	Bray	29,646	21%	4,897	42%	6,500	2,000	4,500	31%	2,897	1,600	40 <sup>10</sup>	Will be addressed in next LAP – comprises strategic sites
	Wicklow - Rathnew	14,114	10%	1,742	15%	4,200	2,000	2,200	48%	0	2,200	55 <sup>11</sup>	21ha already under construction; remaining surplus will be addressed in next LAP
Self Sustaining (Growth) Towns	Arklow	13,226	9%	1,056	9%	5,200	2,100	3,100	40%	0	3,100	78 <sup>11</sup>	11ha already under construction; remaining surplus will be addressed in next LAP
	Greystones - Delgany	18,021	13%	1,078	9%	2,900	1,700	1,200	59%	0	1,200	30 <sup>11</sup>	7.5ha already under construction; remaining surplus will be addressed in next LAP
	Blessington	5,234	4%	514	4%	1,450	300	1,150	21%	215	935	31 <sup>11</sup>	Surplus will be addressed in next LAP
	Enniskerry	1,877	1%	91	1%	520	375	145	72%	0	145	5 <sup>12</sup>	Surplus will be addressed in next LAP
	Kilcoole	4,244	3%	190	2%	600	460	140	77%	0	140	5 <sup>12</sup>	Surplus will be addressed in next LAP

<sup>9</sup> Zoned housing / mixed use lands that has not delivered any housing units pre 2020 due to lack of permission / non-commencement of permitted development / non-completion of commenced development.

<sup>10</sup> Density assumption 40/ha

<sup>11</sup> Density assumption 30/ha

**Table B:** Towns / Aggregate Town Groups / Rural Areas that form part of County Development Plan 2022-2028

This table relates to the period up to Q2 2028

SETTLEMENT		POPULATION & HOUSING					LAND ZONING REQUIRED			
Settlement Type	Settlement name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
		Census 2016 Population	Census 2016 (%)	Housing Target 2016-Q2 2028 (less completed units 2017-2020) (units)	Housing Target (as % of County target)	Housing Target + 25% additional provision (Units)	Development capacity of proposed zoned residential lands (units) <sup>12</sup>	Development capacity of proposed zoned infill / mixed use / town centre lands (units) <sup>13</sup>	Total development capacity (units)	Proportion of zoned land within built up area
<b>County</b>	<b>Wicklow</b>	142,425		8,467	100%					
<b>Self Sustaining Towns</b>	<b>Baltinglass</b>	2,251	2%	125	1.5%	156	105	50	155	100%
	<b>Newtownmountkennedy</b>	3,552	2%	533	6%	666	544	80	624	44%
	<b>Rathdrum</b>	1,716	1%	168	2%	210	320	70	390	52%

<sup>12</sup> Density assumption 30/ha

<sup>13</sup> Capacity determined by site by site analysis

## AMENDMENT V1 – 9

### 3.6 Transport and Accessibility

The **National Planning Framework** is focused on policies, actions and investment to deliver 10 National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs). With respect to transport and accessibility, the key objectives relevant to Wicklow and the Dublin Metropolitan Area are:

<b>High quality international connectivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the improvement and protection of the TEN-T road network to strengthen access routes to Ireland’s ports and airports</li> </ul>
<b>Inter-Urban Roads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network including planning for future capacity enhancements;</li> <li>Improving average journey times targeting an average inter-urban speed of 90kph;</li> <li>Enabling more effective traffic management within and around cities and re-allocation of inner city road-space in favour of bus-based public transport services and walking/cycling facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strengthen public transport connectivity between cities and large growth towns in Ireland and Northern Ireland with improved services and reliable journey times.</li> <li>Expand attractive public transport alternatives to car transport to reduce congestion and emissions and enable the transport sector to cater for the demands associated with longer term population and employment growth in a sustainable manner through the following measures;</li> <li>Deliver the key public transport objectives of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 by investing in projects such as New Metro Link, DART Expansion Programme, BusConnects in Dublin and key bus-based projects in the other cities and towns;</li> <li>Provide public transport infrastructure and services to meet the needs of smaller towns, villages and rural areas; and</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive network of safe cycling routes in metropolitan areas to address travel needs and to provide similar facilities in towns and villages where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Rural Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a quality nationwide community based public transport system in rural Ireland which responds to local needs under the Rural Transport Network and similar initiatives;</li> <li>Invest in maintaining regional and local roads and strategic road improvement projects in rural areas to ensure access to critical services such as education, healthcare and employment.</li> </ul>

These transportation and accessibility objectives are translated to the regional level through the **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy**; the Transport Investment Priorities for the region that are relevant to Wicklow are as follows:

<b>Rail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DART Expansion Programme - new infrastructure and electrification of existing lines ... while continuing to provide DART services on the South-Eastern Line as far south as Greystones</li> <li>Provide for an appropriate level of commuter rail service in the Midlands and South-East</li> <li>Complete the construction of the National Train Control Centre.</li> <li>New stations to provide interchange with bus, LUAS and Metro network including Kishoge, Heuston West, Cabra, Glasnevin, Pelletstown and Woodbrook.</li> <li>LUAS Green Line Capacity Enhancement in advance of Metrolink.</li> <li>Undertake appraisal, planning and design of LUAS network expansion to Bray, Finglas, Lucan and Poolbeg</li> <li>In principle there is a need to carry out an evaluation of underground metro routes within the M50</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Bus</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Core Bus Corridors comprising 16 radial routes and 3 orbital routes in Dublin</li> <li>▪ Regional Bus Corridors connecting the major regional settlements to Dublin</li> <li>▪ Dublin Metropolitan Bus Network Review</li> <li>▪ Network reviews for the largest settlements across EMRA, with a view to providing local bus services</li> <li>▪ Review of bus services between settlements</li> <li>▪ Review of local bus services throughout EMRA, including services to small towns and villages and the rural transport programme</li> <li>▪ New interchange and bus hub facilities</li> <li>▪ New fare structures</li> <li>▪ Enhanced passenger information</li> <li>▪ Improvements to bus waiting facilities</li> <li>▪ Integrated timetabling of bus and rail into a coherent national and regional network.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Roads</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the improvement and protection of the TEN-T network to strengthen access routes to Ireland's ports, including investment in the ongoing development of the N11/M11 to improve connectivity to Rosslare</li> <li>▪ M11 from Jn 4 M50 to Kilmacanogue N3</li> <li>▪ In addition, long term protection shall remain for the Eastern Bypass and the Leinster Outer Orbital Route.</li> </ul>

Of key importance to County Wicklow's transportation and accessibility strategy, is the NTA's **Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA)**. The current strategy for the period 2016-2035 is the applicable strategy although it is noted that this is under review (late 2020). Any alterations to the transport strategy, as they apply to Wicklow that occur during the making of this plan will be integrated into the plan where possible.

The 2016-2035 transport strategy provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the GDA over the next two decades. It also provides a transport planning policy around which other agencies involved in land use planning, environmental protection, and delivery of other infrastructure such as housing, water and power, can align their investment priorities. It is, therefore, an essential component, along with investment programmes in other sectors, for the orderly development of the GDA over the next 20 years.

The transportation assessment and proposals to meet demand provided in the strategy are based around 6 'radial corridors' emanating out from the city centre and for County Wicklow, the following strategy is set out:

<p><b>Corridor F – Arklow – Wicklow – Greystones – Bray – Cherrywood – Dundrum – Dun Laoghaire – Dublin City Centre.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Corridor F stretches from the south east business districts to Wicklow, based around the N/M11 route and containing both the DART and Luas Green Line. The Strategic Development Zone of Cherrywood is in this corridor.</li> <li>▪ During the preparation of the Strategy, the NTA prepared a report on the South East corridor. This study primarily aimed to identify public transport options that could effectively meet the growth in travel demand to year 2035, between the South East Study Area and Dublin City Centre. A number of options to cater for transport growth were examined. This included the upgrading of the Green line to Metro standard all the way to a point in Bray. Other options included focusing on the DART and a combination of BRT and bus priority to service growth, including a BRT network linking to the upgraded Metro at Bride's Glen or Sandyford.</li> <li>▪ Given the need to accommodate expected growth in demand between segments along Corridor F, as well as from these segments to the city centre, a number of schemes are proposed. The capacity of the South Eastern rail line will be increased through enhancements to the existing rail line, incorporating city centre signalling and extra rolling stock. DART Underground will also enable increases in capacity along this corridor. This will facilitate faster and more frequent intercity, regional and DART services to be provided on</li> </ul>
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	<p>this line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While these schemes focus on the coastal areas, the western parts of the corridor, including Cherrywood and other potential development areas, will require high capacity public transport. It is, therefore, proposed to upgrade the Luas Green Line to Metro standard from the city centre, where it will link into the new Metro North, as far as its current terminus at Bride’s Glen. From this point to Bray, a new Luas line is proposed. This will provide a new north-south inland rail axis from Swords to Bray. These rail services will be supplemented by the proposed BRT on the N11 from UCD to Blanchardstown, and the core radial bus corridors on the N11, south of UCD, and on the Rock Road.</li> <li>▪ To provide for growth in vehicular trip demand and improve road safety, the N11 and M50 between Newtownmountkennedy and Sandyford (including the M11/M50 junction) will be upgraded. Additionally, Loughlinstown roundabout will be improved, while a distributor road network will be developed to service development lands at Kiltiernan / Glenamuck.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Corridor E – N81 Settlements – South Tallaght – Rathfarnham – to Dublin City Centre</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Corridor E is made up of generally suburban residential development and is not defined on the basis of a major transport route, road or public transport service. It presents a challenge in that respect as it is more difficult to serve with high capacity public transport than other corridors, which are defined by multi-lane roads and / or dual carriageways, and contain existing or proposed rail lines.</li> <li>▪ As limited growth in radial trips along Corridor E outside of the Metropolitan Area is anticipated, it is not proposed to implement significant public transport infrastructure improvements. Bus capacity will be increased to meet demand along the N81.</li> <li>▪ For the Metropolitan parts of this corridor, the performance of the Rathfarnham Quality Bus Corridor is poor relative to others and requires enhancement. As such, a number of options, including Light Rail, have been examined. However, due to the land use constraints in the corridor and owing to the pressure on the existing road network, a Luas line was not deemed feasible. Instead, the emerging solution comprises a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to Tallaght via Rathfarnham and Terenure. This will result in a significant increase in capacity and reliability compared to existing public transport services and will balance public transport requirements with those of the private car. The BRT will be supplemented by a core radial bus corridor between Rathfarnham, Rathmines and the City Centre.</li> <li>▪ Two new roads are to be built within this corridor, a South Tallaght link road from Oldcourt Road to Kiltipper Road, and a public transport bridge over the Dodder to the east of Tallaght from Firhouse Road to the N81 to address localised access and congestion issues.</li> </ul>

### Strategic Roads

- In light of the above higher order strategies, the priority for strategic (national) road improvement is the upgrade of the M/N11 in the north of the County, from the Dublin border as far as Kilpedder, ~~in particular improvements to the M50 / M11 merge which is deficient in capacity, and all interchanges serving Bray.~~
- The construction of proposed and route selected N81 from South Dublin to Hollywood Cross is a key objective of this plan. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy also identifies the Leinster Outer Orbital Route as a longer term objective, and this potentially traverses the region from Arklow in the south-east, to the Naas-Kilcullen area in the west via a route similar to the existing R747 – N81 corridor. This will form an element of the long term road investment strategy of this plan.
- In light of the likely continuing car dependency to access the metropolitan region in the short to medium term, it is the strategy of this plan to facilitate and encourage measures to improve capacity and efficiency of the national and regional routes, and facilitate the improved use of the national and regional routes by public transport, including the development of bus park-n-rides.
- The priority for regional road improvement will be with east-west connector routes i.e. Wicklow – Roundwood – Sally Gap - (R763/4 – R759), Wicklow – Laragh – Wicklow Gap – N81 (R763 – R756) and the R747 (Arklow – Tinahely – Baltinglass).

## Public Transport

In light of the above higher order strategies, the priority for strategic public transport improvements are:

- Improvements to the DART service in north-east Wicklow, serving the metropolitan area Key Town of Bray and Greystones, the location of an identified key strategic employment site in the RSES;
- LUAS extension to the metropolitan area Key Town of Bray;
- LUAS extension from City West / Tallaght to Blessington;
- Rail improvement to the Dublin – Rosslare rail line; this is the only heavy rail line in the County, which is single track only from Bray and has only six functioning stations from Bray to Arklow. The settlement strategy exploits the connectivity provided by this route by allocating over 75% of the future population growth to settlements along this line;
- Major improvements to bus services, including rural services.

**CHAPTER 4 SETTLEMENT STRATEGY**

**AMENDMENT V1 – 10**

**Level 7 Settlement Maps      Ballinaclesh**

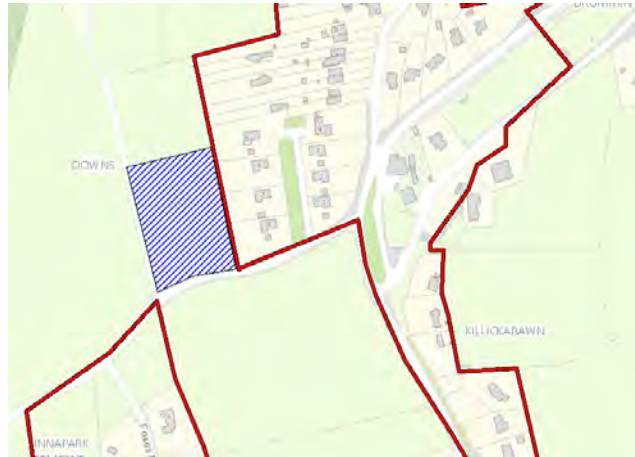
Extend village boundary by c. 0.2ha / 0.5 acres as shown in blue on map below:



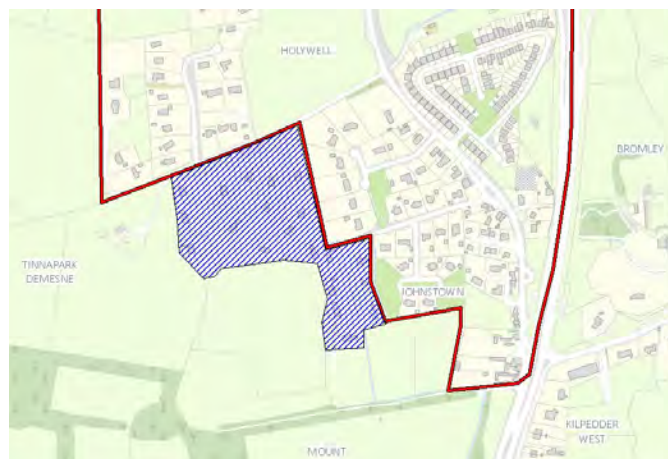
**AMENDMENT V1 – 11**

**Level 7 Settlement Maps      Kilpedder - Willowgrove**

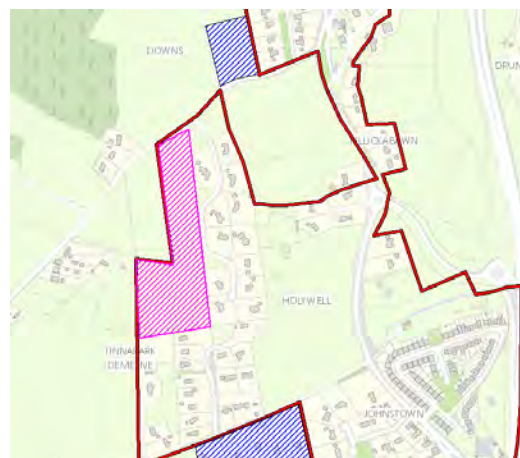
- (a) Extend village boundary by c. 1.2ha / 3 acres as shown in blue on map below



- (b) Extend village boundary by c. 7.2ha / 17.8 acres as shown in blue on map below



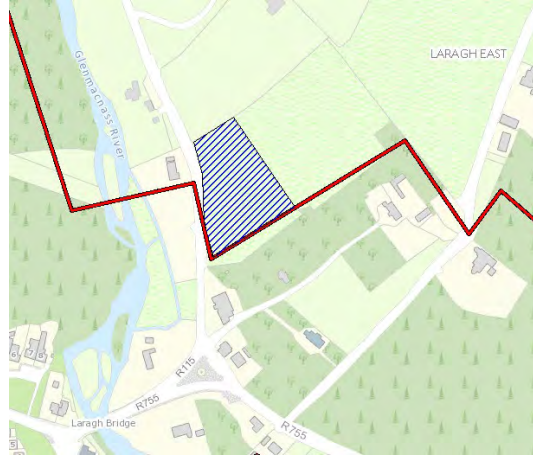
- (c) Reduce village boundary by c. 4.5ha / 11 acres as shown in pink on map below



**AMENDMENT V1 – 12**

**Level 7 Settlement Maps      Laragh**

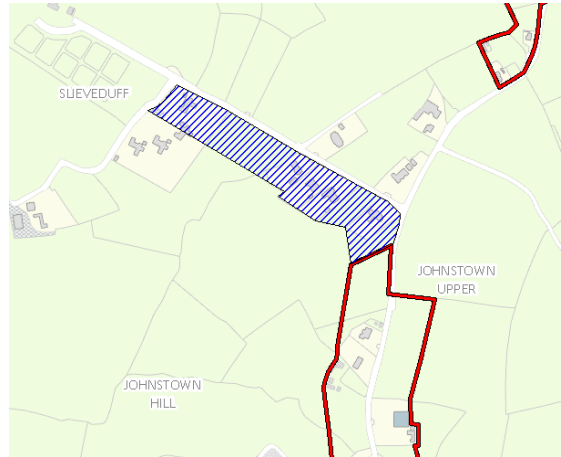
Extend village boundary by c. 0.6ha / 1.5 acres as shown in blue on map below:



**AMENDMENT V1 – 13**

**Level 8 Settlement Maps      Johnstown**

Extend village boundary by c. 3ha / 7.4 acres as shown in blue on map below:



**CHAPTER 6 HOUSING****AMENDMENT V1 – 14****Section 6.2 Wicklow County Housing Strategy**

The purpose of the Housing Need Demand Assessment tool is to:

- *Assist local authorities to develop long-term strategic views of housing need across all tenures;*
- *Provide robust evidence base to support decisions about new housing supply, wider investment and housing related services that inform an overall national housing profile;*
- *Inform policies about the proportion of social and affordable housing required, including the need for different types and sizes of provision;*
- *Provide evidence to inform policies related to the provision of specialist housing and housing related services<sup>14</sup>.*

~~In the absence of Ministerial guidance on the preparation of HNDAs the Planning Authority has prepared an interim Housing Strategy. This will be reviewed following the publication of HNDA guidelines. HNDA is required to be integrated into the development plan review process where planning authorities give notice of review of a development plan in accordance with section 11(1) of the 2000 Act, after the date of Circular 14/2021 (14 April 2021). As the notice of the review of the Wicklow County Development Plan occurred before the date of this circular, HNDA is not being carried out at this time. It will however be carried out in due course, and should it identify that amendment of the County Development Plan is necessary to reflect its outcomes, the plan will be varied accordingly. Therefore until this exercise is completed, this Housing Strategy is to be considered an 'interim' one.~~

While the Housing Strategy has found that there is rationale for seeking 10% of eligible residential development to be reserved for social housing (or 20% social and affordable in certain circumstances) during the strategy period of 2024-2028, this only addresses social housing needs that will arise during the 2024-2028 period and does not take into account the considerable demand for such housing that has built up over the currency of the previous strategy. It is also clear that the combination of the Council's own construction and Part V will only cater for a proportion of the population experiencing affordability problems in the County. The Council must continue to utilise all policy avenues open to it and any new schemes that become available to ensure the greatest delivery of social housing possible and to ensure a regionally equitable balance of housing delivery, including providing. Provide for housing for older people in town centres more suited for those with reduced mobility.

<sup>14</sup> Section 6.6, National Planning Framework



## AMENDMENT V1 – 15

### 6.3.5 Densities

The density standards as per the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) are set out in Table 6.1.

**Table 6.1 Density Standards**

Location	Density Standards
<b>Large Towns<sup>15</sup></b> (Bray, Greystones-Delgany, Arklow, Wicklow –Rathnew and Blessington)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Transport Corridors: Minimum density of 50 units per hectare within 500m walking distance of bus stop or 1km of light rail stop or rail station.</li> <li>▪ Outer Suburban / Greenfield Sites: Minimum density of 35 - 50 dwellings per hectare.</li> <li>▪ Development at net densities less than 30 dwellings per hectare should generally be discouraged particularly on sites in excess of 0.5 hectares.</li> </ul>
<b>Small Towns and Villages<sup>16</sup></b> (Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Enniskerry, Rathdrum, Aughrim, Ashford, Carnew, Kilmacanogue, Roundwood, Tinahely, Newcastle, Dunlavin, Avoca, Shillelagh, Donard)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Centrally located sites: 30 – 40 + units per hectare for mainly residential schemes may be appropriate or for more mixed use schemes.</li> <li>▪ Edge of Centre Sites: 20-35 dwellings per hectare.</li> <li>▪ Edge of small town / village: Densities of less than 15 – 20 dwellings per hectare (as an alternative to one-off housing) as long as such development does not represent more than 20% of the total new planned housing stock of the small town or village.</li> </ul>
<b>Villages under 400 Population</b>	Any individual scheme for new housing should not be larger than 10 units.

In the application of density standards and the assessment of applications, cognisance shall also be taken on Circular letter NRUP 02/2021 that clarifies that the application of the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines Planning Authorities should apply a graduated and responsive, tailored approach to the assessment of residential densities in Peripheral and/or Less Accessible Urban Locations, as defined in the Apartment Guidelines and as they apply to towns of all sizes, to ensure that such places are developed in a sustainable and proportionate manner.

<sup>15</sup> These are defined in the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) as those with a population of 5,000 or more.

<sup>16</sup> These are defined in the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) as those with a population ranging from 400 to 5,000 persons.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 16

### Section 6.4 Housing Objectives

#### General

**CPO 6.1** New housing development shall be required to locate on suitably zoned or designated land in settlements and will only be considered in the open countryside when it is for the provision of a rural dwelling for those with a demonstrable housing social or economic need to live in the open countryside.

~~**CPO 6.2** To implement the following housing occupancy control for multi-house developments of 10 units or more in all settlements in Levels 1–6 of the settlement hierarchy:~~

- ~~▪ 75% no restriction;~~
- ~~▪ 25% applicant / purchaser of any new home must have lived for at least 3 years duration in County Wicklow, within 15km of the proposed development site, prior to purchasing a home. This does not include units delivered in accordance with Part V.~~

## AMENDMENT V1 – 17

### Section 6.4 Housing Objectives

#### General

**CPO 6.1** New housing development shall be required to locate on suitably zoned or designated land in settlements and will only be considered in the open countryside when it is for the provision of a rural dwelling for those with a demonstrable housing social or economic need to live in the open countryside.

**CPO 6.X** The sale of all developments of residential units, whether houses, duplexes or apartments, to commercial institutional investment bodies shall be prohibited.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 18

### Section 6.4 Housing Objectives

#### Social and Affordable Housing

**CPO 6.9** To implement the provisions of the Wicklow Housing Strategy and in particular, to apply a 10% (or a greater percentage if provided for in future legislation) social housing requirement pursuant to Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to land zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential or other uses, except where the development would be exempted from this requirement. **In certain circumstances as set out in the Affordable Housing Act 2021, this requirement will be 20% devoted to social and affordable housing.**

**AMENDMENT V1 – 19****Section 6.4 Housing Objectives****Sequence / Phasing of Housing**

**CPO 6.20** Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure is adequate or is being provided to match the needs of new residents.

~~Where specified by the Planning Authority,~~ new significant residential or mixed use development proposals (of which residential development forms a component)<sup>17</sup>, ~~may~~ **shall** be required to ~~provide a social and community facility/facilities as part of the proposed development or the developer may be required to carry out~~ **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.

New significant residential or mixed use development proposals shall be required to be accompanied by a 'Accessibility Report' that demonstrates that new residents / occupants / employees (including children and those with special mobility needs) will be able to safely access through means **other than** the private car:

- (a) local services including shops, schools, health care and recreational facilities, and
- (b) public transport services.

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/quality of existing or planned linkages.

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<sup>17</sup> Being defined as developments in excess of 50 units of housing in any settlements in Levels 1-4 in the hierarchy, 25 housing units in Levels 5-10, and **all developments** in excess of 500m distance to a public transport service, as well as other format / sizes / locations are may be deemed necessary by the Local Authority.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 20

### 6.4 Housing Objectives

#### Dwelling Mix / Sizes / Locations / Formats

**CPO 6.34** Support the change of use of vacant commercial premises **in town / villages centres** to residential purposes outside of the retail core areas as identified in Chapter 10, **subject to CPO10.9.**

## AMENDMENT V1 – 21

### Section 6.4 Housing Objectives

#### Housing in the Open Countryside

**CPO 6.41** Facilitate residential development in the open countryside for those with a **housing need** based on the core consideration of **demonstrable functional social or economic** need to live in the open countryside in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 6.3.

**Table 6.3 Rural Housing Policy**

#### **Housing Need / Necessary Dwelling**

This is defined as those who can demonstrate a clear need for new housing, for example:

- first time home owners;
- someone that previously owned a home and is no longer in possession of that home as it had to be disposed of following legal separation / divorce / repossession by a lending institution, the transfer of a home attached to a farm to a family member or the past sale of a home following emigration;
- someone that already owns / owned a home who requires a new purpose built specially adapted house due to a verified medical condition and who can show that their existing home cannot be adapted to meet their particular needs;

and other such circumstances that clearly demonstrate a bona fide need for a new dwelling in the open countryside notwithstanding previous / current ownership of a home as may be considered acceptable to the Planning Authority.

#### **Economic Need**

The Planning Authority recognises the rural housing need of persons whose livelihood is intrinsically linked to rural areas subject to it being demonstrated that a home in the open countryside is essential to the making of that livelihood and that livelihood could not be maintained while living in a nearby settlement.

In this regard, persons whose livelihood is intrinsically linked to rural areas may include:

- a. Those involved in agriculture  
 The Planning Authority will positively consider applications from those who are engaged in a significant agricultural enterprise and require a dwelling on the agricultural holding that they work. In such cases, it will be necessary for the applicant to satisfy the Planning Authority with supporting documents that due to the nature of the agricultural employment, a dwelling on the holding is essential for the ongoing successful operation and maintenance of the farm. In this regard, the Planning Authority will consider whether there is already a dwelling / dwellings on the farm holding when determining if a new dwelling can be justified.
  
- b. Those involved in non-agricultural rural enterprise / employment  
 The Planning Authority will support applications from those whose business / full time employment is intrinsically linked to the rural area that can demonstrate a need to live in the vicinity of their employment in order to carry out their full time occupation. The Planning Authority will strictly require any applicant to show that there is a particular aspect or characteristic of their employment that requires them to live in that rural area, as opposed to a local settlement.  
 Where an applicant's case for a new dwelling on the basis of economic need is based on establishing a new or alternative agricultural / non-agricultural rural enterprise and they have no previous experience in agriculture / rural enterprise, the Planning Authority shall not consider the above requirements met until the applicant can show that the new agricultural / non-agricultural rural enterprise has been legally and continuously ongoing for at least 5 years prior to the making of the application for a dwelling, and is the applicant's primary occupation and source of income. Applicants whose proposed business is not location-dependent will not be considered.
  
- c. Other such persons as may have definable economic need to reside in the open countryside, as may arise on a case by case basis.

### **Social Need**

The Planning Authority recognises the need of persons intrinsically linked to rural areas that are not engaged in significant agricultural or rural based occupations to live in rural areas.

In this regard, persons intrinsically linked to a rural area may include:

- Permanent native residents of that rural area (including Level 8 and 9 settlements) i.e. a person who was born and reared in the same rural area as the proposed development site and permanently resides there;
- A former permanent native of the area (including Level 8 and 9 settlements) who has not resided in that rural area for many years (for example having moved into a town or due to emigration), but was born and reared in the same rural area as the proposed development site, has strong social ties to that area, and now wishes to return to their local area;
- A close relative who has inherited, either as a gift or on death, an agricultural holding or site for his/her own purposes and can demonstrate a social need to live in that particular rural area,
- The son or daughter of a landowner who has inherited a site for the purpose of building a one off rural house and where the land has been in family ownership for at least 10 years prior to the application for planning permission and can demonstrate a social need to live in that particular rural area,
- Persons who were permanent native residents of a rural area but due to the expansion of

an adjacent town / village, the family home place is now located within the development boundary of the town / village;

- Local applicants who are intrinsically linked to their local area and, while not exclusively involved in agricultural or rural employment, have access to an affordable local site;
- Local applicants who provide care services to family members and those working in healthcare provision locally; and
- other such persons as may have a definable strong social need to live in that particular rural area, which can be demonstrated by way of evidence of strong social or familial connections, connection to the local community / local organisations etc as may arise on a case by case basis.

In the event of conflict of any other settlement strategy objective / Landscape Zones and categories, a person who qualifies under policy CPO 6.41 their needs shall be supreme, except where the proposed development would be a likely traffic hazard or public health hazard.

With regard to the preservation of views and prospects, due consideration shall be given to those listed within the area of the National Park; and with respect to all other areas, to generally regard the amenity matters, but not to the exclusion of social and economic matters. The protection and conservation of views and prospects should not give rise to the prohibition of development, but development should be designed and located to minimise impact.

## CHAPTER 7 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### AMENDMENT V1 – 22

#### Section 7.1 Local Strategies

##### 7.1.4 Wicklow Children and Young People's Plan [CYPP] 2020-2022

Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee [CYPSC] was formally established in April 2011. The purpose of the Children and Young People's Services Committees is to secure better outcomes for children and young people through more effective co-operation and collaboration by existing services and through interventions at local level. Between 2011 and to date two action plans have been developed and implemented to address local needs as consistent with the national outcomes framework. The Wicklow CYPSC 2020-2022 Plan will continue to progress necessary work to meet ongoing and emerging needs.

CYPSC's work towards the five national outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. These are that children and young people

1. Are active and healthy, with positive physical and mental wellbeing
2. Are achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Are safe and protected from harm
4. Have economic security and opportunity
5. Are connected, respected and contributing to their world

The CYPP presents a coordinated interagency approach to the delivery of services to children and young people in Wicklow for 2020 to 2022 by all agencies in Wicklow. It reflects the priorities that have been identified from an analysis of the needs in the county and a commitment by members to address these needs over the three years of the plan. The voice of children and young people is represented and the CYPSC is committed to strengthening participation with children and young people further during the lifetime of this plan.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 23

#### Section 7.3 Social Infrastructure

##### 7.3.5 Allotments and community gardens

~~An emerging new form of open space is the use of land for allotments.~~ Interest and activity continues to grow in the use of land for allotments and community gardens. Allotment gardens allow a number of people to cultivate their own vegetables in individual plots/land parcels on lands owned by another private individual or body. The individual size of a plot/parcel ranges between 200-400sqm and often the plots include a shed for tools and shelter. The individual gardeners are usually organised in an allotment association which leases the land from the owner who may be a public, private or ecclesiastical entity, provided that it is only used for gardening (i.e. growing vegetables, fruits and flowers), but not for residential purposes. Unlike allotments which are plots of land that are worked on by individuals or families, a community garden is all about sharing – both the work and the harvest.

Public allotments and community gardens are becoming an increasingly important element of sustainable communities. They have a number of benefits including the promotion of healthy

lifestyles, biodiversity and providing a cheaper local and sustainable source of food. The Council supports the provision and wider distribution of such facilities across the County.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 24

### Section 7.3 Social Infrastructure

#### 7.3.6 Swimming

Swimming is a sport that enhances safety on and near water and is a form of physical activity that is particularly well-suited to lifelong participation. It is one of the few sports that is accessible by all ages, genders and abilities, regardless of fitness levels or health status. The importance of swimming as a sport in its own right and as a gateway to other sports including surfing, rowing, canoeing and kayaking is recognised in the National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027. The expansion and improvement of indoor and outdoor swimming facilities will be supported.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 25

### Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives

**CPO 7.1** To consult and engage with prescribed bodies, **National Governing Bodies of Sport**, local community interest groups and individuals during the local plan-making process for towns and villages to determine community / social infrastructure deficiencies and needs in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 26

### Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives

**CPO 7.5** Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure is adequate or is being provided to match the needs of new residents.

~~Where specified by the Planning Authority,~~ New significant<sup>18</sup> residential or mixed use development proposals (of which residential development forms a component), ~~may shall~~ be required to ~~provide a social and community facility/facilities as part of the proposed the developer or the developer may be required to carry out~~ **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.

New significant residential or mixed use development proposals shall be required to be accompanied by a 'Accessibility Report' that demonstrates that new residents / occupants / employees (including children and those with special mobility needs) will be able to safely access through means other than the private car:

<sup>18</sup> Being defined as developments in excess of 50 units of housing in any settlements in Levels 1-4 in the hierarchy, 25 housing units in Levels 5-10, and **all developments** in excess of 500m distance to a public transport service, as well as other format / sizes / locations are may be deemed necessary by the Local Authority.



- a) local services including shops, schools, health care and recreational **and sports** facilities, and
- b) public transport services.

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/quality of existing or planned linkages as part of the local area plan preparation.

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 27**

#### **Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives**

**CPO7.14** Where practicable, education, community, recreational and open space facilities shall be clustered. However, schools shall continue to make provision for their own recreational facilities as appropriate. **The need for schools to have access to local sports and swimming facilities is also recognised and will be taken into account when considering the need and planning and development of such facilities.**

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 28**

#### **Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives**

**CPO 7.31** Support the objectives of public health policy including Healthy Ireland, **National Sports Policy** and the National Physical Activity Plan.

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 29**

#### **Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives**

**CPO 7.43** To **prioritise**, facilitate and support the development of a community swimming pool facility **and a sports complex** within the western region of the County, so located to achieve maximum accessibility to the residents of West Wicklow.

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 30**

#### **Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives**

**CPO 7.48** To **support and** facilitate the development of allotments **and community gardens**, of an appropriate scale, on lands which meet the following criteria:

- land situated within or immediately adjacent to the edge of towns/villages;
- land that is easily accessible to the residents of a particular town or village;
- where an adequate water supply can be provided;
- where adequate road infrastructure and access exists/can be provided; and
- where adequate parking facilities can be provided.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 31

### Section 7.4 Community Development Objectives

#### Residential & Day Care

**CPO7.XX** To provide for new nursing home / residential care facility for the elderly at location shown on Map 7.01:

- Kilmullen, Newcastle (c. 2ha)

To zone lands as shown on Map 7.01 below for nursing home use



## CHAPTER 8 BUILT HERITAGE

### AMENDMENT V1 – 32

#### Section 8.5 Built Heritage Objectives

##### Archaeology Objectives

- CPO 8.5** To facilitate new or improved public access to and erection of appropriate interpretive signage at National Monuments, archaeological sites, castles, sites of historic interest and archaeological landscapes in State or Local Authority or private ownership, as identified in Schedule 08.02 and Map 8.02 of this plan, in co-operation with landowners.

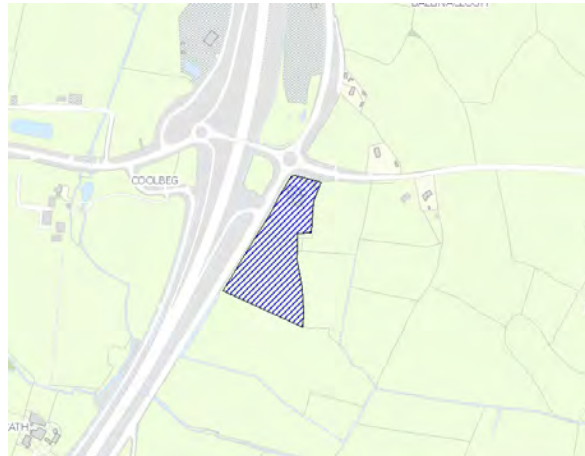
**CHAPTER 9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**AMENDMENT V1 – 33**

**Section 9.5 Objectives for Economic Development**

**CPO 9.16** To provide a Motorway Service Area at 'The Beehive', Coolbeg Cross (M11 Exit 18), as shown on Map 09.04

**Add new Map 09.04**



**AMENDMENT V1 – 34**

**Section 9.5 Objectives for Economic Development**

**Green Industry**

**CPO 9.21** To encourage and facilitate the 'circular economy' and the development of 'green' industries, including industries relating to renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, material / waste recycling and conservation.

**AMENDMENT V1 – 35**

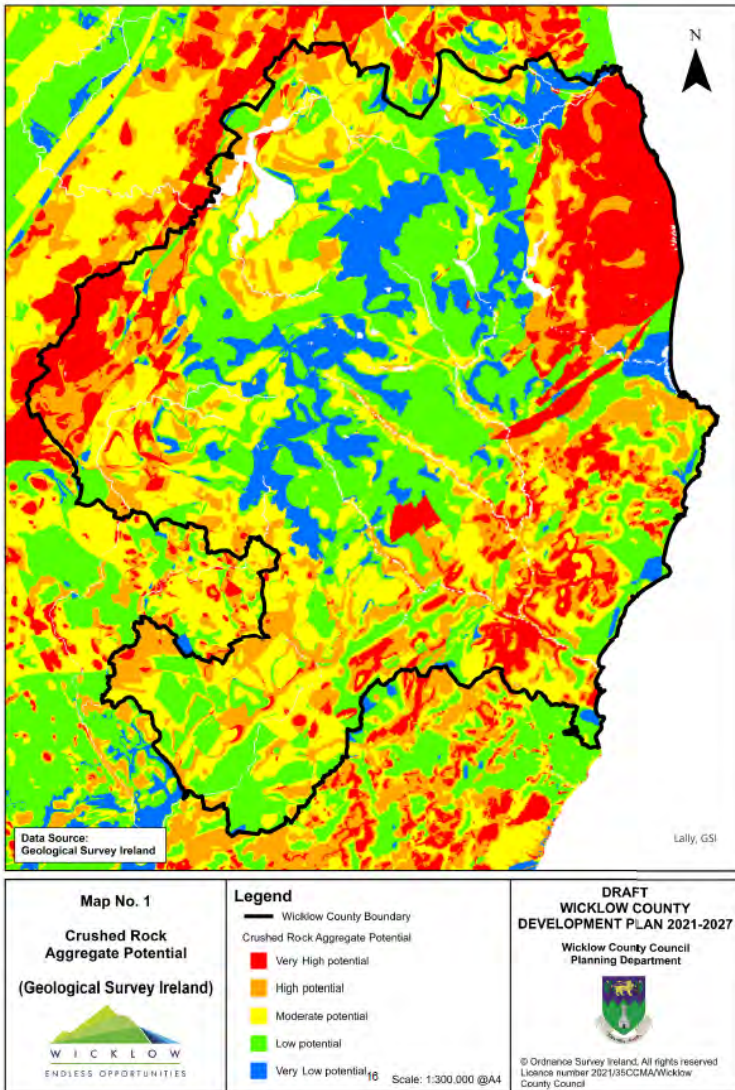
**Section 9.5 Objectives for Economic Development**

**Postal Facilities**

**CPO 9.31** To support the provision of new postal facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities at suitable locations in the County subject to proper planning and sustainable development.

**AMENDMENT V1 – 36**

Include map of 'Aggregates Potential' in the County



## CHAPTER 11 TOURISM AND RECREATION

### AMENDMENT V1 – 37

#### Section 11.0 Introduction

Tourism and recreation make a positive contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of County Wicklow. In 2017, 275,000 overseas tourists visited the County generating revenue of €73m with a further 319,000 352,000 domestic visitors generating an estimated €49m €53m in revenue. The tourism sector took a significant hit as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 38

#### Section 11.1.3 Fáilte Ireland Strategies

In March 2015, the Government published the Tourism Policy Statement People, Place and Policy – Tourism to 2025 which sets out clear and ambitious targets for the development of Irish tourism. The ambition 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.

Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Development & Innovation A Strategy for Investment 2016 – 2022 is a broad strategy for investment in the tourism sector and seeks to identify the areas of investment that need focus on what will deliver sustainable growth in the Irish tourism sector resulting in higher revenue and more jobs.

The tourism sector's best prospects for growth lie in generating increased levels of overseas revenue. The focus of the Government's 2025 Tourism Policy is to increase the economic contribution of tourism to the Irish economy, by increasing the value of tourism service exports.

Fáilte Ireland, the national tourism development authority, aims to develop, guide and promote tourism as a leading indigenous component of the Irish economy. Its current strategy for Wicklow is encompassed in the 'Ireland's Ancient East' programme.

Fáilte Ireland is in the process of preparing Regional Tourism Plans for each of the four Regional Experience Brands (Dublin, Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands). The purpose of the Regional Tourism Plans is to identify the sustainable tourism development priorities that will help to unlock the commercial potential of the region bringing benefits to all stakeholders and industry. Each plan will be prepared based on the VICE model which is a methodology for working towards sustainable tourism that seeks to strike an appropriate balance between the needs of the Visitor, the Industry and Community and the Environment. The plans will be for the period to 2025 and will be grounded in Fáilte Ireland's new Corporate Strategy. There will be a strong spatial element to the plans which will seek to identify where development should take place in order to unlock the tourism potential of the region.

The Regional Tourism Plans will also provide a strategic framework for a suite of Destination and Experience Development Plans (DEDPs) which will sit underneath them. They will set out the overall goals of each of the proposed DEDPs as well as the timing and sequence for the preparation of these plans.

## Ireland's Ancient East

Ireland's Ancient East (IAE) has been developed by Fáilte Ireland as a branded visitor experience encompassing the rich heritage and cultural assets that Ireland has to offer in the midlands/eastern half of the country. The initiative is designed to allow visitors peel back the layers of time and to go off the beaten track to experience thousands of years of history. Covering the South and East and part of the Midlands, it focuses on the wealth of cultural and heritage attractions in the area. The new destination brand has been designed to appeal to the key customer segments – namely the Culturally Curious and the Great Escapers, and to present this large geographic area in a cohesive and unified manner. Fáilte Ireland has established a strategic partnership with the OPW which will enable key heritage assets to be opened and made accessible through a sensitive, sustainable tourism approach.

The key strategic objectives of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative are:

- To drive growth in international visitor numbers, tourism revenue and associated tourism employment in the regions which currently underperform in these areas.
- To move Ireland's east and south from a transit and day tripping zone to a destination which attracts international overnight visitors.
- To develop a world class visitor experience, which delivers fully on the brand promise.
- To differentiate the Ireland's East and South destination, within the international tourism marketplace, on the basis of the quality of its heritage experiences and a clear and memorable narrative, which links all experiences within it.
- To disperse visitor traffic across the geography by encouraging the exploration of both the well-known attractions (in some cases congested) and lesser known sites and experiences (hidden gems).
- To ensure Ireland's Ancient East **Regional Experience Brand** is delivered in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism, ensuring that economic, social and environmental benefits are delivered in a balanced way.

## Destination Experience Development Plans

The role of Fáilte Ireland's Destination Experience Development Plans (DEDP's) for Wicklow County is to support the development of world-class experiences focused on the region's rich ancient heritage while adding to the overall destination proposition. Wicklow has benefited previously through the Tales of Two Worlds plan which had a particular focus on the Great Houses and Gardens of the region. While that plan is now complete, Fáilte Ireland aims to continue to develop DEDP's to address experience development gaps across the region. These plans will provide the context for tourism operators and stakeholders to work in partnership, create new and improved existing visitor experiences, and communicate coherent and unified stories to the visitor.

**AMENDMENT V1 – 39****Section 11.2 Strategy for Tourism & Recreation****Outdoor Recreation**

Wicklow has excellent outdoor recreation assets including the Wicklow mountains, forests, lakes, rivers and beaches. It has the capacity to become a year round international outdoor activity destination.

Wicklow Mountains National Park covers 20,000 hectares making it the largest national park in Ireland. The Park is an invaluable recreational space for locals and tourists. The most visited area is Glendalough, which attracted ~~732,824~~ 732,362 visitors in 2019 and was ~~third~~ fourth on Ireland's top ten 'free to enter' attractions for 2019. Powerscourt House Gardens and Waterfall were ~~ninth~~ eighth on the top ten fee-charging attractions during 2019 with ~~472,523~~ 487,876 visitors.

The popularity of Glendalough as a tourism destination has created a number of challenges particularly in terms of access and visitor management. The County Council in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, NPWS and the OPW are in the process of creating a Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. In terms of sustainable tourism development it is important to manage access to the landscape at key points and to distribute visitors in a more sustainable manner.

There is potential to expand the network of walking routes connecting with the Wicklow Way and create a world-class network of trails. There is also potential to develop Wicklow as a destination for cycling and e-biking.

**Tourist Hubs and Destination Towns**

In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, the Planning Authority will support the development of Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones, Blessington, Baltinglass, Enniskerry and Rathdrum as significant tourism hubs. Many other settlements also act as tourism hubs but on a smaller scale. Many of the settlements surrounding the Wicklow Mountains act as tourist hubs including Laragh, Roundwood and Rathdrum. In addition, the Planning Authority will support the development of the south-west of the county, particularly for development related to rural, archaeological, heritage and outdoor recreational tourism and the urgent need for increased accommodation.

In particular, Wicklow-Rathnew has been identified by Fáilte Ireland and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly as a tourist destination town. The Planning Authority will support and facilitate the continued development of Wicklow-Rathnew as a tourist destination town.

~~Fáilte Ireland is actively developing visitor experience development plans such as the Vikings Visitor Experience Development Plan. This sets out to strengthen the county's offering as a Viking destination. Another bespoke programme is the 'Great houses and Gardens Experience'. The Council will support such programmes that help deliver sustainable tourism within the county.~~

Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority and Coillte, Ireland's largest commercial forestry company have announced plans to re-develop Avondale House and Forest Park into a state-of-the-art visitor attraction. A total of €8 million will be invested in the re-development of Avondale House and Forest Park with Fáilte Ireland contributing more than €6.1million to the project. The redevelopment of Avondale House and Forest Park is hugely significant from a tourism and economic perspective for Ireland's Ancient East and for Wicklow. The development of this new world class visitor experience provides a major opportunity for tourism businesses across Wicklow to leverage this significant investment.



Coillte in partnership with Fáilte Ireland are redeveloping Avondale House and Forest Park into a state-of-the-art visitor destination. The redevelopment is hugely significant from a tourism and economic perspective for the County and the region and has the potential to leverage further tourism development and investment.

The development of the Avonmore Way link bridge will facilitate an important link between Rathdrum and Laragh. This will be a significant addition to the County's tourism and recreation infrastructure.

The Planning Authority will support the development of a heritage and Famine remembrance walking trail linking the villages of Carnew and Shillelagh to allow the village of Carnew to be connected to the Arklow-Shillelagh greenway and thus benefit the regions tourism and recreation infrastructure.

## **AMENDMENT V1 – 40**

### **Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives**

#### **Accommodation**

**CPO 11.17** To facilitate the development of hostels and alternative accommodation offerings along established walking / hiking routes and adjacent to existing tourism / recreation facilities.

## **AMENDMENT V1 – 41**

### **Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives**

#### **Accommodation**

**CPO 11.XX** To resist consent for change of use of purpose built holiday homes to permanent residential use unless it can be demonstrated that the development would comply with relevant design standards for permanent occupation, as well as the development objectives including occupancy controls where applicable for that location, whether town, village or rural area.

## **AMENDMENT V1 – 42**

### **Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives**

#### **Other Visitor Facilities**

**CPO 11.25** To cooperate with Wicklow County Tourism, Bord Fáilte Ireland and other appropriate bodies in facilitating the development and erection of standardised and branded signage for tourism facilities and tourist attractions.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 43

#### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

##### Tourism & Recreation Infrastructure

**CPO 11.28** To support tourist/visitor park and ride facilities at appropriate locations that will facilitate access to upland amenity areas, as may be identified in the Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park Masterplan, or by strategies / plans of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee, Wicklow Tourism or other tourism agencies.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 44

#### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

##### Tourism and Recreation Themes & Products

**CPO 11.29** In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, to support the development of Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones - Delgany, Blessington, Baltinglass, Enniskerry, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum and Tinahely/ Shillelagh/Carnew (South West Wicklow) as tourism hubs.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 45

#### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

##### Tourism and Recreation Themes & Products

**CPO 11.31** To develop Wicklow-Rathnew as a recreation and tourism hub and its designation by Fáilte Ireland as a Destination Town due to its attractive coastal location, heritage assets and its proximity to key destinations such as the Wicklow Mountains, Glendalough and Brittas Bay and the key attractions within the town including the Wicklow Gaol, the Murrough, coastal walks, beaches, architectural heritage, sports facilities and as a terminus of the planned Greystones – Wicklow Coastal Route.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 46

#### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

##### Tourism and Recreation Themes & Products

**CPO 11.XX** Support the preparation, delivery and implementation of a Visitor Experience Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Plan for County Wicklow in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, NPWS and the OPW.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 47

### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

#### Tourism and Recreation Themes & Products

**CPO 11.XX** Support the development of Avondale House and Forest Park into a state of-the-art visitor attraction, including (but limited to) visitor information and orientation services, and outdoor recreational attractions and facilities, with strong linkages to Rathdrum and surrounding amenities and villages.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 48

### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

#### Tourism and Recreation Themes & Products

**CPO 11.34** To support the development of a strategic national network of walking, cycling, horse riding and water-based trails.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 49

### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

#### Tourism and Recreation Themes & Products

**CPO 11.37** To protect and enhance existing and support the development of new, walking, cycling and horse riding routes / trails, including facilities ancillary to trails (such as sign posting and car parks) and the development of linkages between trails in Wicklow and adjoining counties. In particular, to encourage and facilitate:

- on-road cycling routes across the Wicklow Mountains (in particular across the Sally Gap) and along coastal routes;
- the development of a new walking-route trail from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way;
- hill-walking trails in West Wicklow;
- the development of a lakeshore walk trail around the Vartry reservoir;
- the development of a walking-route trail along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass subject to consultation and agreement with landowners;
- the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road;
- The Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes).
- The Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells.
- 'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle.
- The development of an amenity and active travel walking-and-cycling route between the Bray Harbour area northwards to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown administrative area to provide for future connection to the proposed Woodbrook DART station.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 50

### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

#### Environmental Protection

**CPO 11.47** Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall ~~seek to~~ manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 51

### Section 11.3 Tourism & Recreation Objectives

#### Tourism Zoning

**CPO 11.XX** To provide for tourism development at Jack Whites, as shown on Map 11.05

**Add new Map 11.05**



## CHAPTER 12 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

### AMENDMENT V1 – 52

#### Section 12.0 Introduction

In particular, the achievement of the following goals shall be at the core of all aspects of the transportation objectives of this plan:

- Facilitating modal shift (compared to current modal split, as shown table to follow) to more sustainable transport options by:
  - Support of investment programmes and any associated infrastructure development that deliver improvements to public transport infrastructure and services, in particular the upgrading of the Dublin – Rosslare train line, improved DART Services, bringing the Luas or other mass transit to Bray and Fassaroe and the development of improved bus services in all parts of the County;
  - Promotion of development patterns that facilitate the delivery of local public transport links within towns (including feeder buses to train / Luas stations and other transport interchanges), between towns and in rural areas;
  - Promoting development of 'Park and Ride' facilities, particularly for access to public transport but also to encourage carpooling and discourage single occupancy vehicles;
  - Delivering improvements to the pedestrian environment and promoting walking as a mode of transport through the provision of new and improvement of existing walking facilities throughout the County;
  - Delivering improvements to cycling facilities and promoting cycling as a mode of transport through the provision of new and improvement of existing cycling facilities throughout the County;
  - Working with the NTA on the implementation of local projects which support pedestrian and cyclist permeability, safety and access to schools and public transport.
- Supporting the transition from existing fossil fuel vehicles to clean renewable vehicles, support and facilitate the transition to electric vehicle (EV) use, including measures for more recharging facilities and prioritise EV parking in central locations.
- More effectively managing vehicular traffic and car parking in town and village centres to make public transport, walking and cycling more attractive option for availing of town / village centre services.
- Facilitating the improvement of the existing road network, to enhance safety for all users, and to remove bottlenecks and hazards.
- Improving east – west linkages in the County, as well as linkages between the west and south of the County to other counties.
- Ensuring that vehicular and pedestrian environments can be used by all people, regardless of their age, size, disability or ability.

Modal Split (trips to work and school)	Active		Public Transport		Private vehicles	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Bray	21%	20%	21%	21%	58%	57%
Wicklow - Rathnew	18%	15%	8%	10%	74%	75%
Greystones- Delgany	10%	11%	22%	22%	68%	67%
Arklow	22%	24%	5%	5%	72%	71%
Blessington	19%	19%	9%	10%	72%	71%
Baltinglass	28%	34%	4%	4%	68%	62%
Enniskerry	6%	5%	18%	17%	76%	78%
Kilcoole	17%	17%	15%	16%	68%	67%
Newtown	12%	10%	17%	18%	71%	72%
Rathdrum	22%	24%	7%	6%	72%	70%

## AMENDMENT V1 – 53

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Sustainable Mobility Objectives

**CPO 12.3** In collaboration and with the support of the relevant transport agencies, to prepare and / or update existing Area Based Transport Assessments and Local Transport Plans for all towns in Levels 1-4 of the County settlement hierarchy, (namely Bray **and environs**, Wicklow – Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones – Delgany, Blessington, **Baltinglass, Enniskerry, Kilcoole**, Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy) and any other settlement where it is deemed necessary by the Planning Authority and utilise these assessments and plans to inform land use and investment decisions, **including the preparation of future Local Area Plans**.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 54

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Climate Action & Environmental Protection Objectives

**CPO 12.8** To require the implementation of the following standards for EV charging in new developments:

Building type		Requirement
New buildings and buildings undergoing major renovation	Non-residential buildings with more than 10 parking spaces within property boundary.	Installation of at least 1 recharging point. Installation of ducting infrastructure for at least 1 in 5 parking spaces.
	Residential multi-unit buildings.	Installation of 1 recharging point for every 10 car parking spaces (with a minimum 1 for developments under 10 spaces) Installation of ducting infrastructure for every parking space within property boundary.
New (single-unit residential) buildings	New 'own door' dwelling with car parking space located within the property boundary.	Installation of recharging points for electric vehicles on site.
New (single-unit residential) buildings	New 'own door' dwelling served by shared car parking areas or car parking spaces not within the dwelling site boundaries.	Installation of 1 recharging point for every 10 dwellings (with a minimum 1 for development under 10 dwellings) which is available to all residents Installation of ducting infrastructure for every parking space within development.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 55

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Public Transport Objectives

**CPO 12.20** To cooperate with the NTA and other relevant transport planning bodies in the delivery of a high quality, integrated **and accessible** transport system in County Wicklow.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 56

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Public Transport Objectives

- CPO 12.21** To promote the development of transport interchanges and ‘nodes’ where a number of transport types can interchange with ease. In particular:
- to facilitate the development of park and ride facilities at appropriate locations along strategic transport corridors which will be identified through the carrying out of required coordinated, plan-led transport studies and consultation with the appropriate transport agencies and /or Regional Authority ;
  - to support and facilitate the enhancement of the strategic park and ride at Greystones as identified in the RSES;
  - to enhance existing parking facilities at / near and the improvement of bus links to the train stations in Bray, Greystones, **Kilcoole**, Rathdrum, Wicklow and Arklow;
  - to require electric vehicle charging points to be incorporated into all car parks at public transport nodes;
  - to promote car sharing parking spaces at premium locations in car parks;
  - to promote the linkage of the Luas extension or other mass transit to Bray town centre, Bray train station and Fassaroe;
  - to promote the Luas extension from City West/ Tallaght to Blessington;
  - **to support the enhancement of public transport services and infrastructure in West Wicklow and in particular to support the improvement of bus services / bus priority on the N81, bus linkages to rail stations and the development of park-and-ride facilities at strategic locations;**
  - **to encourage** the improvement of bicycle parking facilities at all transport interchanges;
  - to improve existing and provide new footpath / footway linkages to existing / future transport interchange locations; and
  - to support the development of bus shelters,~~that shall incorporate disabled access~~ and bicycle parking facilities where possible.
  - **to promote and support the development of fully accessible public transport services and infrastructure, that can be used by all people, regardless of their age, size, disability or ability.**

## AMENDMENT V1 – 57

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Public Transport Objectives

- CPO 12.22** To continue to work with Iarnród Éireann and the NTA on the improvement of mainline train and DART services into Wicklow and in particular,
- To facilitate all options available to increase capacity through Bray Head ~~and along the coastal route south of Greystones.~~
  - **To support the delivery of the DART + programme**
  - **To support electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and the provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow.**

## AMENDMENT V1 – 58

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Public Transport Objectives

- CPO 12.23** To ensure the continued and long term operation of and ~~that possibilities for~~ improvement of the Dublin – Rosslare line, including the re-opening of closed stations, are maintained and to ensure that land uses adjacent to former stations are appropriate and can facilitate future improvements. In particular:
- to ensure coastal protection measures are put in place to protect the railway line from coastal erosion and to consider identifying corridor options for route continuity in the event of coastal land loss.
  - to resist any development within 20m of the railway line;
  - to resist demolition or removal of any former train station structures or apparatus, other than for safety reasons;
  - to require any development proposals in the vicinity of former train stations to be so designed to facilitate future access to the station and to reserve adequate space for future car parking

## AMENDMENT V1 – 59

### Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives

#### Public Transport Objectives

- ~~CPO 12.24~~ ~~To support the undertaking of a study to assess the feasibility of extending regular rail services to south Wicklow.~~



**AMENDMENT V1 – 60****Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives****Public Transport Objectives**

- CPO 12.27** To promote the delivery of improved and new bus services both in and out of the County but also within the County by:
- supporting the development and delivery of bus service enhancement projects, including BusConnects and measures to improve bus priority such as additional bus lanes and priority signalling etc as may be deemed appropriate;
  - facilitating the needs of existing or new bus providers with regard to bus stops and garaging facilities (although unnecessary duplication of bus stops on the same routes / roads will not be permitted);
  - requiring the developers of large-scale new employment and residential developments in the designated key towns in the County that are distant (more than 2km) from train / Luas stations to fund / provide feeder bus services for an initial period of at least 3 years;
  - promoting the growth of designated settlements to a critical mass to make bus services viable and more likely to continue;
  - provision of bus lanes on M11 / N11;
  - to work with Bus Eireann and the NTA to improve services in south and west Wicklow.

**AMENDMENT V1 – 61****Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives****General Road Objectives**

- CPO 12.36** Objectives for the M/N11:
- Upgrading of the N11/M11 between the northern County boundary to Junction 14 Coyne's Cross in line with the conclusions of the on-going N11/M11 upgrade study, including enhanced road capacity, ancillary and associated road schemes, provide additional lanes, and safety improvements to the main carriageway and all necessary improvements to associated junctions (including service roads and linkages to cater for local traffic movements);
  - ~~Improving the M11 / M50 merge;~~ Improving the downstream southbound capacity of the N11/M11 south of the M50 to alleviate issues at the M50 / M11 merge;
  - Upgrading the N11 interchange at the Glen of the Downs to facilitate the provision of a northern link road from the N11 to Greystones;
  - Upgrade Ballyronan Interchange to facilitate improved access to Newtownmountkennedy ~~and a possible link road from Ballyronan to Kilcoole;~~
  - The provision of a third interchange on the Arklow by-pass, linking the M11 to Vale Road.

## **AMENDMENT V1 – 62**

### **Section 12.8 Sustainable Transportation Objectives**

#### **Strategic Sites in Bray Objectives**

- CPO 12.66** To continue to work with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and the transport agencies to facilitate the delivery of key enabling infrastructure required to develop the two strategic sites, especially for the westward extension of the town to Fassaroe, including Bray-Fassaroe public transport links and road improvements; **and the development of an amenity and active travel walking and cycling route between the Bray Harbour area northwards to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown administrative area to provide for future connection to the proposed Woodbrook DART station.**

**CHAPTER 14 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT****AMENDMENT V1 – 63****Section 14.4 Flood Risk Management Objectives**

**CPO 14.05** To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, in particular:

- Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme;
- Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme;
- Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme;
- Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows.

and ensure that development proposals support, and do not impede or prevent, progression of such schemes

**CHAPTER 16 INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND ENERGY****AMENDMENT V1 – 64****Section 16.2 Energy Infrastructure****16.2.1 Electricity Generation**

In accordance with the provisions of section 28(1C) of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended), and having regard to the Government's commitment in the *Climate Action Plan 2019* to achieve 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 (adding 12GW of renewable energy capacity nationally), National Policy Objective 55 which promotes renewable energy use and generation to meet national targets, and section 28 guidelines *Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006* and the *Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change 2017*, the development plan aims to put in place the appropriate supports that will allow County Wicklow to contribute its share of the additional on-shore national renewable electricity target, which estimated to be **255MW**.

**Footnote:** *With respect to meeting the County's share of national renewable energy targets, having regard to the national target of 12GW, and of this the wind energy targets being +3.5GW of off-shore wind energy and +4.2GW of additional on-shore wind energy (source: 2019 Climate Action Plan), County Wicklow should endeavour to deliver 3% of the on-shore growth requirement (Wicklow comprising 3% of the land mass of the Republic of Ireland), which equates to +255MW.*

**AMENDMENT V1 – 65****Section 16.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications Objectives****General Energy Objectives**

**CPO 16.XX** 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.

**AMENDMENT V1 – 66****Section 16.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications Objectives****General Energy Objectives**

**CPO 16.XX** 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

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 67**

#### **Section 16.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications Objectives**

##### **General Energy Objectives**

**CPO 16.XX** To support and promote the development of ‘Sustainable Energy Communities’ and in particular to encourage and facilitate developments that are energy neutral / low emission, integrate renewable energy technology or involve local renewable energy production.

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 68**

#### **Section 16.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications Objectives**

##### **General Energy Objectives**

**CPO 16.XX** To support the research and development of green hydrogen as a fuel for power generation, manufacturing, energy storage and transport.

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 69**

#### **Section 16.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications Objectives**

##### **Bio Energy Objectives**

**CPO 16.9** To facilitate the development of projects that convert biomass to gas or electricity, **subject to demonstration that such projects are resource efficient having regard to carbon emissions resulting from the growth, harvesting and transport of inputs, and do not result in unsustainable climate damaging agricultural intensification**

### **AMENDMENT V1 – 70**

#### **Section 16.3 Energy Infrastructure and Communications Objective**

##### **Transport Energy Objectives**

**CPO 16.26** To facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric vehicles and **other low emission alternative vehicles / fuel types**, including the roll-out of additional electric charging points **and alternative fuel distribution infrastructure** in collaboration with relevant agencies, at appropriate locations.

## CHAPTER 17 NATURAL HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### AMENDMENT V1 – 71

#### Section 17.0 Introduction

Natural heritage includes the variety of life, often referred to as biodiversity, its physical or geological foundation, and the landscapes which form the surrounding environment. Wicklow supports a good diversity of natural and semi natural habitats such as marine, coastal, wetland, woodland, lake, river and uplands that in turn support a wide range of associated wild plant and animal species. There are also many geological heritage sites of interest in the County which are an important element of the natural heritage. The conservation and management of the natural environment must be viewed as a central element in the long-term economic and social development of the County. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and landscapes is vital for the health, well-being and quality of life of communities today ~~and will also be vitally important in the future in adapting to climate change~~ and it has a vital role to play in our response to the climate emergency.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 72

#### Section 17.4 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity Objectives

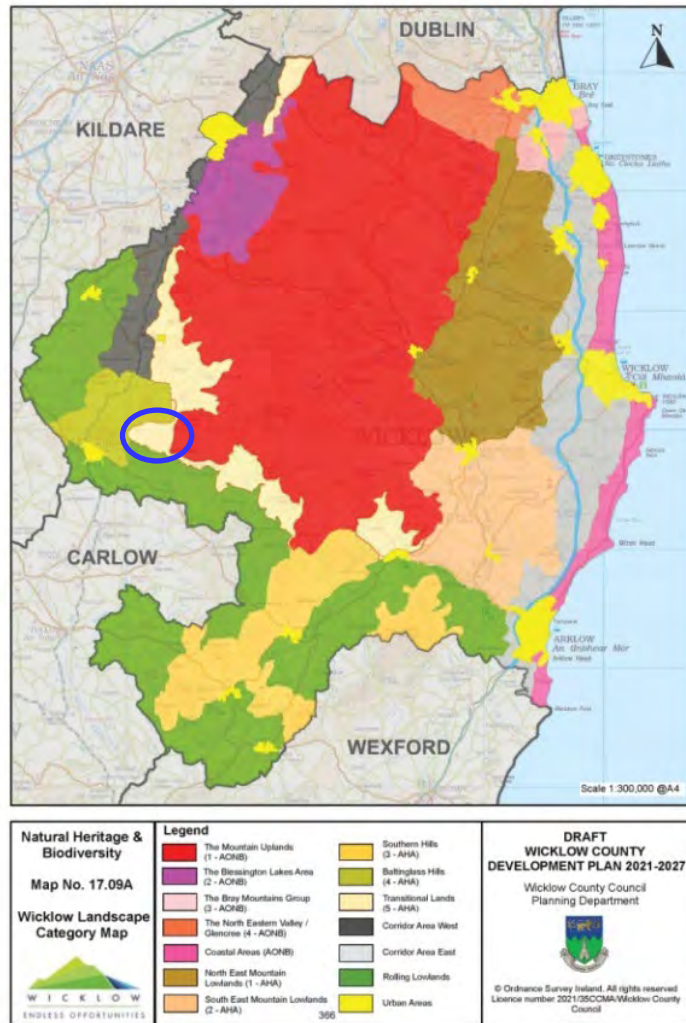
##### Woodlands, trees & hedgerows

- CPO 17.18** To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interests of the **long-term sustainability of a stable ecosystem** amenity or and the environment generally, as set out in Schedule 17.05 A and B, and Maps 17.05 and 17.05A - H of this plan.
- CPO 17.19** To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high **amenity** value ~~where it appears that they are in danger of being felled~~ **generally and in particular where it appears that they are in danger of being felled and in response to requests from local communities.**
- CPO 17.21** To **strongly** discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and to encourage tree surgery rather than felling ~~where possible~~ if such is **essential to enable development to proceed.**
- CPO 17.22** To **encourage 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 to require the planting of native broad-leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.
- CPO 17.23** To **encourage require** the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).

**AMENDMENT V1 – 73**

**Landscape Category Maps - 17.09A, 17.09B, 17.09C**

Change area marked from 'Area of High Amenity' to 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'



## CHAPTER 18 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

### AMENDMENT V1 – 74

#### Section 18.1 Statutory & Policy Context

##### Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF)

In addition, a number of NPF National Policy Objectives address green infrastructure directly:

NPO 22	Facilitate tourism development and in particular a National Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level.
NPO 58	Integrated planning for Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services will be incorporated into the preparation of statutory land use plans.
NPO 64	Improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in our urban and rural areas through integrated land use and spatial planning that supports public transport, walking and cycling as more favourable modes of transport to the private car, the promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes, heating systems with zero local emissions, green infrastructure planning and innovative design solutions.

### AMENDMENT V1 – 75

#### Section 18.6 Green Infrastructure Objectives

- CPO 18.5** To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, **bridleways** and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.
- CPO 18.6** To promote and facilitate the development of coastal **paths trails** linking up with existing recreational **paths/strategic walkways/cycleways trails**, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.



## AMENDMENT V1 – 76

### Section 18.6 Green Infrastructure Objectives

#### Recreational Use of Natural Resources

**CPO 18.11** To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets. **Wicklow County Council prioritises environmental protection in our design and construction of routes and surface selection.**

In particular, to support the development of existing and examine the feasibility of new walking, ~~and~~ cycling, **horse riding and water based routes and** trails along the following routes:

- from Bray Head, via the Sugarloaf Mountains, joining up with The Wicklow Way;
- the extension of the 'Blessington Greenway' walk around the Phoulaphuca reservoir;
- the expansion of a lakeshore walk around the Vartry reservoir;
- the extension of the old Shillelagh branch recreational trail - railway walk from Arklow to Shillelagh;
- the development of a route along the disused Great Southern and Western Railway line (Naas to Tullow branch) through Dunlavin and Baltinglass.
- **the development of a coastal route from Bray to Arklow as well as links between this potential route and the coast road;**
- **the Wicklow Way and St. Kevin's Way (as permissive waymarked routes).**
- **the Wicklow to Glendalough "pilgrim walk" incorporating ancient wells.**
- **'Mountains to the Sea' amenity route incorporating Glendalough, Laragh, Annamoe, Roundwood, Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole-Newcastle.**

## AMENDMENT V1 – 77

### Section 18.6 Green Infrastructure Objectives

#### Public Rights of Way Objectives

**CPO 18.XX** The Council recognises the recreational and heritage conservation importance of the preservation protection, enhancement, maintenance and improvement, for the common good, of public rights of way providing access to seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational utility by ensuring that new developments do not materially restrict or block the routes [pathways/trackways/laneways] of those PROWs. Developments will not be permitted where the established recreational utility or otherwise of a PROW would be compromised or lost altogether, unless specific proposals are made by the developer as part of a planning application to:

- (a) Develop a new route-way to replace the route-way of the existing PROW in full or to realign a section of such a route-way, in manner that ensures that new route-way/realigned section of route-way is of similar character, capacity and function of the route/part of a route of the PROW that it is to replace;
- (b) Appropriate legal procedures have been undertaken to extinguish the existing PROW [or part thereof] and to establish an entirely new route way or a realigned section of the existing route of a PROW.

## CHAPTER 19 MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

### AMENDMENT V1 – 78

#### Section 19.1 Legislative & Strategic Context

##### National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

The NMPF, **launched in July 2021**, is a national plan for Ireland's maritime area, setting out over a 20 year horizon, how we want to use, protect and enjoy our seas. **The NMPF details how all marine based human activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of our marine resources to 2040.** The NMPF sits at the top of the hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area. The plan has been informed by existing sectoral plans and will, in turn, be used to inform future cycles of those plans in an ongoing feedback loop. It provides a coherent framework in which those sectoral policies and objectives can be realised. It will become the key decision-making tool for regulatory authorities and policy makers into the future in a number of ways including decisions on individual consent applications which will have to secure the objectives of the plan, similar to the way that terrestrial plans form part of the decision-making tool-kit in the on-land planning process.

~~'Towards a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland – a roadmap for the development of Ireland's first marine spatial plan' was published by the Government in December 2017. It sets out four broad stages in the development of the plan:~~

- ~~▪ Stage 1, of which the Roadmap formed a central part, was the start-up or activation phase during which the Government's proposed approach to developing MSP was announced and initial contact made with stakeholders. This ran until end 2017;~~
- ~~▪ Stage 2, the main development stage, commenced in Q1 2018 and ran until early 2020. It involved preparation and publishing for public consultation the Draft NMPF and associated environmental reports;~~
- ~~▪ Stage 3 will be the finalisation phase during which the Draft NMPF and associated environmental reports will be amended as required based on the feedback received in the public consultation. The final NMPF and associated environmental reports will be prepared for submission to Government and adoption by the Oireachtas before forwarding to the European Commission ahead of the March 2021 deadline set out under the Directive;~~
- ~~▪ Stage 4 is implementation, monitoring, enforcement and review commencing on adoption of the NMPF. The draft NMPF was published in late 2019, and following public consultation, work is ongoing to finalise the framework.~~

The County Development Plan must be consistent with the approved NMPF, with common policy areas including 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. When dealing with an application in the maritime area it is important to refer to the NMPF as a key policy document along with any other relevant government guidance / policy.

#### **Marine Planning and Development Management Bill 2019-Maritime Area Planning Act 2021**

**This legislation has put in place a comprehensive and coherent planning system for the entire Maritime Area.** This Act ~~seeks to establish in law a new regime for maritime areas,~~ **streamlined existing previous arrangements,** to allow for a single consent principle (eliminate the duplication of development management processes for activities or developments that are currently assessed under both the foreshore and planning regimes with the introduction of a single process administered by local authorities / An Bord Pleanála). One of

the main features is to extend the existing planning permission functions of coastal local authorities to the outer limit of a newly defined nearshore<sup>19</sup>.

~~The Bill has a focus on marine forward planning, with the introduction of statutory marine planning guidelines and to ensure decisions are taken in a manner that secure the objectives of the NMPF. It also provides for transitional arrangements including, inter alia, a future development management pathway for offshore renewable energy projects and for a system of designation of Strategic Marine Activity Zones.~~

The constituent elements of this system are: (1) Forward Planning; (2) Development Management; and (3) Enforcement. The Act also has established a new agency, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 79

### Section 19.1 Legislative & Strategic Context

#### National Planning Framework (NPF)

The NPF recognises that our coastal areas play a variety of roles, across a number of sectors and are an important asset for future development of the Country. It identifies that sustainable utilisation of Ireland’s marine resources, particularly in the nearshore, is dependent to a significant degree on how we manage our resources on land, and that there are many shared aims and overlapping areas of co-ordination and activity between marine spatial planning and land-use planning.

<b>Areas of Overlap for Co-ordination</b>	<p><b>Sectoral:</b> Community Development &amp; Public Consultation; Economic Development; Transport – Ports and Harbours; Energy – Electricity &amp; Renewable Energy; Fishing; Aquaculture &amp; Mariculture; Social and Culture; Tourism &amp; Leisure; Flood Protection; Extraction; Enabling Infrastructure; Health &amp; Safety; Communications</p> <p><b>Environment:</b> Sustainable Use of Resources; Climate Change Adaptation; Water Quality; Coastal Erosion &amp; Accretion; Protected Sites and Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Flooding; Biodiversity; Landscape and Seascape</p> <p><b>Governance:</b> Regulation and Licensing; Consent process for onshore and offshore development and activities; Responsibilities for managing activities in areas of land-sea interaction</p> <p><b>Data:</b> Research including spatial data management; cumulative effects; evidence base; socio-economic profiles</p>
<b>NPO 41a</b>	Ensure that Ireland’s coastal resource is managed to sustain its physical character and environmental quality.

<sup>19</sup> Part 2 of the Act provides for the designation of a new nearshore area in which coastal local authorities will exercise certain planning and enforcement functions.

## AMENDMENT V1 – 80

### Section 19.4 Marine Spatial Planning and Coastal Zone Management Objectives

#### Marine Planning Objectives

- CPO19.1** To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:
- the National Marine Planning Framework; ~~following its adoption,~~ and
  - the ~~Marine Planning and Development Management Act~~ **Maritime Area Planning Act**.
- CPO19.2** To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas;
- the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework ~~(following its adoption);~~
  - the implementation of ~~any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act~~ **Maritime Area Planning Act** in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority,
  - the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow,
  - the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area.

**VOLUME TWO PLANS****LEVEL 4 PLANS INTRODUCTION****AMENDMENT V2 – 81****Part 1.1 Introduction to Level 4 Plans - General Objectives****Section 1.1.3 Economic Development & Employment**

Depending on their degree of accessibility, scale of population / workforce and market catchment, and the availability of support services, the Level 4 towns have varying roles to play in acting as attractors for foreign and local investment. Level 4 settlements are likely to perform a lesser function in terms of attracting foreign investment than Level 1-3 settlements; however historical foreign investment and local characteristics may support the ability of these towns to attract this scale and type of investment into the future. Generally, towns of this scale are particularly suited to attracting local investment and should aim to target investment in the form of local services, 'product intensive' industries, particularly those linked to rural resources, such as food processing, agricultural services and tourist facilities / accommodation.

The factors that make a town economically viable and attractive to investors and visitors are numerous and often hard to predict and influence, but for the purpose of these land use plans, the strategy for economic development will be based around:

- a) providing a land-use framework for each town, which makes the Council's requirements and expectations with respect to the location and type of new employment generating development abundantly clear;
- b) supporting and facilitating, to the highest degree possible (subject to environmental and other relevant planning considerations) all forms of employment generation and in particular, to encourage employment and commercial uses as a key activity in the town centre;
- c) a focus on 'placemaking' to create attractive and sustainable communities, with high quality services and public realm, to create attractive places to live, work, visit and invest.

An established measure of the employment 'health' of a settlement is a measure called the 'jobs ratio'. This is the relationship between the resident workers and the number of jobs in any defined area. A healthy area is considered to be one where the jobs ratio exceeds 70%<sup>1</sup>. Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy and Rathdrum in 2016 all had jobs ratio in excess of 70%, all in or around 80%. This reflects the important role these towns play in the economic development and support of their hinterlands. It is important that this high level of employment is maintained into the future as resident population grows, and is developed further in an environmentally sustainable manner, with a particular focus on growing employment and businesses in the town centre and other already built up areas, densifying existing employment area, and targeting growth at locations that are the most sustainable in terms of accessibility. In this regard, it is the objective of the CDP to increase the jobs ratio in Level 4 towns by a minimum of 25% up to 2031.

This table also show the amount of land proposed to be zoned in each town for new employment. While it is assumed that a proportion of jobs growth will occur in the town centres and other mixed use lands that are not specifically zoned for employment alone, or will occur on existing developed employment land through intensification, sufficient zoned employment land is zoned in each town to meet all of the jobs growth required, on the assumption of 80 employees per hectare, plus an additional 'headroom' of 100% to ensure that there will be no shortage of site choice for developers of new employment.

<sup>1</sup> As per RSES Appendix A - data and indicators

LEVEL 4	Jobs ratio 2016	Targeted future jobs ratio 2031	Jobs growth targeted up to 2031	Quantum of zoned employment land (ha)
Baltinglass	0.81	1.01	+500	13
Enniskerry	0.33	0.41	+100	1 <sup>2</sup>
Kilcoole	0.46	0.57	+100	10 <sup>2</sup>
Newtownmountkennedy	0.78	0.97	+1,100	28
Rathdrum	0.82	1.03	+600	15

## AMENDMENT V2 – 82

### Part 1.1 Introduction to Level 4 Plans - General Objectives

#### Section 1.1.10 Flood Risk Assessment

As part of each plan addressed in this appendix, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been carried out. The assessment is presented as part of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment appendix of the County Plan. All applications shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines (DoEHLG 2009) and the flood management objectives of the County Development Plan.

Where existing development is located within Flood Zones A or B, new development shall be limited to minor development only; any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

Any proposals for new development in Flood Zones A or B shall be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, where the lands at risk of flooding form part of a larger development site, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.

## AMENDMENT V2 – 83

### Part 1.2 Introduction to Level 4 Plans - Zoning & Land Use

#### Section 1.2.1 Zoning Objectives

Uses generally appropriate for **employment (E)** zoned land include general and light industry, office uses, enterprise units, appropriate warehousing, petrol filling stations (as deemed appropriate), public transport depots, open space **including sports grounds**, community facilities **including community and sports centres**, utility installations and ancillary developments for employment and industry uses in accordance with the CDP.

<sup>2</sup> To be reviewed in the next LAP to be commensurate with the employment growth objective

**LEVEL 4 BALTINGLASS**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 84**

**Section 2.5 Town Centre & Retail**

**BALT X1:** To facilitate and support the development of a new supermarket on land zoned town centre that will improve the retail offer for Baltinglass and the surrounding area and will support a healthy and vibrant town centre.

**AMENDMENT V2 – 85**

**Section 2.6 Social & Community Development**

**BALT X2:** To support and facilitate the development of a multi-purpose sports campus in Baltinglass

**AMENDMENT V2 – 86**

**Section 2.9 Action Area Plans & Specific Local Objectives**

**Action Area 1**

This Action Area is located on lands west of the River Slaney, accessed off the N81 national secondary route. The subject lands measure c. 30ha and include:

- c. 3.8ha zoned for new residential development
- c.1.3ha zoned for mixed use
- c. 3.4ha zoned for Active Open Space
- c. 4.4ha zoned for Open Space (OS1)
- c. 6ha zoned as passive open space (OS2)
- c. 10.5 zoned for employment development

Permission was granted in 2019 for 55 housing units on part of the lands zoned for 'new residential'. Any further applications for permission or amendments to the parent permission in this action area plan shall comply with the provisions of this updated town plan.

This action area plan shall be developed in accordance with the following criteria:

- The residential element of the action area shall be designed and laid out in a manner which addresses the N81 national secondary route, providing for an open space green area adjoining the western boundary.
- Only a single vehicular access point shall be permitted into this action area. The internal road network serving this area shall be designed so as to provide a spine route off the N81 between the residential open space sector and employment zones.
- The mixed use zone shall be reserved for the development of a discount foodstore.
- No further permission shall be granted in AA1 unless accompanied by a programme for the delivery of a active open space zone of not less than 2ha and an amenity park on the land zoned 'OS1' and dedicated to the public along the river. The developer shall be responsible for landscaping of this area and providing suitable access and lighting / furniture and for safeguarding the integrity of the route of the old railway line as part of a possible longer amenity route.
- Developments adjoining the designated open spaces shall be so designed and units so orientated as to allow for passive supervision and easy access to the open spaces; in particular, no structures shall back onto

~~open spaces and residential open spaces shall be designed where possible to flow into the larger open space areas.~~

~~The development of the action area shall ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the open space and conservation area adjoining the River Slaney.~~

## 2.9 Specific Local Objectives

### SLO-1

This area is located on lands west of the River Slaney, accessed off the N81 national secondary route. The subject lands measure c. 10ha and include c. 3.8ha zoned for new residential development, 1.3ha zoned for 'mixed use' and 4.95ha zoned for open spaces use (AOS, OS1, OS2).

Permission was granted in 2019 for 55 housing units on part of the lands zoned for 'new residential'. Any further applications for permission or amendments to the parent permission in this SLO area shall comply with the provisions of this updated town plan.

This SLO shall be developed in accordance with the following criteria:

- The residential element of the action area shall be designed and laid out in a manner which addresses the N81 national secondary route, providing for an open space green area adjoining the western boundary.
- Access into these lands shall be so located and designed as to provide for access from the N81 into SLO-2;
- No further permission shall be granted in SLO-1 unless accompanied by a programme for the delivery of an active open space zone of not less than 2ha on lands zoned AOS and an amenity park of not less than 2.5ha on the land zoned OS1 and dedicated to the public along the river, which shall be laid out and designed in such a way as to safeguard the integrity of the route of the old railway line as part of a possible longer amenity route.
- Developments adjoining the designated open spaces shall be so designed and units so orientated as to allow for passive supervision and easy access to the open spaces; in particular, no structures shall back onto open spaces and residential open spaces shall be designed where possible to flow into the larger open space areas.
- The development of the action area shall ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the open space and conservation area adjoining the River Slaney.

### SLO-2

This area is located on lands west of the River Slaney, proximate to the N81 national secondary route. The subject lands measure c. 18ha and include c. 10.5ha zoned for employment use, and 7.5ha zoned for open space uses (OS1 and OS2).

This SLO shall be developed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Access into these lands shall be via SLO-1 unless a suitable alternative from the N81 is determined which does not prejudice access to SLO-1
- No permission shall be granted in SLO-2 unless accompanied by a programme for the delivery of an amenity park of not less than 3ha on the land zoned 'OS1' and dedicated to the public along the river, which shall be laid out and designed in such a way as to safeguard the integrity of the route of the old railway line as part of a possible longer amenity route.
- Developments adjoining the designated open spaces shall be so designed and units so orientated as to allow for passive supervision and easy access to the open spaces; in particular, no structures shall back onto open spaces and development open spaces shall be designed where possible to flow into the larger open space areas.
- The development of the action area shall ensure adequate protection and enhancement of the open space and conservation area adjoining the River Slaney.

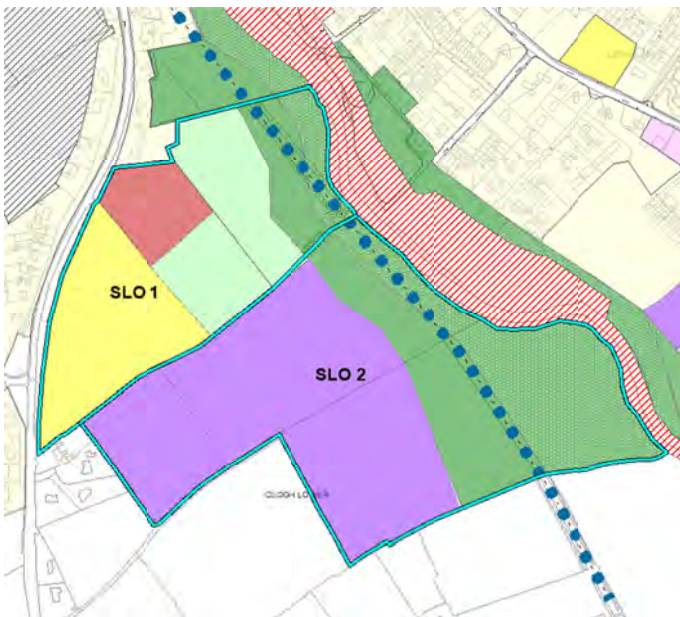


**Land Use Map**

**Change from:**



**Change to:**



## AMENDMENT V2 – 87

### Section 2.9 ~~Action Area Plans &~~ Specific Local Objectives

#### SLO – 3

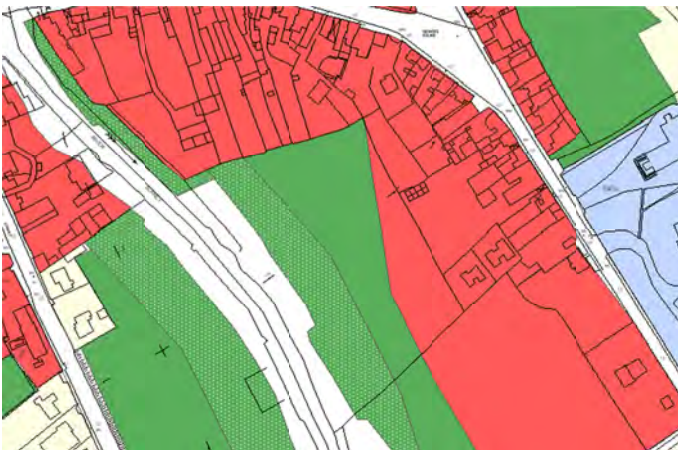
This area is located on lands east of the River Slaney, south of Market Square. The subject lands measure c. 1ha and are zoned for tourism use. Parts of these lands are in Flood Zones A and B.

This SLO shall be developed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Only 'water compatible development' as defined by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines' (OPW / DEHLG 2009) may occur in areas identified in this plan SFRA or any future site specific flood risk assessment as being in Flood Zone A;
- Only 'water compatible development' or 'less vulnerable development' as defined by the Guidelines may occur in areas identified in this plan SFRA or any future site specific flood risk assessment as being in Flood Zone B;
- Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Slaney SAC or any other European site (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 zoning<sup>3</sup>. Any development proposals will be required to 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.

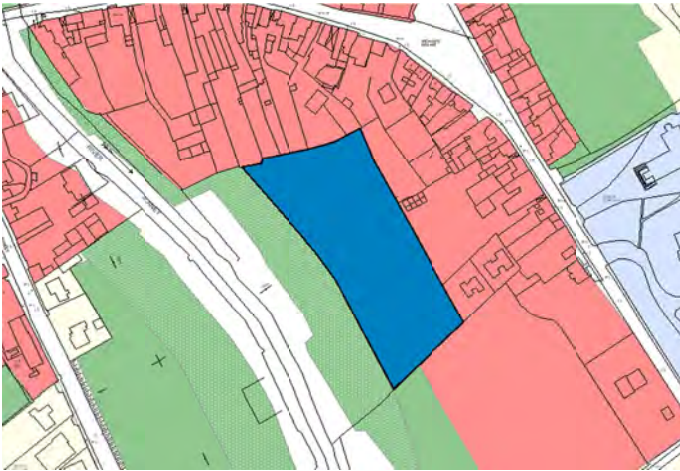
#### Land Use Map

**Change from:** Open Space (OS1) and Town Centre (TC)



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

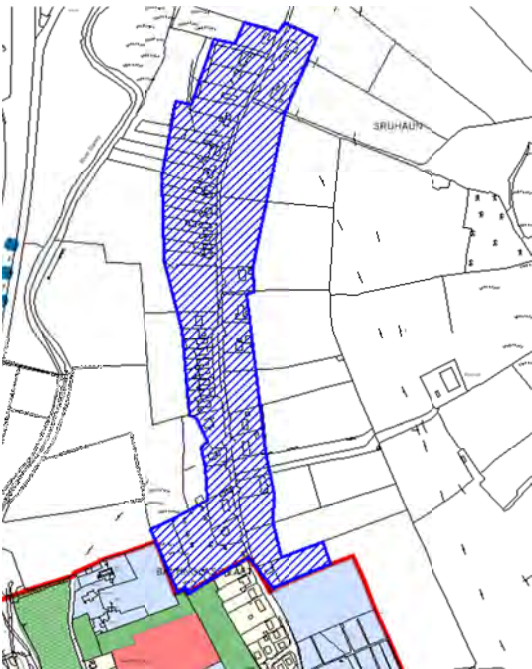
**Change to Tourism (T) + Specific Local Objective SLO3**



**AMENDMENT V2 – 88**

**Land Use Map**

- (a) Amend the settlement boundary to include the land shown in blue on map below, and
- (b) To zone these lands as 'RE - Existing Residential'.



**LEVEL 4 NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 89**

**Section 3.9 Action Areas & Specific Local Objectives**

**Add new ‘SLO - Specific Local Objective’**

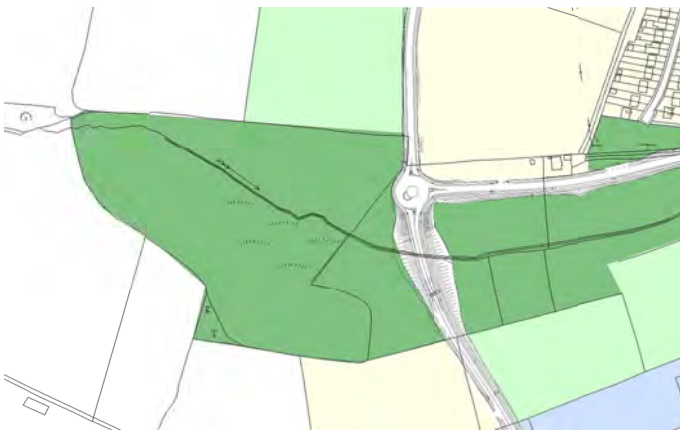
**SLO-1**

This SLO is located to the west of the new distributor road, adjoining land identified for a future parkland along the river. This SLO measures c. 5.7ha and shall be developed as an Open Space and Community development in accordance with the following criteria:

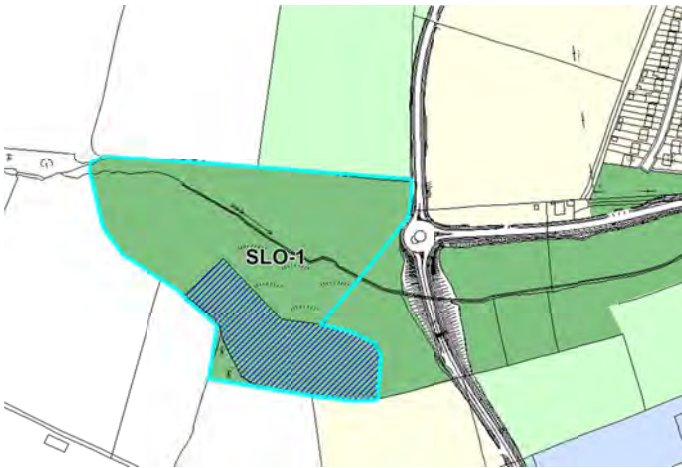
- Not less than 4ha shall be laid out and dedicated to the public as public parkland, in conjunction with the design for the adjoining development;
- A maximum area of c. 1.6ha on lands zoned CE may be developed for nursing home use
- The design of any such development shall integrate into the parkland setting and shall provide for passive supervision of the parkland area; where any access roads are required across land zone OS they shall be so designed as to allow the park, and users of same, to flow safely across;
- No construction may commence on the nursing home until this park is completed and open to the public.

**Land Use Map**

**Change from: OS1**



**Change to: OS1 & CE (hatch blue area) (+ SLO designation)**



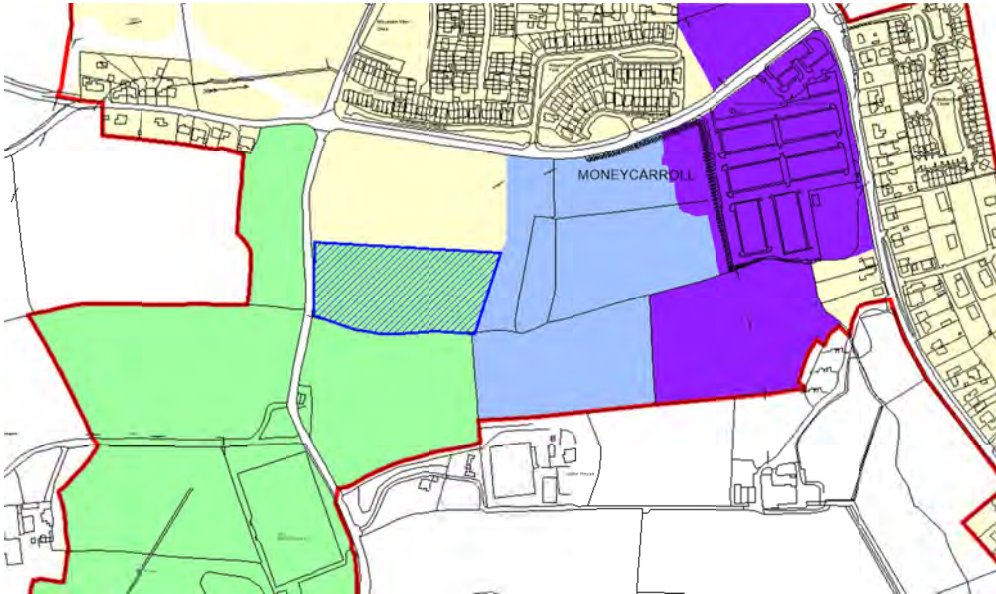
**AMENDMENT V2 – 90**

**Land Use Map**

**Change from:** AOS - Active Open Space

**Change to** RN – New Residential

**Area shown in blue hatch** (c. 2.25ha/5.6 acres)



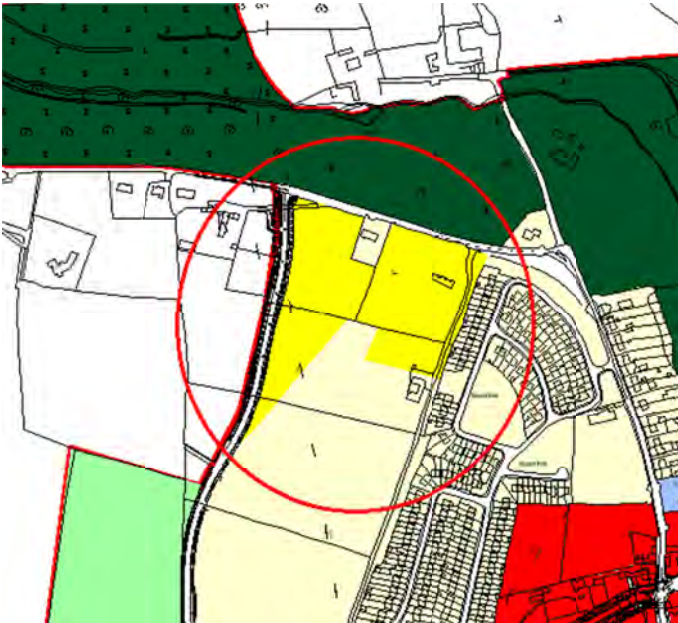
**AMENDMENT V2 – 91**

**Land Use Map**

**Change from:** 'RN New Residential'

**Change to:** 'SLB – Strategic Land Bank'

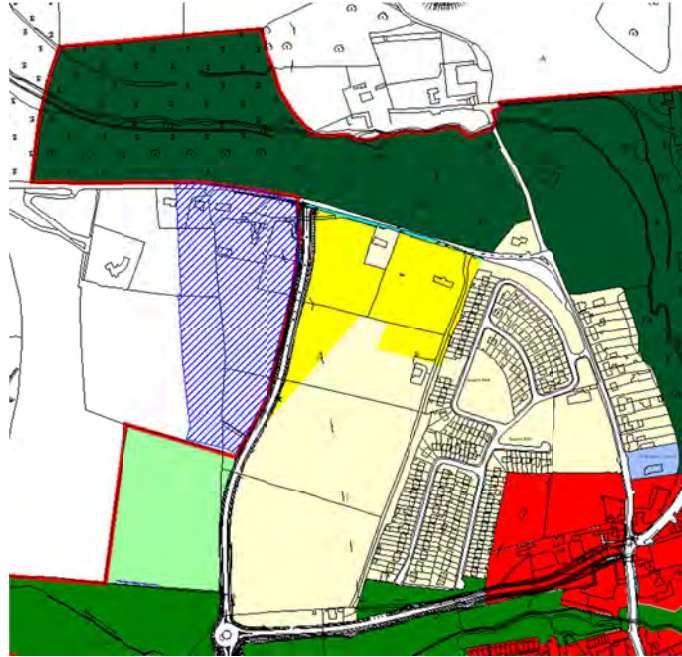
**Area shown in red circle** (c. 3.9ha / 9.6 acres)



**AMENDMENT V2 – 92**

**Land Use Map**

- Extend the Newtownmountkennedy plan boundary by c. 5.3ha as shown on the map below (in blue hatch)
- Zone the land 'SLB – Strategic Land Bank'





**LEVEL 4 RATHDRUM****AMENDMENT V2 – 93****Section 4.9 Action Areas****Action Area 1 Lands to the east of Main Street**

The development of these lands provide an opportunity to provide a new 'street' to the east of the Main Street, (the design of which shall be determined following detailed survey consideration of options and public consultation), fronted by a mix of shops and residences; this street should form a complete loop from the Main Street ~~and should incorporate a new town car park with pedestrian and vehicular access from the Main Street to the north (R755) and the Station Road to the south (R752). Pedestrian / cycle lane access to the Main Street will complete the loop through the Parnell Memorial Park. The new town centre car park should be located to the west of the New 'Street' and to the east of the Main Street (as indicated on the AA1 map).~~ This is the preferred location in the town for any larger scale retailing, such as a new supermarket. Any development proposals shall include a reservation of land along the rear boundaries of properties on the Main Street to ensure future access could be provided; all of these measures could contribute to the reduction of cars and car parking from Main Street, thereby improving its overall character and level of amenity.

**Objectives AA1**

- To provide for a mix of uses capable of accommodating retail / commercial / community development;
- A 'town centre' type density will be required to be achieved across the TC zone of the site; a site coverage of at least 50% and a plot ratio of at least 1:0.5 will be expected;
- A new street shall be provided linking the northern and southern ends of the Main Street and new uses should form active frontage along same, ~~with vehicular and pedestrian access via the R755 to the north and the R752 to the south. Pedestrian / cycle lane access shall also be provided through the Parnell Memorial Park to the southwest.~~
- The lands to the west of the new street shall generally be reserved for commercial / retail /community uses; the Planning Authority may phase and / or restrict residential development to ensure this element is delivered;
- A new town car park shall be provided ~~to the west of the "new street" and to the east of the Main Street,~~ as part of any development proposals;
- Any development located to the immediate east of existing properties of the Main Street should be so laid out as to facilitate the future development of these backlands and the possibility of the creation of new pedestrian and the possibility of the creation of new pedestrian links through to the Main Street;

## AMENDMENT V2 – 94

### Section 4.9 Action Areas

#### Action Area 2 Knockadosan

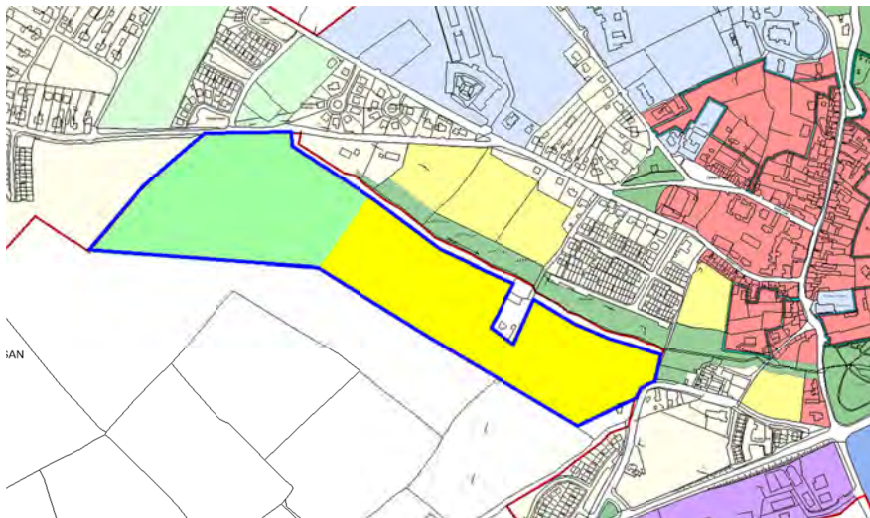
These lands located at Knockadosan, measure c. 12.5ha and are zoned for residential use (c. 6.5ha) and active open space use (6ha). The development of these lands provides an opportunity to deliver a new sports area to the west of the town (where the majority of existing / planned housing is located) and for the construction of the new street incorporating frontage from the Greenane Road to the Avoca Road via Brewery Bend that would enhance accessibility of community and commercial facilities for the residents of the development and the town.

This action area shall be developed as a residential and active open space zone in accordance with the following criteria:

- A minimum area of 6ha shall be provided by the developer as an active open space / sports facility. The location, layout, design and future management structure of this facility shall be agreed with Wicklow County Council in advance of the occupation of any residential units;
- A maximum of 6.5ha may be developed for residential use, including all services, open spaces, childcare facilities etc required for that quantum of development;
- The road layout provided within the lands shall be so designed to allow for through access from the Greenane Road to Brewery Bend.

#### Land Use Map

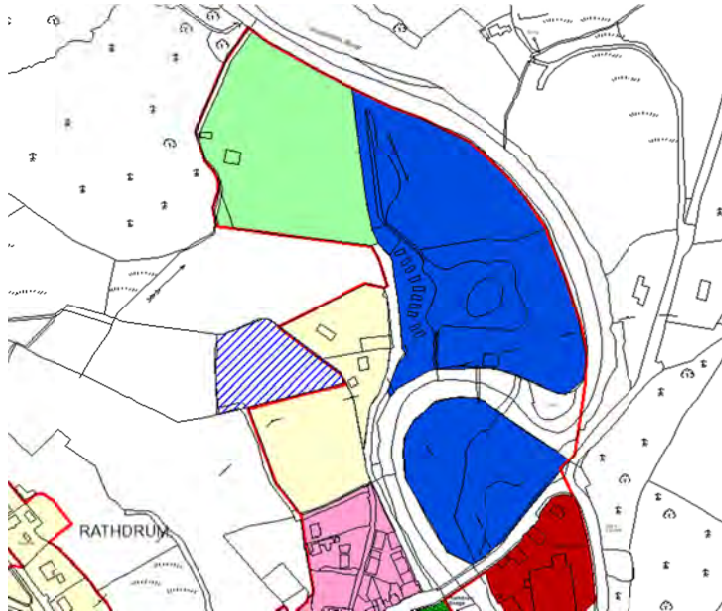
- (a) To extend the plan boundary to include the lands outlined in blue on map below (c. 12.5ha) and identify these lands as an 'Action Area 2'
- (b) Zone c. 6ha for 'AOS - Active Open Space'
- (c) Zone c. 6.5ha for 'RN-New Residential'



## AMENDMENT V2 – 95

### Land Use Map

- (a) To extend the plan boundary to include the lands outlined in blue hatch on map below (c. 0.8ha / 2 acres) and zone for 'RN-New Residential', and
- (b) To include an objective RT-X in the plan



### Section 4.3 Residential Development

#### Residential Development Objectives

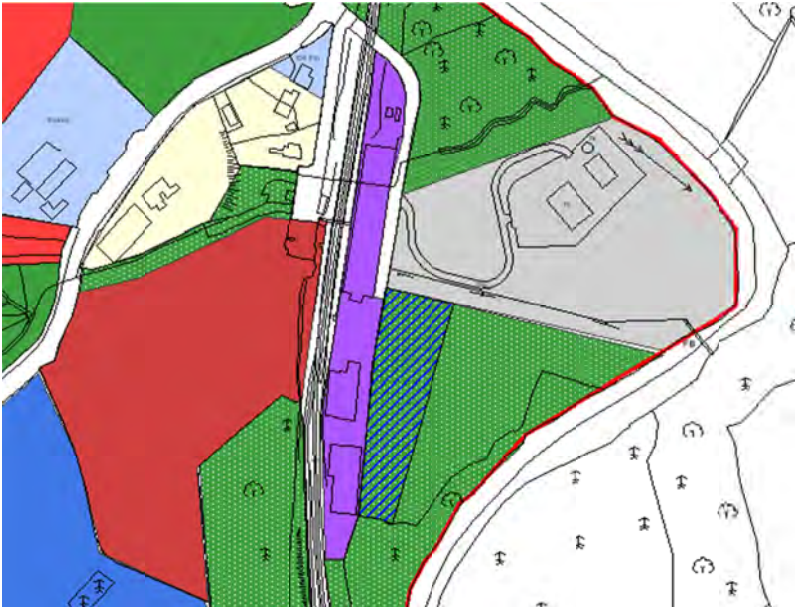
- RT-X** To provide for residential development for a maximum of 4 units on lands of c. 0.8ha, zoned 'RN – New Residential', north of Kilian's Glen.

**AMENDMENT V2 – 96**

**Land Use Map**

Change from: 'OS2 - Passive Open Space' (area marked in blue hatch on map below c. 0.47ha)

Change to: 'E - Employment'



**VOLUME TWO****PLANS****LEVEL 5 PLANS****AMENDMENT V2 – 97****Part 1.1 Introduction to Level 5 Plans – General Objectives****Section 1.1.10 Flood Risk Assessment**

As part of each plan addressed in this appendix, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been carried out. The assessment is presented as part of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment appendix of the County Plan. All applications shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of *'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management'* Guidelines (DoEHLG 2009) and the flood management objectives of the County Development Plan.

Where existing development is located within Flood Zones A or B, new development shall be limited to minor development only; any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

Any proposals for new development in Flood Zones A or B shall be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, where the lands at risk of flooding form part of a larger development site, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.

**LEVEL 5 ASHFORD**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 98**

**Section 2.9 Action Area Plans & Specific Local Objectives**

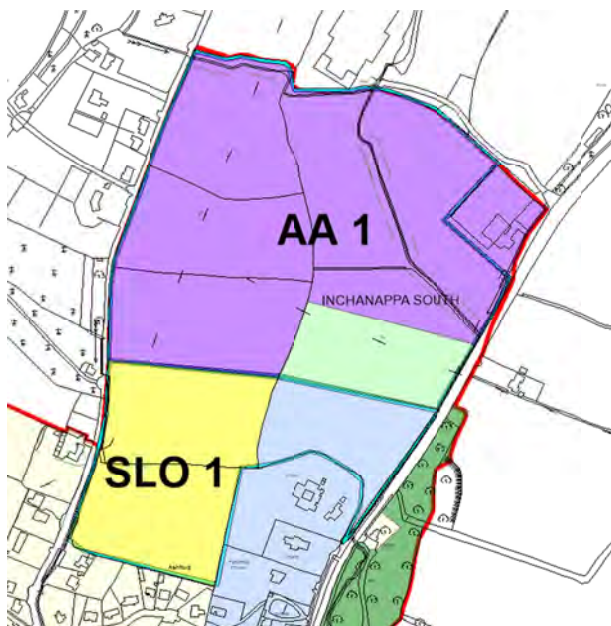
**Action Area 1 SLO-3 Inchanappa South**

This **Action Area SLO area** is located on lands at Inchanappa South, west of the existing Glanbia premises and north of Ashford national school. The overall action area measures c. ~~16.5ha~~ **10.5ha**, as shown below. This action area shall be delivered as an employment and community open space zone in accordance with the following criteria:

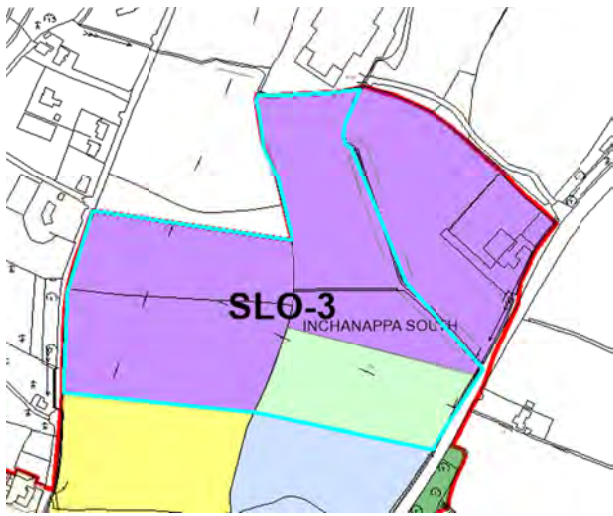
- Development of these lands shall provide a new public road linking the R764 to the R772, which will service the development of the employment zoned lands.
- Any buildings proposed along the eastern boundary of this action area shall address the R772 and be of a high-quality design and finish providing for both hard and soft landscaping in order to provide an attractive northern entrance to the town of Ashford.
- The existing stream running through these lands shall be incorporated in the overall design and layout of the action area, but it shall be left in a natural condition with a minimum set back of any development (including landscaped areas) of at least 30m on both sides.
- A minimum area of 2ha shall be developed as a sports ground (the location shown below is for indicative purposes only with the overall layout subject to detailed design), including the laying out of pitches and the construction of appropriate parking and changing room facilities. The future management/maintenance arrangements and use of this facility shall be agreed with Wicklow County Council prior to the commencement of its use.
- Only 50% of the proposed employment lands may be developed prior to the completion of the required sports facilities.

**Land Use Map**

**Change from:**



**Change to:**



## AMENDMENT V2 – 99

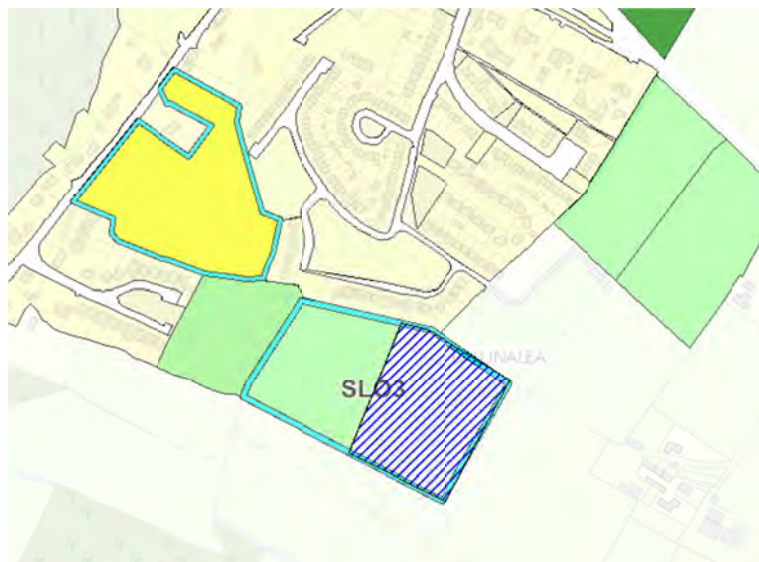
### Section 2.9 Action Area Plans & Specific Local Objectives

- (a) To extend the plan boundary to include the lands outlined in light blue on map below and zone for 'RN-New Residential', and
- (b) Identify these lands, along with the adjoining AOS, as an 'SLO'

#### SLO 3 Ballinalea

SLO3 is situated at Ballinalea south of the Woodview estate as shown in Figure 2.X below and measures c. 3.8ha. These lands shall be developed as a residential and open space area, subject to the AOS area being laid out and suitably developed by the landowner to be suitable for active sports use and dedicated to public / sports club use prior to the commencement of any residential development.

#### Land Use Map





**AMENDMENT V2 – 100****Action Area Plans & Specific Local Objectives**

- (a) To extend plan boundary to include a new 'Specific Local Objective' area of 19.25ha (as outlined in light blue on the map below)
- (b) To zone the land within this SLO as follows:
- i. Max 11ha 'RN - New Residential' (blue hatched area)
  - ii. Minimum 3.25ha AOS (light green hatched area)
  - iii. Minimum 5ha OS1 (dark green area)

**SLO XX: Inchanappa**

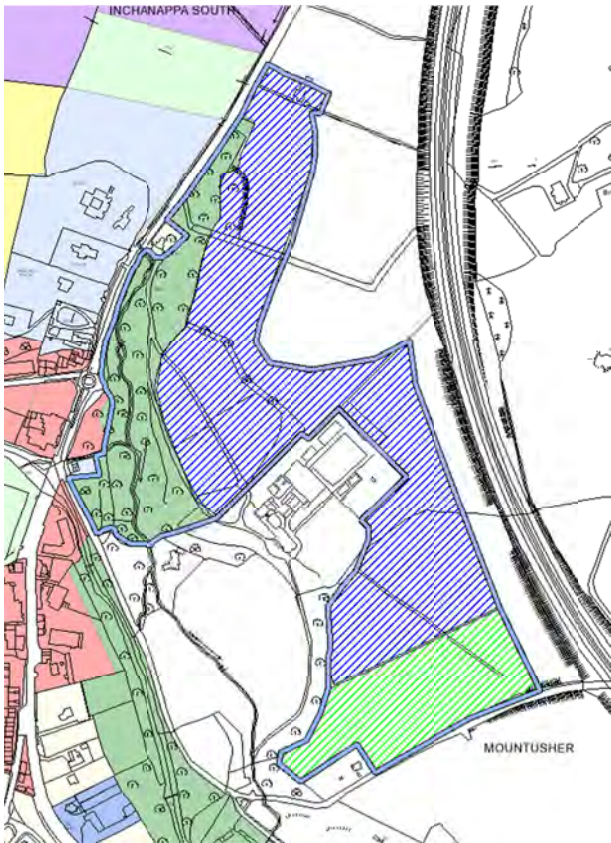
This SLO is located on part of the grounds of Inchanappa House that adjoin the M/N11 to the east, the R772 to the west and bounded by Inchanappa House and outbuildings to the south. The overall SLO measures c. 19.25ha, as shown in Figure 2.X.

This Specific Local Objective shall be delivered as a residential and open space development in accordance with the following criteria:

- The lands zoned 'OS1' in this SLO shall be developed as a 'community park' open to all (not just residents of this SLO) comprising woodland walks, landscaped areas, seats etc and a teenage zone and adult gym (minimum 0.4ha in area) at an easily accessible and safe location and well connected to Ashford Village;
- The lands zoned 'AOS' (or other similarly sized lands within the SLO area) shall be developed as a community sports area, including (but not limited to) playing pitches / courts etc and an indoor sports / community hall suitable for a range of sports and community uses; only a site that is well connected to Ashford village by active and sustainable transport modes will be considered for this element of the SLO;
- Only 50% of the residential element may be developed prior to the OS1 and the community sports zone (including buildings and appropriate access) on AOS being laid out and completed by the developer in manner to be agreed with Wicklow County Council and devoted to the public;
- The design and layout of the overall SLO, in particular the residential element, shall address and provide for passive supervision of the community park and amenity walks. At no point should the design or layout allow for housing backing onto this proposed public open space area.
- A pedestrian walk linking the residential area of this SLO to land designated as Opportunity Site 1 shall be provided as part of the development.
- The minimum set back of new housing development from the M11 in this SLO shall be 50m. Where housing development is proposed within 100m of the M11, the developer shall be responsible for designing, providing and maintaining suitable noise and light pollution mitigation measures.

This SLO shall be the subject of comprehensive (not piecemeal) masterplan that allows for the sustainable, phased and managed development of the SLO area during the plan period. Separate applications for sections of the SLO will not be considered until an overall SLO masterplan has been agreed in writing with the Planning Authority unless it can be shown that any application will not undermine the achievement of the overall objectives for the area. The position, location and size of the land use zonings shown on plan maps are indicative only and may be altered in light of eventual road and service layouts, detailed design and topography, subject to compliance with the criteria set out for the SLO.

**Land Use Map**

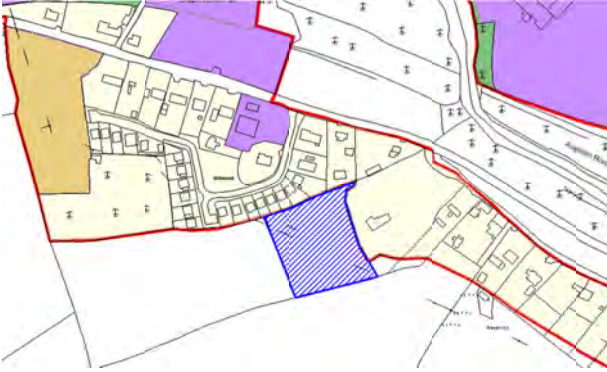


**LEVEL 5      AUGHRIM**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 101**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.0.8ha (as shown in blue hatch below) for 'RN New Residential' use.

**Land Use Map**



**LEVEL 5 CARNEW**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 102**

**Section 4.9 Action Area Plans & Specific Local Objectives**

**SLO 3**

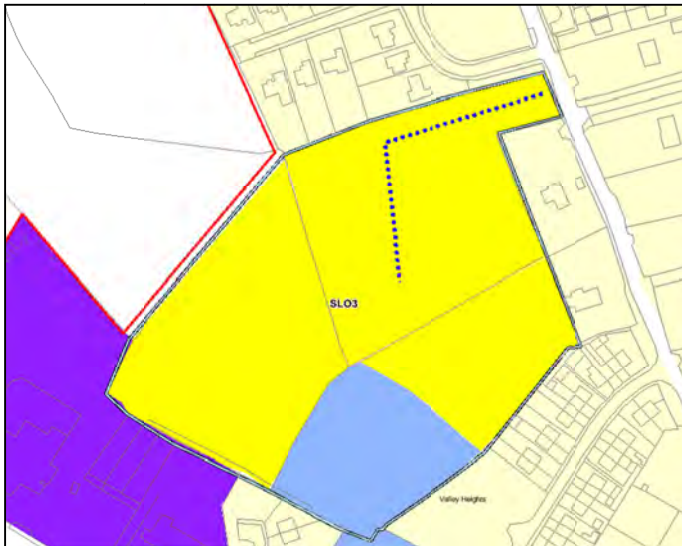
This SLO is located to the north of Scoil Aodhan Naofa measuring c. 4.2ha and shall be delivered as a comprehensive residential (c.3.5ha) and new community development (c.0.7ha) in accordance with the following criteria:

- Access to these lands shall be provided via the Coolattin Road, with a through road being provided to the community zoned lands. Only 50% of the proposed residential element of this SLO shall be developed prior to the completion of the community element of this area.
- The community lands shall be developed as a car park, with necessary turning bays and drop-off points and pedestrian access being provided to the existing primary school. A grant of easement along this road shall be provided by the landowner to the primary school and the car park shall be available to school users at all times that the school is in use.

**Land Use Map**

Change from: ' AOS Active Open Space' (c. 4.2ha)

Change to: 'RN New Residential' (3.5ha) and 'CE Community & Education' (0.7ha)



**AMENDMENT V2 – 103**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.1.2ha (as shown below) for part 'RN New Residential' use and part 'OS1 Open Space'.

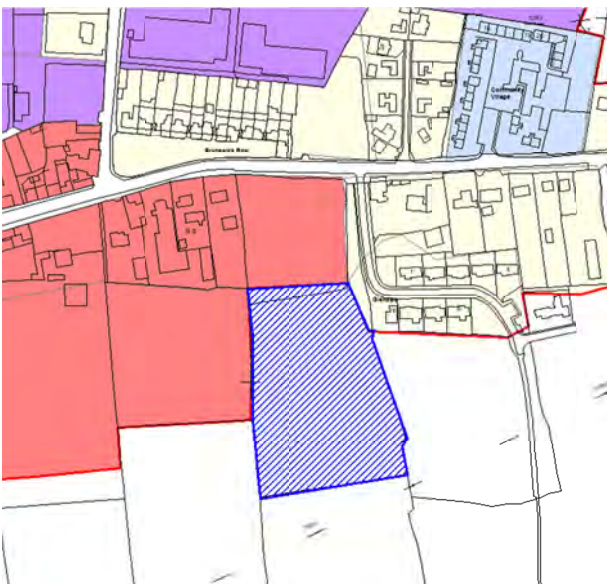
**Land Use Map**



**AMENDMENT V2 – 104**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.2ha (as shown in blue hatch below) for 'RN New Residential' use.

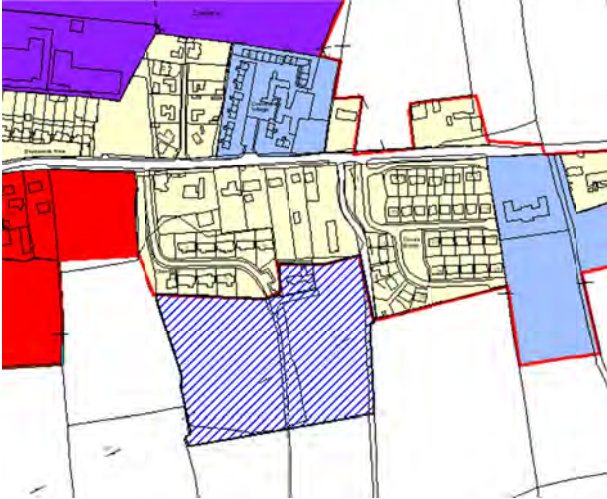
**Land Use Map**



**AMENDMENT V2 – 105**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.3ha (as shown in blue hatch below) for 'RN New Residential' use.

**Land Use Map**

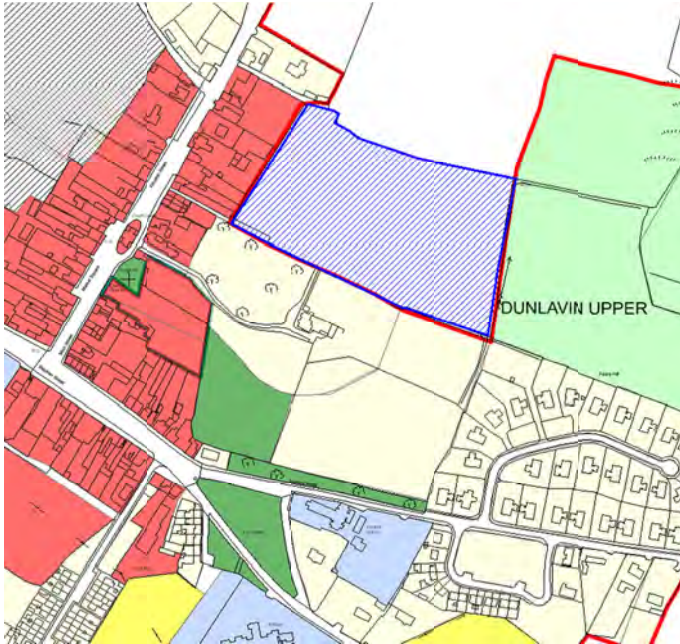


**LEVEL 5 DUNLAVIN**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 106**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.3.6ha / 9 acres (as shown in blue hatch below) for 'RN New Residential' use.

**Land Use Map**



**LEVEL 5      TINAHELY****AMENDMENT V2 – 107****Section 6.10    Tinahely Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)**

The extent of the Tinahely ACA is outlined on the attached Heritage Map. The character of the ACA is defined as follows:

The ACA contains an important and attractive townscape of well-proportioned stone built town houses, commercial and public buildings dating mainly from the 18th and early 19th centuries, built along the backdrop of the Derry River, at the junction of the Shillelagh-Wicklow and Hacketstown roads.

The character of the ACA is essentially formed by the combination of the traditional urban Irish streetscape of restrained frontages to residential and retail properties, with a number of notable administrative and substantial mill buildings. The traditional streetscape provides a foil to the Market House which is the most outstanding building in the town.

Market Square, with its Market House and Court House, Pound Lane, **Barton Street**, the milling area at the Derry and Tinahely Bridge comprise the main historic area of Tinahely. The buildings fronting onto Market Square are substantial with extensive outbuildings and lands to the rear. They comprise an important “set piece” of small town urban design and planning. Later additions also of importance are the terraced workers’ cottages on the Hacketstown Road and the Methodist Church and Manse. In general, the stone built structures of this period are a valuable non-renewable cultural resource that contributes strongly to the cultural identity of the town and merits treatment as a conservation area.

Other features of note, that contribute to the character of the ACA include:

- ~~Pound Lane~~ **Barton Street** predominantly comprising well presented double fronted two-storey houses, mainly with classical detailing around doors and windows;
- The present bank building, a former hotel, is a substantial double fronted five-bay property with a shop frontage inserted into one bay on the ground floor;
- The old Constabulary, situated to the south-west of the Courthouse, with its rounded corner, provides an important stop to the south-west corner of the square. The recent insertion of a modern shopfront diminishes the corner;
- Structures listed on the Record of Protected Structures;
- Victorian style shopfronts.

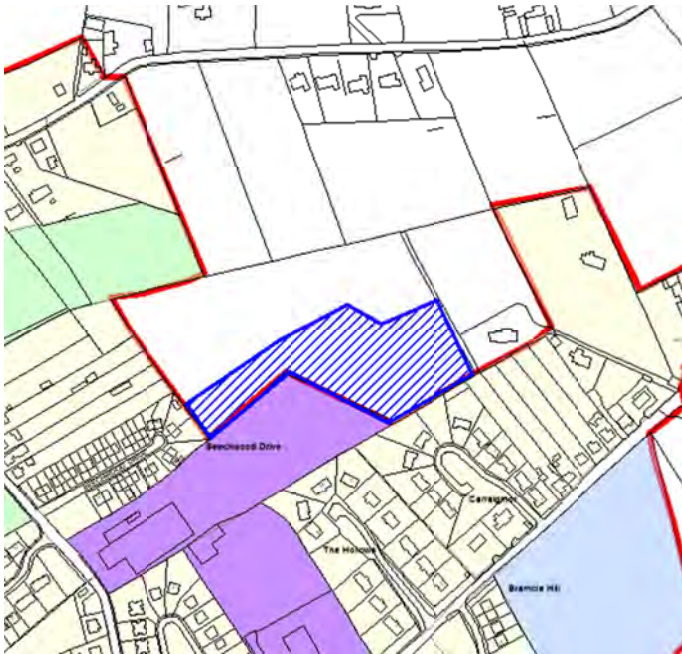
It is important that the character of the town is not eroded by insensitive adaptations or remodelling of façades.



**AMENDMENT V2 – 108**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.1.5ha (as shown in blue hatch below) land as 'SLB Strategic Land Bank'

**Land Use Map**



**AMENDMENT V2 – 109**

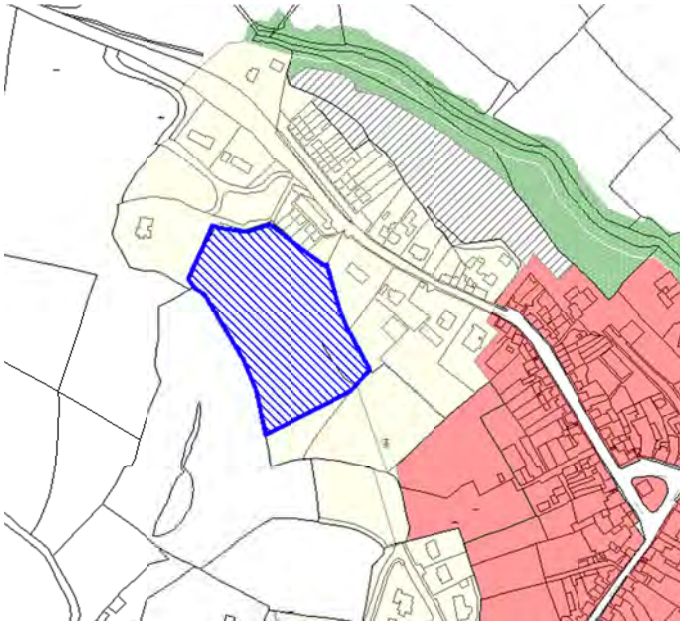
- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands measuring c.4.3ha (as shown in blue hatch below) land as 'SLB Strategic Land Bank'

**Land Use Map**



**AMENDMENT V2 – 110**

- (a) To extend plan boundary
- (b) Zone lands 'R Special – Special Residential'
- (c) Include the new objective in the Tinahely Town Plan



**Section 6.3 Residential Development**

**TINXX** To provide for residential development for a maximum of 4 additional units on lands zoned 'R Special'.

**LEVEL 6 PLANS**

**LEVEL 6 AVOCA**

**AMENDMENT V2 – 111**

**Section 2.3 Avoca Specific Development Objectives**

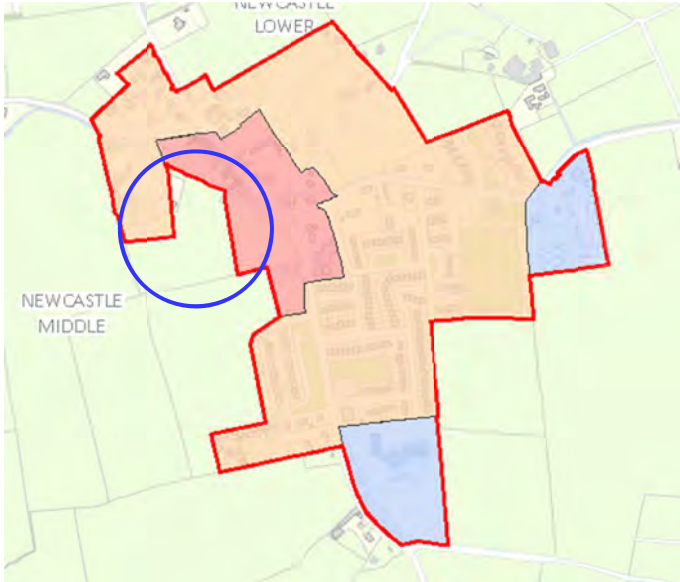
Notwithstanding the Flood Risk Mitigation Objective set out in the 'Introduction to Level 6 Plans', no development, other than minor works as per Section 5.28 of the Guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG 2009) shall be considered in Flood Zones A or B until the Avoca Flood Relief Scheme is completed.

**LEVEL 5 NEWCASTLE**

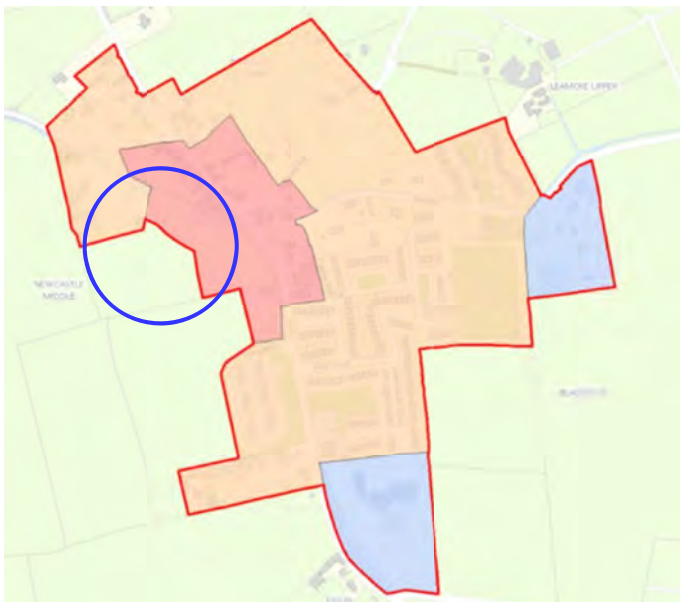
**AMENDMENT V2 – 112**

**Land Use Map**

**Change from:**



**Change to:**



**LEVEL 5      ROUNDWOOD**

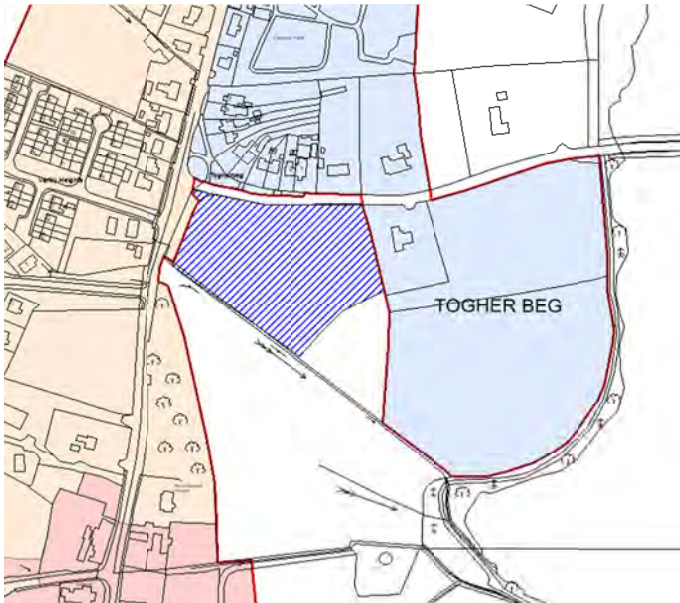
**AMENDMENT V2 – 113**

**Section 5.3      Roundwood Specific Development Objectives**

- 11. On the lands identified as **RD4** west of the Waters Bridge on Map 1 (tertiary zone) to provide for tourism use **and two family dwellings (on a maximum area of 1.5 acres)** only, strictly on the basis of the connection of any development to mains water and wastewater services, and no adverse impacts arising on the proximate Vartry Reservoir.

**AMENDMENT V2 – 114**

- (a) To extend plan boundary to include land shown in blue hatch on map below (c. 1.7ha /4.2 acres)
- (b) Zone the extended area 'Secondary Zone'

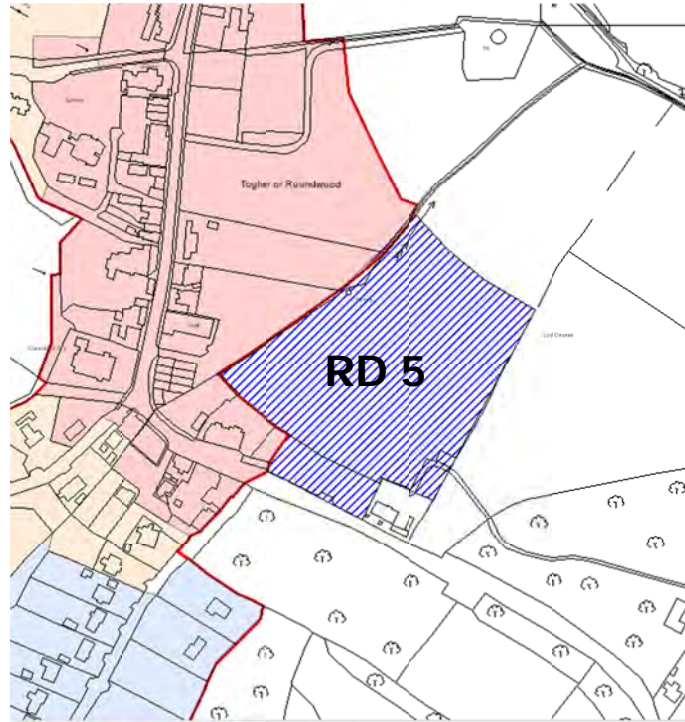


**AMENDMENT V2 – 115**

- (a) To extend plan boundary to include land shown in blue hatch on map below
- (b) Zone the extended area 'Secondary Zone' with new **Objective RD5**

**Section 5.3 Roundwood Specific Development Objectives**

- 12. On lands identified as RD5 on Map 1, ensure any development proposals allow for future connectivity to the lands to the north identified as RD3.



**LEVEL 7 LARAGH - GLENDALOUGH****AMENDMENT V2 – 116****1.2.2 Settlement & Tourism Objectives****Transportation & Infrastructure**

**LGX1** Where existing development is located within Flood Zones A or B, new development shall be limited to minor development only; any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

Any proposals for new development in Flood Zones A or B shall be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, where the lands at risk of flooding form part of a larger development site, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.

*Note: Please see **Proposed Amendment No. V1 – 12** where it is proposed to extend the Laragh village boundary.*

**VOLUME THREE****APPENDICES****APPENDIX NUMBER 1****DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN STANDARDS****AMENDMENT V3 – 117****Preface & Section 2.1**

Add the following guidance documents to list

- *DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities*
- *Road Safety Audit, TII Publication: TII GE-STY-01024*
- *DMRB detail be changed from 'NRA' to 'TII'.*

**AMENDMENT V3 – 118****Section 1.3 Protecting Nature & Biodiversity**

Landscaping and biodiversity enhancement plans shall generally be required for new developments, particularly but not limited to those on greenfield sites, and shall be submitted with the planning application. These plans shall highlight existing landscape natural features (such as trees, hedgerows, verges, watercourses etc) to be retained and enhanced, and detail new landscaping and biodiversity enhancement measures including (but not limited to) species, number, size and location of new planting, the provision of swift bricks / boxes or towers, bat boxes, etc. and measures to protect ecological corridors, water courses etc. The plan should put an emphasis on the use of native species where possible. Planting schemes shall take account of future maintenance requirements. All landscaping design and management shall be pollinator friendly. ~~They should~~ generally according with the planting and maintenance approach set out in the Pollinator Friendly Planting Code of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

**AMENDMENT V2 – 119****Section 1.4.3 Noise Pollution**

Noise nuisance is defined in Section 108 of the EPA Act 1992 as "Any noise which is so loud, so continuous, so repeated, of such duration or pitch or occurring at such times as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to a person in any premises in the neighbourhood". The Planning Authority will use the Development Management process to ensure that future development are designed and constructed in such a way as to minimise noise disturbance and prevent noise nuisance. *The Planning Authority will have regard to the WHO / Europe Night Noise Guidelines (2009) in the assessment of applications with potential night-time noise implications.*



**AMENDMENT V3 – 120****Section 1.4.4 Light Pollution**

Applications for permission which include the provision of new street lighting or significant on site / on building lighting shall be accompanied by a certificate from a suitably qualified professional in the field confirming that all lighting has been so positioned and designed to eliminate or mitigate impacts on adjoining properties, particular residences (light trespass) or on the night (sky glow).

The design of lighting in new development shall integrate a hierarchy of light intensity zones to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.

Regard shall be taken of Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Light Pollution (Institute of Lighting Engineers, 2000), 'Guidance Note for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light' (ILP 2021) and 'Guidance Note 9: Domestic Exterior Lighting' (ILP 2019).

**AMENDMENT V2 – 121****Section 1.4.6 ~~Waste &~~ Construction Management**

~~All development will be required to comply with the provisions of Waste Management Acts and Regulations;~~  
All construction sites shall be appropriately managed to ensure that environmental emissions are strictly controlled. ~~Where necessary (such as for larger scale developments or developments in ecologically sensitive areas) this will be enforced by requiring (by planning condition) the agreement and implementation a 'construction and demolition environmental management plan' (CEMP), which will set out detailed measures to manage waste arising from the construction activity, which should set out, at a minimum, the various best practice construction measures/mechanisms that will be put in place during the construction phase to avoid, or mitigate, the impacts of: construction traffic, waste, noise, lighting, dust, storm water run-off etc, on adjoining residences and properties, on existing biodiversity, public roads, etc.~~

~~In drawing up such plans, developers should have regard to DoEHLG guidance publication 'Best Practice Guidelines on the preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects' (2006) as may be amended and revised.~~ In particular, such plans will set out:

- Construction programme for the works
- Hours of operation
- A traffic management plan
- Noise and dust mitigation measures ~~(including details of a truck wheel wash at the site entrance)~~
- Details of construction lighting
- Waste minimisation and management plan, including recycling / re-use of waste where possible (in accordance with circular economy principles);
- Measures for the protection of natural features, including (but not limited to) mature trees and hedgerows, protected species, ecological corridors and watercourses

A Construction Manager will be required to be appointed to liaise directly with the various sections of the ~~Planning~~ Local Authority ~~and that should include a biodiversity officer, should one be appointed.~~

**AMENDMENT V3 – 122****Section 2.1.8 Bicycle Parking****Table 2.4 - Bicycle parking standards**

Type of Development	Cycle Parking Standard
Residential units	1 space per bedroom + 1 visitor space per $\geq 5$ units

**AMENDMENT V3 – 123****Section 2.3.1 Residential developments**

- The design and layout of all individual and multi house developments shall provide for on site waste storage (including recyclables) and composting facilities;
- For traditional housing layouts, this will normally require the inclusion of sufficient space to the side or rear of a dwelling for the storage of waste, including up to 4 wheelie bins (recyclables, glass, organic and residual waste);
- For terraced houses (i.e. those units with no side laneways / gardens) wheelie bin enclosures may be provided to the front of houses, subject to the highest quality of location and design / construction that allows for full enclosure of all bins in such manner that bins are not visible from public areas and do not allow for the emission of odours; such structures must be shown and detailed at the application stage;
- For courtyard type developments and apartment developments (i.e. those developments that include houses with either no / limited private gardens), communal bin storage and composting areas shall be provided;
- In apartment developments, this may be in the form of grouped individual bins in car parking areas or a designated waste building;
- Waste storage areas shall be designed and screened so as not to cause any adverse visual impact on the proposed complex and located so as not cause noise impact.

**AMENDMENT V3 – 124****New Section 2.5****Section 2.5 Military Aviation**

Applications for development located within the zones shown on Map X at the Department of Defence Glen of Imaal training area, Danger Area 5 (EI-D5) airspace surrounding the Glen of Imaal or Coolmoney Camp at Knockanarrigan shall address possible adverse impacts arising from the development, if any, on the safe operation of these military installations, including impact on military flight operation

## AMENDMENT V3 – 125

### Section 3.1.1 Intensity of development (density)

- Density' will only be allowed to be generated from land that is capable of being built upon; land which is ultimately unsuitable for such purposes (e.g. due to excessive slope) will not be considered to be part of the density equation even if it forms part of the overall site. Any such areas should be clearly shown on planning applications drawings;
- The density that can be achieved on any site will ultimately depend on compliance with 'qualitative' standards such as fit with surroundings, height, open space provision, adequate privacy, car parking etc and the density ultimately proposed should be the outcome of the design process rather than the starting point;
- ~~Where a new 'neighbourhood' centre forms part of a large-scale greenfield expansion area, plot ratio in the neighbourhood hub (i.e. only that area forming an integrated part of the shopping / community facilities provided) should be in the region of 1:1~~

## AMENDMENT V3 – 126

### Section 3.1.4 Open space

- Within apartment developments, private and communal amenity space shall be provided in accordance Design Standards for new Apartments (DSFNA) (2018) **as amended and as may be amended in the future**. Care should be taken to ensure that such places receive adequate sunlight and meet the highest safety standards. The front wall of balconies should be made from opaque material and be at least 1m in height.
- Dwellings ~~(including own door duplexes)~~ shall generally be provided with private open space at the following **minimum** rates:

House size	Minimum private open space
1-2 bedrooms	50sqm
3+ bedrooms	60-75sqm

**Own door duplexes shall generally be provided with private open space at a minimum rate of 10sqm per bedroom.**

It will be expected that private open space provided will exceed these standards whenever possible and such minimum standards will only be acceptable for up to 50% of the units in any development.

## AMENDMENT V3 – 127

### Section 4.1.2 Intensity of development

The Planning Authority will require all employment developments to be of an appropriate intensity, making best use of zoned serviced land, while ensuring the highest quality of development and the protection of the residential and visual amenities of the area. measured by plot ratio and site coverage. The following standards will normally apply, except where other specified in a local plan, or where local conditions require otherwise:

**Table 4.1 – Density standards**

	Site coverage		Plot ratio
	Max initial	Max final	
<b>Offices</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Distribution/Warehousing</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Retail warehousing</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>1</b>

The Planning Authority will not permit an employment development where it is considered that there is an unacceptable over development of the site.

## AMENDMENT V3 – 128

### Section 8.5 Residential public open space

Public open space in residential developments shall be provided in accordance with the following standards:

- Public open space will normally be required at a rate of 15% of the site area – areas within the site that are not suitable for development or for recreational use must be excluded before the calculation is made;
- Where a public park is being provided by the same developer (or by a group of developers in a combined Action Area) in close proximity to the residential development site, the public open space provided on site may be reduced to 7.5% of the residential site area, with the remainder being made up in the park;
- The need to provide public open space in town centre developments may be waived, particularly where public amenity space such as a town park or beach is in close proximity;
- Open spaces shall be attractively landscaped through the use of both hard and soft landscaping where appropriate. Open spaces should incorporate existing features and encourage pedestrian use by suitable paving;
- In greenfield developments, subject to the size of the site, a hierarchy of open spaces shall be provided to provide for the different play needs of different age groups. In this regard, all developments shall aim to include:
  - At least one, flat space with dimensions on not less than 20m x 40m, suitable for ball games (trees should only be planted around the perimeter)
  - A number of smaller spaces immediately adjacent to dwellings, with interesting contours and natural features, suitable for play activities of younger children.

- The layout and orientation of residential developments should maximize the potential for passive surveillance of open spaces - all efforts shall be taken to ensure that all houses are in visual range of one open area.
- In larger developments (in excess of 1ha), consideration should be given to dedicating part of the residential open space (not exceeding 25% of the total space) to community gardens; at a minimum, landscaping plans will be required to identify a suitable area (in terms of soil type, gradient, light, drainage etc) within the residential open space area that would be suitable for future community garden use by the resident community.

**APPENDIX NUMBER 3 HOUSING STRATEGY**

**AMENDMENT V3 – 129**

*The Proposed Amendments to 'Appendix 3, Housing Strategy' are presented in full as one amendment with all proposed changes presented in red for new text and ~~blue strikethrough~~ for deleted text.*



# Wicklow County Development Plan

## Interim Housing Strategy

2022-2028

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- 9.2 Objectives

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Statutory Background

This document sets out Wicklow's [Interim](#) Housing Strategy for the period 2022 - 2028, which is the likely lifetime of the new Wicklow County Development Plan.

The preparation of a Housing Strategy is a requirement under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Section 94 of the Act requires that *'each planning authority shall include in any development plan it makes in accordance with Section 12 a strategy for the purpose of ensuring that the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan provides for the housing of the existing and future population of the area in the manner set out in the strategy'*.

The procedures for the preparation of a Housing Strategy are set out in the Act. In particular, the Act specifies that the Housing Strategy will:

- Estimate the existing and likely future need for housing in the area, and ensure that sufficient zoned and serviced land is made available to meet such needs;
- Ensure that housing is available for persons who have different levels of income;
- Ensure that a mixture of house types and sizes is developed to reasonably match the requirements of the different categories of households, including the special requirements of elderly persons and persons with disabilities;
- Counteract undue segregation between persons of different social backgrounds;
- Provide that as a general policy a specific % (not exceeding 10%) of the land zoned in the Development Plan for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, shall be reserved for those in need of social housing in the area.

Thus the Housing Strategy encompasses both the role of the Authority as the provider of social and special housing and its broader land use planning responsibilities.

The National Planning Framework acknowledges that the housing sector is more complex since the requirement for housing strategies was introduced under the Planning and Development Act 2000. Accordingly the NPF has identified that an enhanced methodology is required - Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) ~~to support the preparation of housing strategies. In the absence of Ministerial guidance on the preparation of HNDAs the Planning Authority has prepared this interim Housing Strategy. This will be reviewed following the publication of HNDA guidelines. Objective 37 of the NPF provides for a HNDA to be undertaken in each local authority area in order to ensure long-term strategic housing needs are met.~~

The purpose of the HNDA is to:

- Assist local authorities to develop long-term strategic views of housing need across all tenures;
- Provide a robust evidence base to support decisions about new housing supply, wider investment and housing related services that inform an overall national housing profile;
- Inform policies about the proportion of social and affordable housing required;
- Provide evidence to inform policies related to the provision of specialist housing and housing related services.

HNDA is required to be integrated into the development plan review process where planning authorities give notice of review of a development plan in accordance with section 11(1) of the 2000 Act, after the date of Circular 14/2021 (14 April 2021). As the notice of the review of the Wicklow County Development Plan occurred before the date of this circular, HNDA is not being carried out at this time. It will however be carried out in due course, and should it identify that amendment of the

County Development Plan is necessary to reflect its outcomes, the plan will be varied accordingly. Therefore until this exercise is completed, this Housing Strategy is to be considered an 'interim' one.

## 1.2 Context

In the drafting of this Housing Strategy, regard has been taken of the following national, regional and local policy documents:

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF)(2018)
- 'Implementation Roadmap for the NPF' (2018)
- Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning, Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2020)
- Programme for Government: Our Shared Future (2020)
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly: Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031
- Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 2000)

### Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (NPF)

The NPF predicts that between 2018 and 2040, an average output of at least 25,000 new homes will need to be provided in Ireland every year to meet people's needs for well-located and affordable housing, with increasing demand to cater for one- and two-person households. Within this figure, there is a wide range of differing housing needs that will be required to be met. The Framework states that achieving this level of supply will require increased housing output into the 2020s to deal with a deficit that has built up since 2010. To meet projected population and economic growth as well as increased household formation, annual housing output will need to increase to 30,000 to 35,000 homes per annum in the years to 2027 and will be subject to monitoring and review.

The NPF identifies a number of national core principles to guide future housing as follows.

#### National Core Principles to Guide Housing

- Ensure a high standard quality of life for future residents as well as environmentally and socially sustainable housing and placemaking through integrated planning and consistently excellent design.
- Allow for choice in housing location, type, tenure and accommodation in responding to need.
- Prioritise the location of new housing provision in existing settlements as a means to maximising better quality of life for people through accessing services, ensuring a more efficient use of land and allowing for greater integration with existing infrastructure.
- Tailor the scale and nature of future housing provision to the size and type of settlement where it is planned to be located.
- Integrate housing strategies where settlements straddle boundaries (county and/or regional).
- Utilise existing housing stock as a means to meeting future demand.

(Source: National Planning Framework, 2018)

### Implementation Roadmap for the NPF (July 2018)

Subsequent to the publication of the NPF in 2018, a NPF 'Roadmap' circular was issued to all planning authorities, setting out projected county population ranges (in the format of minimum and maximum parameters), for both 2026 and 2031. These population projections, set out in Appendix 2 of the NPF

Roadmap, have subsequently been incorporated into the statutory Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) adopted by each of three Regional Assemblies.

For Wicklow the 2026 and 2031 projections are 155,000 - 157,500 and 160,500 – 164,000 respectively, from the 2016 base of 142,500.

The 'Roadmap' specifies that scope for 'headroom', not exceeding 25%, can be considered to 2026 in those counties where projected population growth is projected to be at or above the national average baseline, including County Wicklow.

### **Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning**

Under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the '*Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning, Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' were issued on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

These Guidelines are intended to assist in providing the required consistent and coherent approach to be taken by planning authorities in incorporating national and regional population and housing projections into their statutory functions.

The methodology utilises research undertaken by the ESRI – '*Regional Demographics and Structural Housing Demand at a County Level*' (Dec 2020). The ESRI research model enables structural household demand levels for each local authority area to be set out under the four different scenarios for each year to 2040. The identified NPF '50:50 City' scenario is the recommended housing demand scenario to be used by planning authorities in their planning functions in order to plan for the provision of housing to meet projected levels of demand in their administrative area, in accordance with the NPF strategy.

The NPF '50:50 City' scenario results in an alternative spatial distribution, where population growth is more evenly distributed between the Eastern and Midland regional assembly area and the rest of the country and where counties with larger cities attract higher inflows. The scenario captures two core national policy objectives - aiming to have population growth more evenly distributed throughout Ireland and less focused on Dublin and its surrounding area, and also taking advantage of the potential of cities to accommodate more compact growth and to drive regional development.

### **Programme for Government: Our Shared Future 2020**

'Programme for Government – Our Shared Future' launched in 2020, emphasises the role of the private housing stock, addresses the challenges of viability, access to finance, land availability, infrastructure delivery, building standards, quality and regulation, as well as sufficient skilled labour capacity.

The key housing priorities guiding the Programme for Government are as follows:

- Homelessness
- Affordable home ownership
- Public and social housing
- Land Development Agency
- Rent reform and cost rental
- Planning and Reform

Specifically, the Programme for Government provides for an expansion in the stock of social housing by 50,000 dwellings over five years, the launch of a new affordable homes programme and the upgrading of 500,000 existing dwellings by 2030. The Affordable Housing Bill 2020 was published in January and subject

to successful passage through the Dáil and Seanad provides statutory underpinning for three affordable schemes:

- local authorities delivering affordable homes for sale on public land,
- a shared equity scheme, and
- the cost rental support model.

### Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 (RSES)

The RSES recognises that housing affordability and supply issues are impacting upon health and wellbeing, due to overcrowding, with people residing in substandard accommodation or becoming homeless. The slow growth of housing stock compared to rates of population growth and household formation has led to an increase in the average number of persons per household to around 2.8 in the Region, based on the 2016 census, which saw a reversal of the long-term decline in the average household size. The RSES points out that there is a need to incentivise mobility in the housing market, to address social isolation among older people and to offer more choice by way of an increased supply of accommodation for all life stages. The RSES highlights the importance of housing quality to secure positive health outcomes.

The RSES provides that a further allowance of transition population targets (NPO 68<sup>1</sup> in the NPF) by way of up to 20% of the targeted growth in the city being transferred to other settlements in the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) shall apply only to the three Metropolitan Key Towns in the MASP namely Bray, Maynooth and Swords, and only if they can demonstrate compact growth on high capacity planned or existing public transport corridors. In accordance with NPO 68, the Regional Assembly in July 2020 approved the 'transfer' of population growth of 13,000 from the city to the metropolitan area settlement of Bray, of which 9,500 would be to that part of Bray located in Co. Wicklow.

### 1.3 Review of the 2016 - 2022 Housing Strategy

The 2016-2022 Housing Strategy set out the following objectives. A brief review of whether each objective has been achieved is set out below.

1. **HS1** *To ensure the delivery of sufficient new homes to accommodate the growth of the County to 158,000 persons in 2022.*

In accordance with the Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA (2010), the 2016-2022 County Development Plan set out a target population for 2022 of 158,000 and target housing stock of 69,822.

The 2011 Census showed that the population of Wicklow was 136,640 and had a housing stock of 54,351.

Census 2016 revealed that the County's population was 142,425, with a housing stock of 54,986. Therefore in order to meet the 2022 targets as set out in the 2016 County Development Plan, further population growth of 15,675 and housing stock growth of 14,836 units would have been required during the 2016-2022 period (or 2,473 units per annum).

<sup>1</sup> National Policy Objectives 68 of the NPF states: 'A Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> may enable up to 20% of the phased population growth targeted in the principal city and suburban area, to be accommodated in the wider metropolitan area i.e. outside the city and suburbs or contiguous zoned area, in addition to growth identified for the Metropolitan area. This will be subject to:

- any relocated growth being in the form of compact development, such as infill or a sustainable urban extension;
- any relocated growth being served by high capacity public transport and/or related to significant employment provision; and National Policy Objective 9, as set out in Chapter 4.

While no updated County population or housing stock figures are available until a new Census is carried out, the CSO publishes quarterly housing completions for each County which provides an insight into progress of housing construction.

**Table 1.1**

CSO House Completions 2011 – 2019												
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average 17-20	Total 11-20	Average 11- 20
218	149	138	155	293	354	479	589	1116	1,046	808	4,537	454

**Source: CSO**

Since [Between Q1 2017 and Q4 2021](#), 3,230 units have been completed which is an average of 808 units per year.

Although the number of units is well below the target identified in the 2016 County Development Plan, the data shows that the County has seen a consistent increase in the number of housing completions year on year since 2012.

- HS2** *To ensure that houses are delivered in the locations required, to implement a balanced settlement strategy that provides for growth towns of varying sizes throughout the County.*

A review of housing commencements and completions in the County revealed that between 2016 and the end of 2020, a total of 3,230 units had been completed with a further 2,650 estimated to have commenced / be under construction as of the end of 2020. Of the units completed, 1,860 units or 58% were located in the County's higher level settlements (Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Blessington and Greystones-Delgany), while 71% of those units under construction are located in these same towns. The towns of Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum and Ashford also recorded high numbers of commencements and completions.

- HS3** *To ensure sufficient zoned land is available in all growth settlements to meet projected housing demand.*

The housing target in the 2016 County Development Plan for 2022 was 69,822, an increase of 15,471 units. Of the 15,471 units, 13,473 were targeted to be developed in settlements. The housing yield of land zoned in Local Area Plans (Bray, Wicklow-Rathnew, Arklow, Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole, Blessington, Newtownmountkennedy and Rathdrum), at the time of adoption of the 2016 County Development Plan, was 23,513 units. Land zoned as part of the settlement plans which formed part of the County Development Plan had capacity for a further 4,369 units. Therefore there was adequate land zoned to cater for the housing target.

- HS4** *To ensure that water services are or will be available during the currency of the plan, sufficient to meet the housing demand.*

The table below, taken from the 2016 – 2022 housing strategy, shows the estimated number of housing that would have been possible to develop given the infrastructure capacities as of September 2015.

Town	Total housing yield of zoned land <sup>2</sup>	Total housing yield of serviced land <sup>3</sup>
Bray	4,689	2,086
Wicklow / Rathnew	5,640	5,640
Arklow	4,000	0
Greystones/ Delgany	3,767	2,000
Blessington	1,840	0
Newtown	1,706	750
Ashford	858	858
Aughrim	287	0
Baltinglass	521	75
Carnew	365	0
Dunlavin	840	0
Enniskerry	470	300
Kilcoole	782	250
Rathdrum	1,089	300
Tinahely	231	50
Avoca	120	0
Donard	37	37
Kilmacanogue	151	151
Newcastle	211	0
Roundwood	195	0
Shillelagh	83	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,873</b>	<b>12,497</b>

The table illustrates that a number of settlements had infrastructure deficiencies. Given the housing target of 15,471 units up to 2022, of which 13,473 were targeted to be developed in the urban settlements, there was inadequate serviced land available (enough land serviced to accommodate c. 93% of the urban housing growth targeted). The deficiencies in Arklow and Blessington, both of which were targeted for significant growth, have not been addressed to date and this has impacted on the delivery of housing in these settlements. Infrastructure deficiencies have also impeded development in Aughrim, Dunlavin, Tinahely and Avoca.

5. **HS5** *To ensure that investment in infrastructure is distributed in a balanced manner around the County, with priority given to designated growth towns.*

There has been limited major investment in infrastructure between 2016 and 2021:

- (a) IW is making a significant investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme to ensure a safe and sustainable water supply for the north Wicklow and south Dublin area, estimated at c. €150m and due for completion in 2021. The project includes *inter alia* the construction of a new water treatment plant at Vartry, the construction of a new 4km pipeline from Vartry and Callowhill and the upgrade / replacement of other infrastructure. The scheme will ensure that water complies with water quality standards set out in the EU Drinking Water Directive and the national Drinking Water Regulations. The project will also ensure that this critical water supply network can operate safely through any intense rainfall events

<sup>2</sup> As of Sept 2015, including the amended zoning provisions of the adopted County Development Plan 2016-2022

<sup>3</sup> as of Sept 2015

- (b) Arklow / Ballyduff Water Treatment Plant Upgrade – Irish Water has invested €5 million in a new water treatment plant that serves 13,000 customers from a combination of both ground and surface water sources which has improved the water quality in the area and further secured the water supply.
- (c) Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, has invested €650,000 to upgrade the water treatment plant in Avoca, Co. Wicklow.
- (d) Plans for the delivery of the Arklow Wastewater Treatment plant are at an advanced stage. The new plant has been designed to provide an ultimate treatment capacity for a PE (population equivalent) of up to 36,000. The necessary planning, land and licences have been secured and the procurement of the construction contract is concluding. Subject to Ministerial consent, construction work is planned to begin in the second half of 2021.

6. **HS6** *To require that 10% of all zoned land developed for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, shall be devoted to social housing.*

In accordance with Policy Objective HD4 of the County Development Plan 2016-2022, the Planning Authority has required that 10% of all zoned land developed for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, is devoted to social housing.

7. **HS7** *To require all applicants for permission that will include social housing to engage in meaningful pre-planning discussions with both the Housing and Planning Authorities, in order to establish at the outset the location, house size and house design requirements of both Authorities.*

Applicants for developments including social and / or affordable housing have generally engaged in pre-planning discussions with both the Housing and Planning departments, in order to establish at the outset the location, house size and house design requirements of the Local Authority.

8. **HS8** *To require the highest standard of design in all new social development or development containing an element of social housing, in accordance with the development standards set out in the County Development Plan and the DoEHLG social housing guidelines.*

The highest standard of design has been required in all new social / affordable development or development containing an element of social / affordable housing, in accordance with the development standards set out in the County Development Plan and the DoEHLG social housing guidelines. All new social housing are to NZEB (Nearly Zero Emissions Building) standard.

9. **HS9** *To encourage proposals from developers to satisfy Part V obligations which are directed toward special need categories – namely, elderly accommodation, traveller accommodation, specialised accommodation for the homeless and specially adapted accommodation for persons with disabilities – where the proposal is related to an identified local need and is consistent with other policies of the Development Plan.*

Developers have been encouraged, as part of the Part V obligations, to deliver housing that addresses special need categories – namely, elderly accommodation, traveller accommodation, specialised accommodation for the homeless and specially adapted accommodation for persons with disabilities – where the proposal is related to an identified local need and is consistent with other policies of the Development Plan.



## 1.4 Approach

The approach adopted is summarised below:

- Project the number of expected household formations in the County for the period ~~from 2021 to 2028~~ of the Development Plan, which will be Q3 2022 to Q2 2028. The methodology for translating population targets into housing targets is set out in Ministerial Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning' (DHLGH December 2020).
- Project the levels and distribution of household disposable incomes across these households over the period in question. This involves the application of available national income data to Wicklow and the characterisation of different income groupings across households within the County.
- Assess housing affordability in the County over the period, based on the income projections made.
- Project the levels and distributions of house prices over the period. A distribution of house price bands is then constructed which is matched up with the above-mentioned affordability bands.

## 1.5 Methodology and Data Sources

In preparing the strategy, reference was made to the following guidelines and data sets<sup>4</sup>:

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidelines – “Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – Housing Supply – A Model Housing Strategy and step-by-step guide”, December 2000;
- Implementation Roadmap for the NPF (July 2018);
- Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (December 2020);
- CSO Census data;
- CSO quarterly data on house completions;
- CSO income data;
- House price data from the Property Price Register.

Where data was available on a national basis only, enabling assumptions were necessarily made regarding how - if at all - the position in Wicklow departed from national trends. In all cases where standard national projections (either in population, incomes or prices) were used, care was taken to make whatever adjustment might render the dataset more appropriate to the particular circumstances of Wicklow. Notwithstanding this issue of the application of (adjusted) national data to the County specific context, a principal concern throughout the preparation of this strategy has been that all available datasets should be identified and accessed, and that any inference or interpretation drawn from that data should be clearly stated, well-reasoned, and well founded.

In relation to house price data in particular, the Planning Authority has constructed its own forecasts of house price trends. Due to the unknown impact of external factors on the economy, such as COVID-19 and Brexit, at the time of drafting this strategy (2020 / 2021), it is not possible to source predictions upon which there is consensus.

Therefore in order to make the analysis robust, the 'best case' scenario (in terms of housing affordability) is utilised for the analysis. Similarly, with regard to predicting the growth of disposable income a 'best case'

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<sup>4</sup> This strategy was drafted in mid 2015 and utilised data available at that time. For example, Census data utilised is from 2011.

position is used for analysis, as the combination of these scenarios (i.e. assuming growth in disposable income<sup>5</sup>, with moderate house price growth) would give the least justification for seeking the maximum 10% social housing (or 20% social and affordable housing in certain circumstances) under Part V.

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<sup>5</sup> The disposable income is determined by calculating the average income between 2000 and 2017 based on CSO data.

## 2. Estimating Housing Demand

### 2.1 Population Trends

The most up to date population data is the 2016 Census. According to the 2016 census, the population of the state was 4,761,865, an increase of 173,613 persons compared with 2011. This represents an increase of 3.8 % over a 5 year period, or slightly under 0.8 % on an annual average basis. The population change is driven by three elements - births, deaths and net migration (immigration less emigration). The decrease in the population growth rate is due largely to a fall in the state's births rate.

**Table 2.1: Population of State 1996 -2016**

State	Population	% Change
1996	3,626,087	
2002	3,917,203	8.03%
2006	4,239,848	8.24%
2011	4,588,252	8.22%
2016	4,761,865	3.78%

Source: CSO Population at Each Census 1841 to 2016

The 'Eastern Region' of the Eastern and Midlands Region, made up of counties Kildare, Louth, Meath and Wicklow, had a population of 688,857 in 2016. This represents around 14.5% of the population of the State. It too has seen a decreasing trend in population growth over a 5 year period between 2011 and 2016, decreasing from 11.38% between 2006 and 2011 to 5.33% 2011-2016.

**Table 2.2: Population of Eastern Region 1996 -2016**

Eastern Region	Population	% Change
1996	439,573	
2002	514,446	17.03%
2006	586,627	14.03%
2011	653,984	11.48%
2016	688,857	5.33%

Source: CSO Census of Population 1996, 2002, 2006, 2011 and 2016

Wicklow's population increased from 136,640 in 2011 to 142,425 in 2016. This represents an increase of 4.2%; while this is lower than previous intercensal growth rates, it is slightly higher than the State's growth rate.

**Table 2.3: Population of Wicklow 1996 -2016**

Wicklow	Population	% Change
1996	102,683	
2002	114,676	11.68%
2006	126,194	10.04%
2011	136,640	8.28%
2016	142,425	4.23%

Source: CSO Census Population 1996, 2002, 2006, 2011, 2016

In accordance with national and regional policy, the draft Wicklow 'Core Strategy' 2022<sup>21</sup> – 2028<sup>78</sup> sets out the following population and housing targets.

**Table 2.4 Population Targets County Wicklow 2026, 2031**

	2016	2026	2031	Total growth 2016-2031
County Wicklow plus 25% headroom (2026 only) plus MASP allocation (2031)	142,425	155,000 - 157,500 158,144 – 161,269	160,500 – 164,000  170,000 – 173,500	18,075 – 21,575  27,575 – 31,075
of which Bray (min)				9,500

Source: NPF, NPF Roadmap, RSES, WCC, draft Wicklow CDP

~~These targets have been distributed as set out in Table 2.5.~~

**Table 2.5 Wicklow Settlement / Aggregate Settlement Population Targets 2016-2031**

Level	Settlement	Population 2016	Population target 2031	% of total County growth to 2031 by tier	
1	Bray	29,646	40,425	KEY TOWNS	52%
2	Wicklow – Rathnew	14,114	19,470		
3	Arklow	13,226	16,440	SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH TOWNS	25%
	Greystones – Delgany	18,021	21,630		
	Blessington	5,234	6,035		
4	Baltinglass	2,251	2,725	SELF-SUSTAINING TOWNS	10%
	Enniskerry	1,877	1,920		
	Kilcoole	4,244	4,315		
	Newtownmountkennedy	3,552	5,220		
	Rathdrum	1,716	2,480		
5	Ashford	5,710	7,210	SMALL TOWNS TYPE 1	5%
	Aughrim				
	Carnew				
	Dunlavin				
	Tinahely				
6	Avoca	3,835	4,345	SMALL TOWNS TYPE 2	2%
	Donard				
	Kilmacanogue				
	Newcastle				
	Roundwood				
	Shillelagh				
7-9	Villages / nodes	5,672	6,010	VILLAGES	1%
10	Open countryside	33,327	35,280	OPEN COUNTRYSIDE	6%
	Total	142,425	173,505		100.0%

## 2.2 Housing Stock Requirements

The methodology for translating population targets into housing targets is set out in Ministerial Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning' (DHLGH December 2020).

**Table 2.56 Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2017-2031**

County Wicklow	Total	Per annum
ESRI NPF scenario projected new household demand 2017 to 2031	10,976	732
Actual new housing supply 2017-2019	2,190	730
Homeless households, and estimated unmet demand as at Census 2016	150	
Housing demand 2020 - 2031	8,936	745

**Source:** ~~Prepared in accordance with Appendix 1~~ 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DHLGH, 2020).

Methodology is provided in the guidelines to establish the housing demand up to 2026, taking into account the 25% 'headroom' up to 2026 that is afforded to County Wicklow in the NPF 'Roadmap', ~~as well as the number of units completed in 2020. In addition, further guidance and data has been provided by the Department into the crafting of the population and housing targets for the development plan 6-year period, which integrates the +25% for 2026 methodology as well as units completed / estimated to be completed by the time the plan is adopted.~~

~~In accordance with said guidance, the following table sets out the housing target for the plan period i.e. up to Q2 2028.~~

**Table 2.6:** Housing supply targets for Q3 2022 – Q2 2028 Development Plan

-	<b>County Wicklow</b>	<b>Annual average households</b>	<b>Total Households</b>
A	<u>ESRI NPF scenario project new household demand 2017 to Q2 2028</u>	716	8,238 <sup>6</sup>
B	<u>Actual new housing supply 2017 to Q3 2022</u>	976	4,634 <sup>7</sup>
C	<u>Homeless households and unmet demand</u>		150
D	<u>Plan housing demand = Total (A-B+C)</u>		3,754
E	<b>Potential adjustment 1 to end 2026 portion of plan period to facilitate convergence to NPF strategy</b>	<b>Mid-Point between ESRI NPF and baseline scenarios to 2026 in lieu of A above</b>	<b>Adjusted total demand</b>
E1	<u>ESRI baseline scenario projected new household demand 2017 to Q4 2026</u>	796	7,960
E2	<u>ESRI NPF scenario projected new household demand to Q2 2028</u>	1,111	1,111
E3	<u>Mid-Point between A-E2 (ESRI NPF and baseline scenarios, to Q4 2026</u>	754	7,544
E4	<u>Adjusted total demand calculation based on E + E3 in lieu of A above</u>	695	4,171
F	<b>Potential adjustment 2 to end 2026 portion of plan period to facilitate convergence to NPF strategy, applicable where B exceeds or is close to D (where justified)</b>	<b>Mid-point between ESRI NPF and baseline scenarios to 2026 in lieu of A above, plus up to 25%</b>	<b>Adjusted Total Demand</b>
F1	<u>E3 +25%</u>	943	9,429
F2	<u>Remainder plan period demand to Q2 2028</u>	1,111	1,111
F3	<u>Adjusted Total Demand calculation based on E3 in lieu of A above and F1 +E2</u>	1,009	6,056

In this regard, the housing demand up to for the period Q3 2022 to Q2 2028 is 6,056 units. 2021 up to 2026 is 4,981 units.

#### Taking into account

- the overall target for 2016-2031 of 11,126 (as shown on Table 2.5 above)<sup>8</sup>;
- the units already completed up to 2020 (3,230);
- the estimated unit completions for 2021 and the first half of 2022 (1,404);
- the calculated housing delivery target units between Q3 2022 and Q2 2028 (6,056);

the growth remaining for the Q3 2028- Q4 2031 period appears unreasonably low, at 436 units over a 3 ½ year period or 125 units per annum. However, it is assumed well before 2028, growth targets will be reviewed / revised and new targets will be provided for the post 2028 period.

Thereafter it is assumed that housing demand will be delivered evenly up to 2031, up to the total target of 11,126 units (10,976 + 150 as per the table above).

<sup>6</sup> Source: DHLGH - ESRI

<sup>7</sup> Source: Completions 2017-2020 (3,230) PLUS estimate of completions 2021 (936) and Q1+Q2 2022 (468)

<sup>8</sup> 10,976 + 150

**Table 2.7 Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2022, 2028, 2031**

County Wicklow	Units delivered 2017-2020	Estimated completions 2021 – 2026 + Q1/Q2 2022	2027 – 2028 Q3 2022 – Q2 2028	Q3 2029 – Q4 2031	Total
New housing demand	3,230	4,981,404	1,166,056	1,749,436	11,126

Neither the NPF 'Roadmap' nor the 2020 Guidelines take account of the additional population allocation to Bray as per the MASP. This equates to 3,820 units<sup>9</sup>, and assuming they will be delivered over a 9.510 year period from Q3 2022 to Q4 2031<sup>10</sup>, this equates to 402,382 units per annum. This will be assumed to be delivered in a linear even manner and no 'front loading' for 2026 is provided for as per the MASP:

**Table 2.8 Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2026, 2028, 2031 + MASP**

County Wicklow	Units delivered 2017-2020	2021-2026	2027-2028	2029-2031	Total
New housing demand	3,230	6,891	1,930	2,895	14,946

County Wicklow	Units delivered 2017-2020	Estimated completions Q1 2021 – Q2 2022	Target Q3 2022 – Q2 2028	Target Q3 2028 - 2031	Total
New housing demand	<u>3,230</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>8,469</u>	<u>1,843</u>	<u>14,946</u>

**Table 2.9 Annual housing delivered / delivery targets 2017-2031**

Year	Completions	Estimated completions up to Q2 2022	Targeted completions Q3 2022 – Q4 2031
2017	479		
2018	588		
2019	1,116		
2020	1,046		
2021		936	
2022		468	706
2023			1,411
2024			1,411
2025			1,411
2026			1,411
2027			1,411
2028			969
2029			528
2030			528
2031			528

<sup>9</sup> Using the same ratio of population: housing units as provided for in the guidelines

<sup>10</sup> This is in accordance with the RSES which indicates that this additional allocation is for the period up to 2031 (medium term) and takes into account that development projects on the two identified 'strategic sites' in Bray (Bray Golf Club and Fassaroe) comprising in excess of 1,500 units are at an advanced stage as of Q3 2021

**Table 2.10 Wicklow Settlement / Aggregate Settlement Housing Targets 2026, Q2 2028, 2031**

Level	Settlement	Housing—Stock 2016	Further Housing-Unit Growth—up-to-2026	Housing-Unit Growth up-to-2028	Housing-Unit Growth up-to-2031
1	Bray	11,232	2,855	3,654	4,855
2	Wicklow—Rathnew	5,456	992	1,270	1,687
3	Arklow	5,406	632	810	1,076
	Greystones—Delgany	6,766	614	786	1,044
	Blessington	1,914	295	378	502
4	Baltinglass	903	85	110	145
	Enniskerry	648	66	84	111
	Kilcoole	1,451	112	144	191
	Newtownmountkennedy	1,222	360	460	612
	Rathdrum	669	117	150	200
5	Ashford	2,390	115	223	294
	Aughrim				
	Carnew				
	Dunlavin				
	Tinahely				
6	Avoca	1,534	116	147	195
	Donard				
	Kilmacanogue				
	Newcastle				
	Roundwood				
	Shillelagh				
7-10	Villages / clusters Open countryside	15,395	474	606	806
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54,986</b>	<b>6,891</b>	<b>8,821</b>	<b>11,719</b>



Having established the population and housing growth parameters for the County for the plan period (to Q2 2028) and the longer term period of end Q4 2031, these targets must then be allocated to the various settlements / aggregate settlement groups as established in the Wicklow settlement hierarchy (see Chapter 3 of the Development Plan).

Housing growth rates targeted for each settlement / settlement tier are reflective of the respective position of each settlement or groups of settlement in the overall hierarchy, the tier designation and any growth parameters associated with same as may be provided in the NPF or RSES, and the capacity of that settlement / settlement tier for growth having regard to the asset based assessment.

In a small number of cases, the targeted housing growth rate has had to take account of significant legacy housing developments already in train, which would result in a higher growth rate than may have been appropriate for the settlement given its position in the hierarchy and asset capacity.

<b><u>Level</u></b>	<b><u>Settlement</u></b>	<b><u>Justification</u></b>
<b><u>1</u></b>	<u>Bray</u>	<u>Key Towns are identified for growth rates of c. 35% having regard to their</u>
<b><u>2</u></b>	<u>Wicklow - Rathnew</u>	<u>identification on the RSES are towns suitable for higher levels of growth.</u>
<b><u>3</u></b>	<u>Arklow</u> <u>Greystones - Delgany</u> <u>Blessington</u>	<u>Towns in Level 3 are targeted for growth rates of 25%-30%, with slight variations based on capacity / past trends.</u>
<b><u>4</u></b>	<u>Baltinglass</u> <u>Enniskerry</u> <u>Kilcoole</u> <u>Newtownmountkennedy</u> <u>Rathdrum</u>	<u>Towns in Level 4 are generally targeted for growth rates around 20%-25%. Newtownmountkennedy (at c.65%) and Rathdrum (at c.45%) will significantly exceed this target due to legacy housing developments under construction. The goal for these towns is to limit further development, other than for town centre infill / regeneration.</u>
<b><u>5</u></b>	<u>Ashford</u> <u>Aughrim</u> <u>Carnew</u> <u>Dunlavin</u> <u>Tinahely</u>	<u>Towns in Level 5 are generally targeted for growth rates of 15%-20%. Ashford (at c.60%) will significantly exceed this target due to legacy housing developments under construction. The goal for this town is to limit further development, other than for town centre infill / regeneration.</u>
<b><u>6</u></b>	<u>Avoca</u> <u>Donard</u> <u>Kilmacanogue</u> <u>Newcastle</u> <u>Roundwood</u> <u>Shillelagh</u>	<u>Towns in Level 6 are generally targeted for growth rates of 10%-15%.</u>
<b><u>7 - 9</u></b>	<u>Villages / clusters</u>	<u>Growth rate of 5%-10% identified as appropriate for rural villages and open countryside.</u>
<b><u>10</u></b>	<u>Open countryside</u>	

<u>Level</u>	<u>Settlement</u>	<u>Housing Stock 2016</u>	<u>Completions 2017-2020</u>	<u>Estimated completions 2021-Q2 2022</u>	<u>Housing Growth Q3 2022-Q2 2028</u>	<u>Housing Growth Q3 2028-Q4 2031</u>	<u>Total Housing Growth 2016-2031</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Bray</u>	<u>11,232</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>4,026</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>5,062</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Wicklow - Rathnew</u>	<u>5,456</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>1,267</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>2,392</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Arklow</u>	<u>5,406</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>1,221</u>
	<u>Greystones - Delgany</u>	<u>6,766</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>1,953</u>
	<u>Blessington</u>	<u>1,914</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>519</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Baltinglass</u>	<u>903</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>195</u>
	<u>Enniskerry</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>125</u>
	<u>Kilcoole</u>	<u>1,451</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>287</u>
	<u>Newtownmount-kennedy</u>	<u>1,222</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>882</u>
	<u>Rathdrum</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>331</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>2,390</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>515</u>
	<u>Aughrim</u>						
	<u>Carnew</u>						
	<u>Dunlavin</u>						
	<u>Tinahely</u>						
<u>6</u>	<u>Avoca</u>	<u>1,534</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>218</u>
	<u>Donard</u>						
	<u>Kilmacanogue</u>						
	<u>Newcastle</u>						
	<u>Roundwood</u>						
<u>Shillelagh</u>							
<u>7-9</u> <u>10</u>	<u>Villages / clusters / Open countryside</u>	<u>15,395</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>478</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>1249</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>54,968</u>	<u>3,230</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>8,467</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>14,949</u>

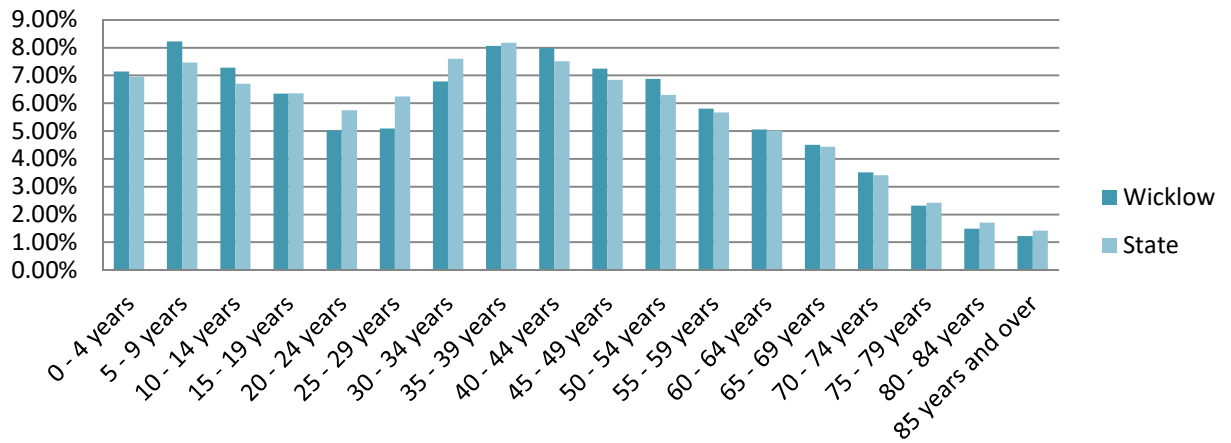


### 2.3 Demographic and Occupancy Trends (2016)

The demand for housing and the type of housing that will be required in the County will be influenced by the age profile of the County and its household composition.

#### 2.3.1 Age Structure

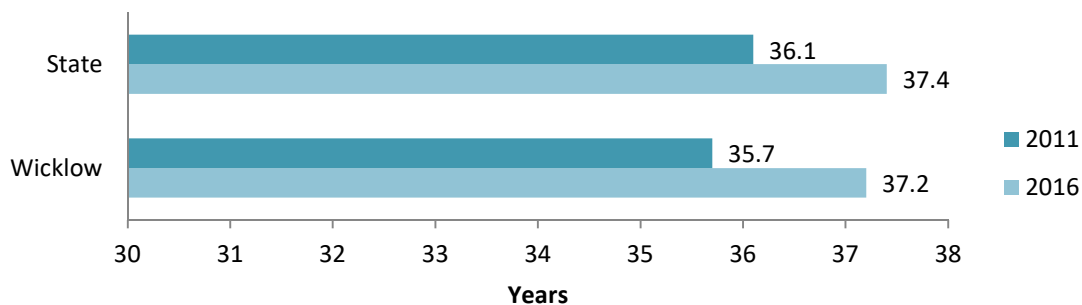
**Fig. 2.1 2016 Age Cohorts for Wicklow and the State**



**Source:** CSO Population 2011 to 2016

- The percentage of persons under 19 in Wicklow is 29% compared to 27.5% for the State;
- The percentage of persons under 24 in Wicklow is 34% compared to 33.2% for the State;
- The percentage of persons between 25-44 in Wicklow is 28% compared to 29.5% for the State;
- The percentage of persons between 45-64 in Wicklow is 25% compared to 23.8% for the State;
- The percentage of persons over 65 in Wicklow is 13% compared to 13.4% for the State.

**Fig. 2.2 Mean Average Age 2011-2016**

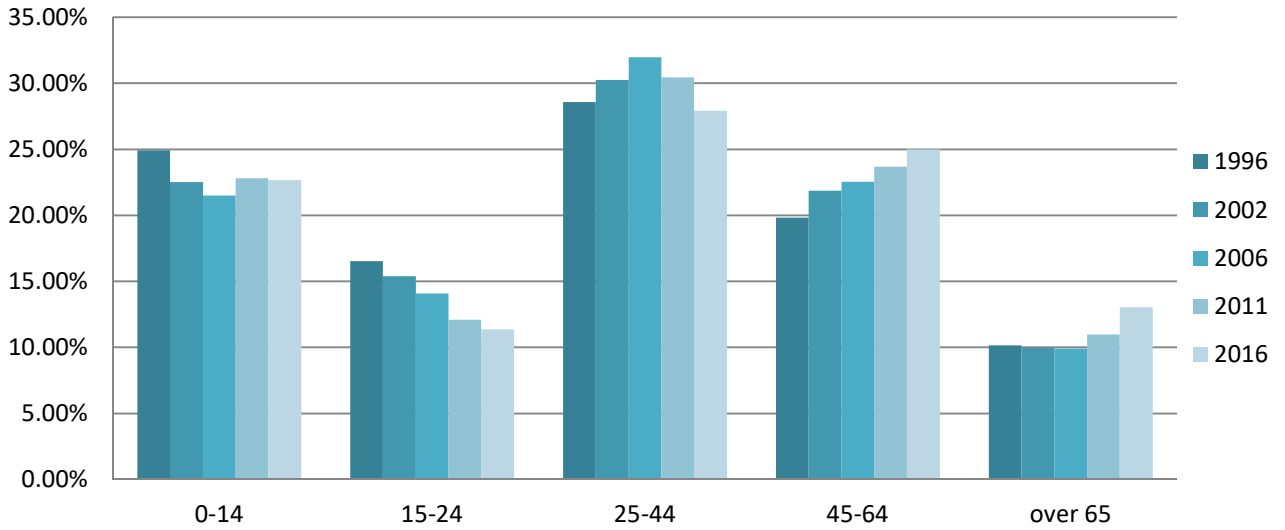


**Source:** CSO Census 2011 and 2016

The age profile for Wicklow between 1996 and 2016 indicates an increase in the older age profile for the county. This can be seen in the mean average age of the county which has increased from 35.7 in 2011 to 37.2 in 2016.



**Fig. 2.3 Age Cohorts County Wicklow 1996-2016**



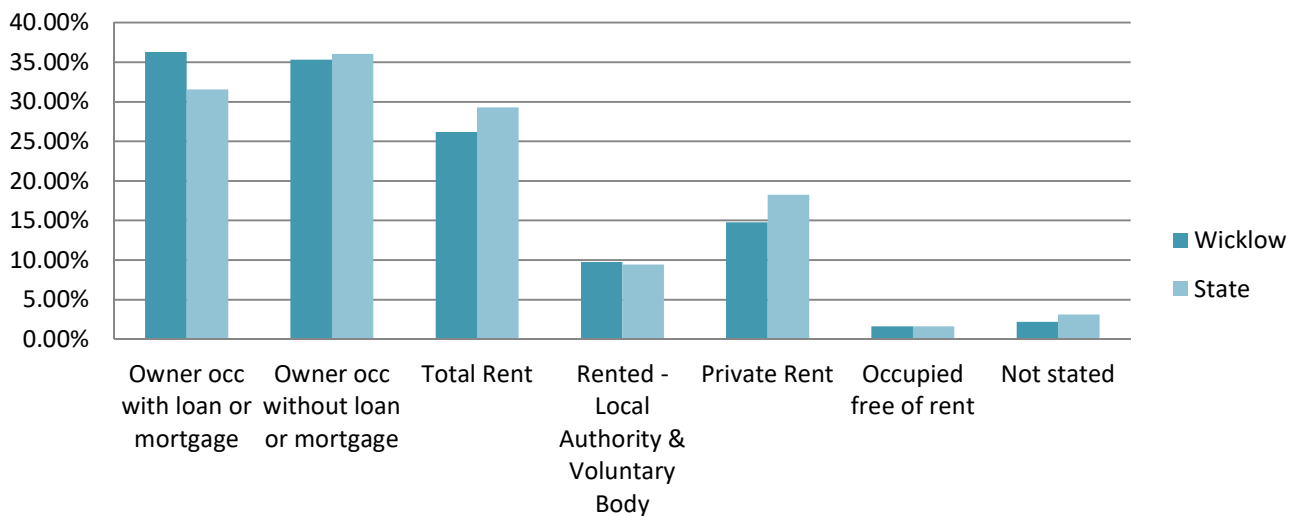
**Source:** CSO Census Population 1996, 2002, 2006, 2011, 2016

The graph above illustrates the notable decline in the 15-24 age cohort. Since 2006, there has also been a decline in the 25 – 44 age cohort. In contrast, there has been a steady increase in the 45-64 age cohort. Since 2006, there has been a gradual increase in the over 65s.

### 2.3.2 Housing Tenure

County Wicklow has a higher rate of owner occupied houses than the regional or national average; with c. 71.5% of households occupying their own homes either with or without a mortgage (the regional average is 64.9% and state average is 67.5%). This represents a slight decline from 2011 when home ownership rates were 73% for Wicklow and 70% for the state. Wicklow has a lower rate of renting (all forms of renting) than the State average, and this is mainly due to a lower rate of renting from private landlords, as the rate of renting from the Local Authority is in fact slightly higher in Wicklow than the national average.

**Fig. 2.4 Housing Tenure 2016**

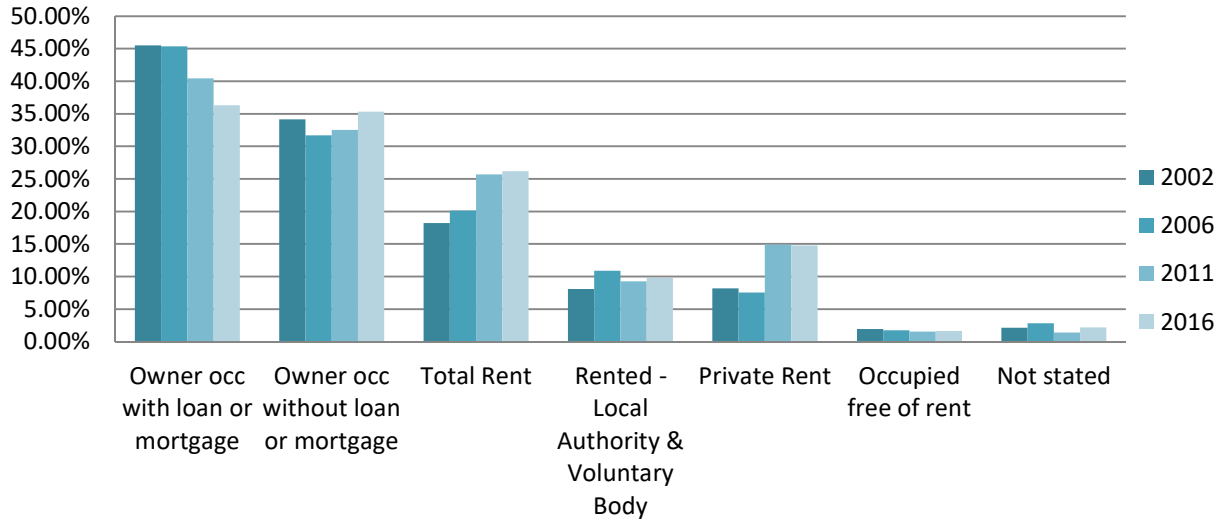


**Source:** CSO Private Households in Permanent Housing Units 2011 to 2016



With respect to changes in tenure since 2002, the starkest change continues to be the increased rate of people renting, particularly renting from private landlords. There is also a notable decrease in the number of owner occupiers paying mortgages.

**Fig 2.5 Wicklow Housing Tenure 2002-2016**



Source: CSO, Private Households in Permanent Housing Units 2002, 2006, 2011 and 2016

### 2.3.3 Household Size

**Table 2.11 Average Household Size**

	1971	1981	1991	2002	2006	2011	2016
<b>Wicklow</b>	3.95	3.71	3.41	3.07	2.89	2.83	2.87
<b>State</b>	3.94	3.68	3.34	2.95	2.81	2.73	2.75

**Source:** CSO Average Number of Persons per Private Household in Permanent Housing Units 1971 to 2016

Census 2016 revealed that the average number of persons per household recorded an increase for the first time since 1966. In 2011 there were on average 2.73 persons per household. This increased to 2.75 in 2016. Despite this, it is assumed that in the medium to long term, the average number of persons in private households will once again decline due to wider demographic trends associated with lower fertility rates and an ageing population. The National Planning Framework indicates that the average household size is expected to decline to 2.5 persons by 2040.

Nationally, the growth in household size was confined to the urban areas (i.e. settlements with a population of 1,500 persons or more) with an increase from 2.64 to 2.69. However in rural areas, the downward trend in the average number of persons per household continued in the 2011-2016 intercensal period (2.87 to 2.84).

Table 2.12 illustrates the breakdown of household size in County Wicklow relative to the state average. As can be seen, Wicklow has a lower percentage of one and two person households than the state. However, the County has a higher percentage of three, four and five person households than the state average.

**Table 2.12 Private Households by Size**

	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person plus
<b>Wicklow</b>	20.1%	27.8%	18.5%	18.9%	14.5%
<b>State</b>	23.4%	28.5%	17.4%	16.9%	13.5%

**Source:** CSO Private Households 2011 to 2016

### 2.3.4 Housing Stock

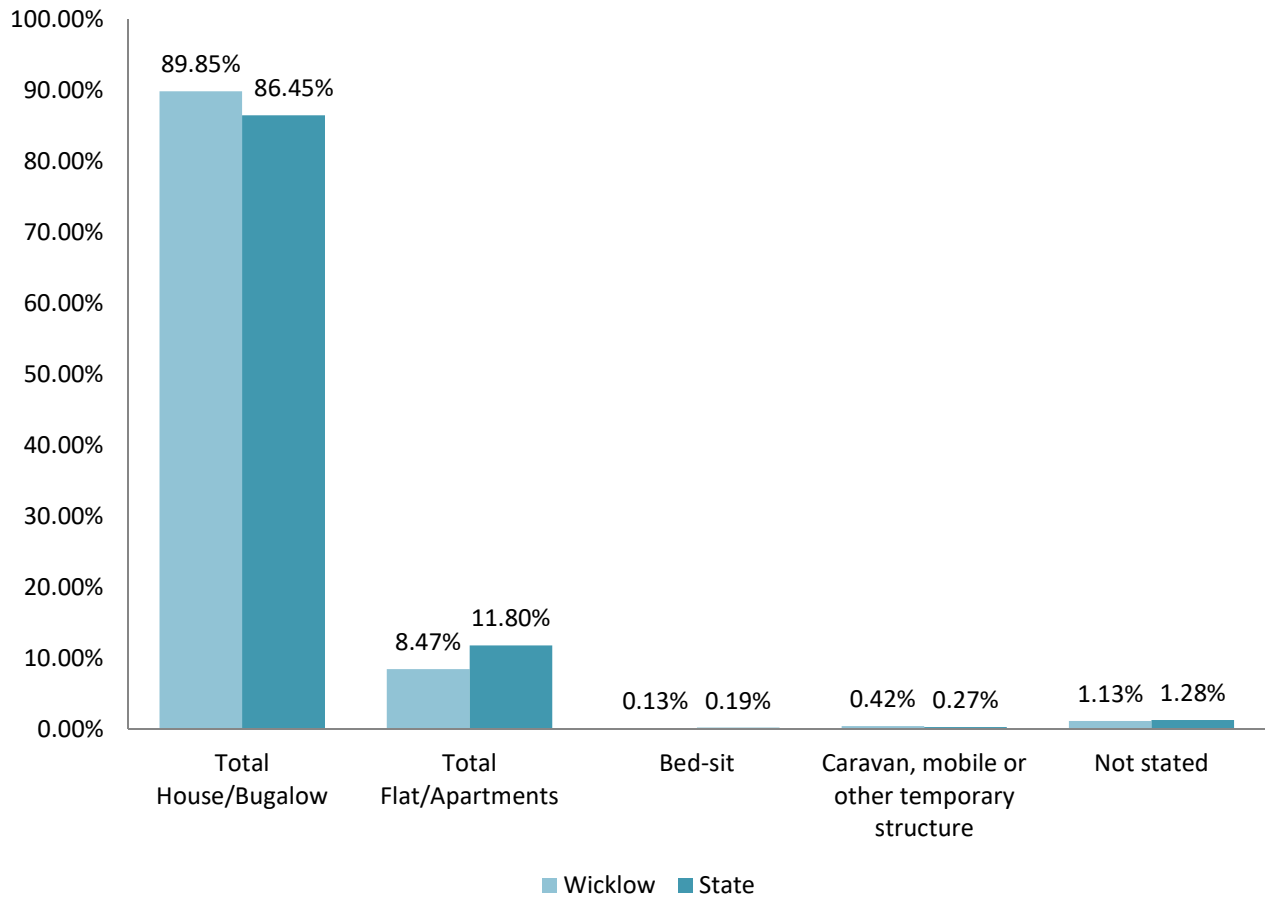
The total housing stock in County Wicklow in 2016 was 54,986. This represented an increase of 635 units compared with 2011. The vacancy rate declined from 9.9% in 2011 to 8.1% in 2016. This compares with the State's vacancy rate which declined from 14.5% to 12.3% over the same period.

As stated in the National Vacant Housing Reuse Strategy<sup>11</sup> a vacancy rate of between 2.5% and 6% is considered normal in a properly functioning housing market. This vacancy rate allows for dwellings under renovation, in between tenancies (in both public and private housing stock) and those dwellings left vacant while being sold.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9f259-national-vacant-housing-reuse-strategy/>

### 2.3.5 Housing Type

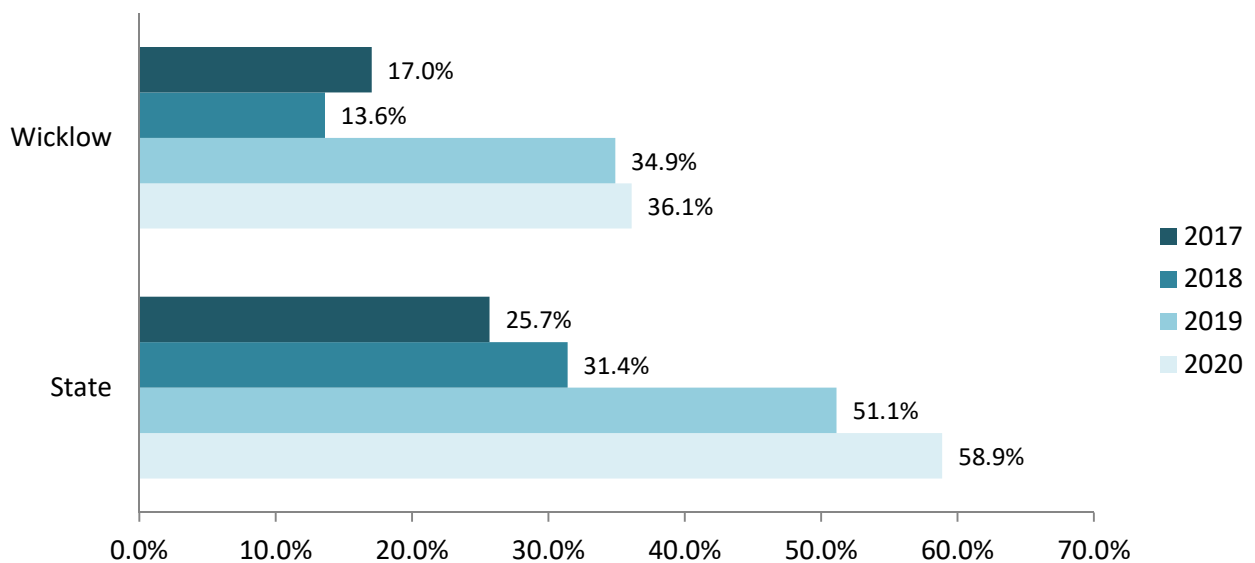
In terms of the type of housing, the majority of accommodation (almost 90%) in the County comprises dwelling houses<sup>12</sup>. This is higher than the state average which is 86.4%. As of 2016 there were 4,170 apartments / flats in the County which equates to approximately 8.5% of private households, lower than the state average of 11.8%.



**Source:** CSO, Census 2016

Planning permission data indicates a growing trend towards the provision of more apartments as a percentage of total new housing applications. As Fig. 2.7 illustrates, between 2017 and 2019/2020, permission for new apartments in the County increased from 17% to ~~34.9%~~ 36.1%. This compares with the state average of 25.7% in 2017 to ~~51.1%~~ 58.9% in ~~2019~~ 2020.

<sup>12</sup> This includes detached, semi-detached and terraced.

**Fig 2.7 Planning permission for flats/apartments 2017-2020**

**Source:** CSO Planning Permissions Granted for New Houses and Apartments <sup>13</sup>  
[\(updated chart\)](#)

### 2.3.6 Implications for Housing Strategy

- With respect to age structure, the steady increase in the proportion of the County that is over 45 will in due course, require additional provision to be made for housing suitable for 'empty nesters' and older persons in need of specially adapted housing or housing with relevant services.
- At the other end of spectrum, the proportion of those in the 15-24 age cohort has been falling, which may suggest an easing off in pressure for new 'starter homes' from those already resident in the County during the lifetime of this strategy, as these are likely to be the persons seeking such housing up to 2028.
- However, given the increase in population in the under 14 age cohort, this easing off is unlikely to continue beyond 2028, when this large cohort is likely to start needing housing of their own.
- Notwithstanding the modest increase in household size between 2011 and 2016, it is likely that household size will start to fall again. The National Planning Framework indicates that the average household size is expected to decline to 2.5 persons by 2040. Accordingly, provision should be made in housing plans for more 1 and 2 bedroom units. However, it needs to be borne in mind that c. 69% of all 2 person households (or 40% of all 1 and 2 person households) are either a husband and wife or cohabitating couple household with no children and while a proportion of these may be 'empty nesters', there is a strong likelihood that many of such households could expand to 3 or 4 person households within the lifetime of this strategy.
- The increase in renting from the private sector does not necessarily imply an increased demand for this type of housing, but instead a lack of finance to purchase and a lack of supply of new homes on the market. Any housing strategy must ensure that there is adequate supply of zoned and serviced land to address the supply side as the demand appears to be there – the obstacle to be addressed being funding for both the developer and the purchaser.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/construction/planningpermissions/>



### 3. Household Incomes & Projections

#### 3.1 Estimated Distribution of Household Disposable Incomes

Household incomes are a key determinant of affordability, as set out in Section 93(1) of the Act. With rising house prices, an important measure of house price affordability is the ratio of house prices to disposable income.

Income distribution (i.e. the proportion of households in certain income groups), rather than average income is utilised as it allows more meaningful comparisons to house prices. The income distribution for Wicklow was developed as follows:

- The CSO Household Budget Survey for 2015-2016 (which is undertaken every 5 years) was used as the starting point to determine household income distribution for the life time of strategy. It contains the estimated data on total income and disposable income of household on a national level.
- This distribution was then adjusted on the basis of assumptions made about the gap between Wicklow and national levels of household income. To adjust this to a county level an inflated / deflated rate is used to estimate disposable income in Wicklow. Wicklow's average annual household disposable income data was obtained by using CSO Quarterly Accounts for 2016 and County Income and Regional GDP from 2016. This had updated disposable income data for 2016, including a new inflator / deflator of 0.9775 for the county.

**Table 3.1: Estimate of Wicklow's Average Annual Household Disposable Income by gross household income deciles 2016<sup>14</sup>**

Income range	Average weekly disposable income (State)	Adjusted weekly disposable income (State)	% of households in each decile	Average annual disposable income (State)	Wicklow deflator 2016	Average annual household disposal household income Wicklow 2016	Number of households in Wicklow 2016
	2015-2016	2016		2016			
	€	€		€		€	
<b>1st decile</b>	€197.4	€207.09	9.83%	€10,768.80	0.9775	€10,526.69	4835
<b>2nd decile</b>	€324.4	€340.33	10.57%	€17,697.06	0.9775	€17,299.18	5202
<b>3rd decile</b>	€465.86	€488.73	10.47%	€25,414.15	0.9775	€24,842.77	5152
<b>4th decile</b>	€593.56	€622.70	10.44%	€32,380.60	0.9775	€31,652.59	5138
<b>5th decile</b>	€725.85	€761.49	10.25%	€39,597.44	0.9775	€38,707.18	5044
<b>6th decile</b>	€865.88	€908.39	9.94%	€47,236.52	0.9775	€46,174.52	4893
<b>7th decile</b>	€1,026.46	€1,076.86	9.62%	€55,996.68	0.9775	€54,737.72	4735
<b>8th decile</b>	€1,215.55	€1,275.23	9.65%	€66,312.14	0.9775	€64,821.26	4749
<b>9th decile</b>	€1,473.25	€1,545.59	9.61%	€80,370.50	0.9775	€78,563.55	4728
<b>10th decile</b>	€2,229.05	€2,338.50	9.62%	€121,601.81	0.9775	€118,867.86	4735
			100.00%				49211

Source: CSO Household Budget Survey 2015-2016 & Quarterly Accounts

<sup>14</sup> Due to rounding, numbers presented in Table 3.1 and throughout other tables within this documents may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect the absolute figures

CSO Quarterly Accounts for 2017-2019 were used to determine household disposable income for the same period.

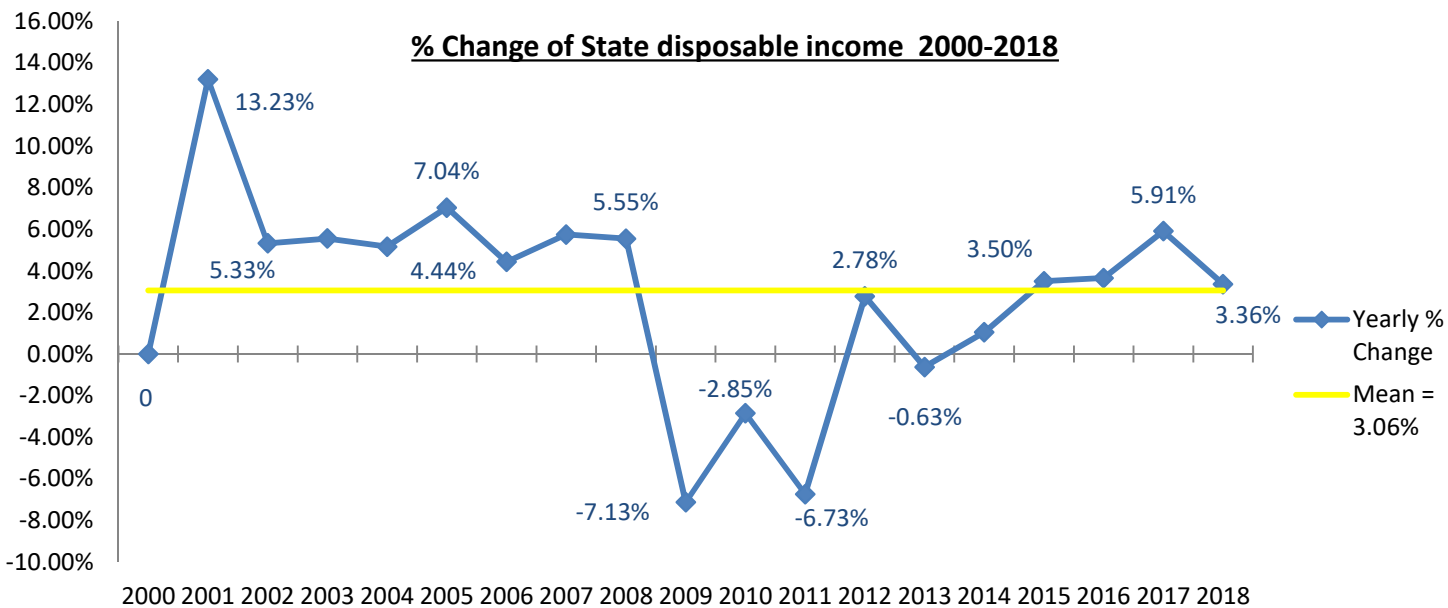
**Table 3.2: Percentage change of disposables income 2017 -2019 2020**

Year	2017	2018	2019
<b>% Change of total disposable income</b>	5.49%	4.34%	7.86%

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>% Change of total disposable income</b>	7.44%	4.53%	4.89%	7.32%

Source: CSO Quarterly Accounts

In terms of projecting household disposable income over the period of the strategy and up to 2031, assumptions will be based upon CSO Quarterly Account from 2000-2017 on a State level. This period has seen the rise and fall of the economy during and post Celtic tiger period. It is a good insight on how income has been affected over a long period of time and allows us to calculate average growth of disposable income.



Source: CSO  
(updated chart)

The chart shows the fluctuation of disposable income growth during and post 'Celtic tiger'. Over this period the mean disposable income growth rate within the state was just slightly over 3.1%-3.0% per annum.

Taking into account the current economic uncertainty as a result of COVID 19 and Brexit, an average of 2% disposable income growth is assumed from 2020 to 2022 for 2021 and 2022. An average of 3% disposable income growth is assumed thereafter for the purposes of this housing strategy.



### **3.2 Projected Household Disposable Income Distribution in Wicklow**

Tables 3.3 and 3.4 set out the projected household disposable income distribution in Wicklow 2016 – 2024 and the percentage projected household disposable income distribution in Wicklow 2024–2028 respectively.

**Table 3.3: Projected Household Disposable Income Distribution in Wicklow 2016 – 2024**

-	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
% change	-	5.49%	4.34%	7.86%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	3.00%	3.00%
1st decile	€10,526.69	€11,104.60	€11,586.54	€12,497.25	€12,747.19	€13,002.14	€13,262.18	€13,660.04	€14,069.84
2nd decile	€17,299.18	€18,248.90	€19,040.91	€20,537.52	€20,948.27	€21,367.24	€21,794.58	€22,448.42	€23,121.87
3rd decile	€24,842.77	€26,206.64	€27,344.01	€29,493.25	€30,083.11	€30,684.78	€31,298.47	€32,237.42	€33,204.55
4th decile	€31,652.59	€33,390.32	€34,839.46	€37,577.84	€38,329.40	€39,095.98	€39,877.90	€41,074.24	€42,306.47
5th decile	€38,707.18	€40,832.20	€42,604.32	€45,953.02	€46,872.08	€47,809.52	€48,765.71	€50,228.68	€51,735.54
6th decile	€46,174.52	€48,709.50	€50,823.49	€54,818.21	€55,914.58	€57,032.87	€58,173.53	€59,918.73	€61,716.30
7th decile	€54,737.72	€57,742.82	€60,248.85	€64,984.41	€66,284.10	€67,609.78	€68,961.98	€71,030.84	€73,161.77
8th decile	€64,821.26	€68,379.95	€71,347.64	€76,955.56	€78,494.67	€80,064.57	€81,665.86	€84,115.83	€86,639.31
9th decile	€78,563.55	€82,876.69	€86,473.54	€93,270.35	€95,135.76	€97,038.48	€98,979.25	€101,948.62	€105,007.08
10th decile	€118,867.86	€125,393.71	€130,835.79	€141,119.49	€143,941.88	€146,820.71	€149,757.13	€154,249.84	€158,877.34

**Table 3.4: Percentage Projected Household Disposable Income Distribution in Wicklow 2024 – 2028**

-	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
% change		3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
1st decile	€14,069.84	€14,491.94	€14,926.70	€15,374.50	€15,835.73
2nd decile	€23,121.87	€23,815.53	€24,529.99	€25,265.89	€26,023.87
3rd decile	€33,204.55	€34,200.68	€35,226.70	€36,283.51	€37,372.01
4th decile	€42,306.47	€43,575.66	€44,882.93	€46,229.42	€47,616.30
5th decile	€51,735.54	€53,287.61	€54,886.24	€56,532.83	€58,228.81
6th decile	€61,716.30	€63,567.78	€65,474.82	€67,439.06	€69,462.23
7th decile	€73,161.77	€75,356.62	€77,617.32	€79,945.84	€82,344.21
8th decile	€86,639.31	€89,238.49	€91,915.64	€94,673.11	€97,513.30
9th decile	€105,007.08	€108,157.30	€111,402.01	€114,744.07	€118,186.40
10th decile	€158,877.34	€163,643.66	€168,552.97	€173,609.56	€178,817.84

**Table 3.3: Projected Household Disposable Income Distribution in Wicklow 2016 -2024**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>% change</b>	-	<b>7.44</b>	<b>4.53%</b>	<b>4.89%</b>	<b>7.32%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>1st decile</b>	<b>€10,526.69</b>	€11,309.87	€11,822.21	€12,400.32	€13,308.02	€13,574.18	€13,845.67	€14,261.04	€14,688.87
<b>2nd decile</b>	<b>€17,299.18</b>	€18,586.24	€19,428.19	€20,378.23	€21,869.92	€22,307.32	€22,753.46	€23,436.07	€24,139.15
<b>3rd decile</b>	<b>€24,842.77</b>	€26,691.07	€27,900.18	€29,264.50	€31,406.66	€32,034.79	€32,675.49	€33,655.75	€34,665.43
<b>4th decile</b>	<b>€31,652.59</b>	€34,007.54	€35,548.09	€37,286.39	€40,015.75	€40,816.07	€41,632.39	€42,881.36	€44,167.80
<b>5th decile</b>	<b>€38,707.18</b>	€41,586.99	€43,470.88	€45,596.61	€48,934.28	€49,912.97	€50,911.23	€52,438.56	€54,011.72
<b>6th decile</b>	<b>€46,174.52</b>	€49,609.90	€51,857.23	€54,393.05	€58,374.62	€59,542.11	€60,732.95	€62,554.94	€64,431.59
<b>7th decile</b>	<b>€54,737.72</b>	€58,810.20	€61,474.30	€64,480.40	€69,200.36	€70,584.37	€71,996.06	€74,155.94	€76,380.62
<b>8th decile</b>	<b>€64,821.26</b>	€69,643.96	€72,798.83	€76,358.70	€81,948.15	€83,587.12	€85,258.86	€87,816.62	€90,451.12
<b>9th decile</b>	<b>€78,563.55</b>	€84,408.68	€88,232.39	€92,546.95	€99,321.39	€101,307.82	€103,333.97	€106,433.99	€109,627.01
<b>10th decile</b>	<b>€118,867.86</b>	€127,711.63	€133,496.97	€140,024.97	€150,274.80	€153,280.29	€156,345.90	€161,036.28	€165,867.36

**Table 3.4: Percentage Projected Household Disposable Income Distribution in Wicklow 2024 -2028**

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>% change</b>		<b>3.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>1st decile</b>	<b>€14,688.87</b>	€15,129.53	€15,583.42	€16,050.92	€16,532.45
<b>2nd decile</b>	<b>€24,139.15</b>	€24,863.32	€25,609.22	€26,377.50	€27,168.83
<b>3rd decile</b>	<b>€34,665.43</b>	€35,705.39	€36,776.55	€37,879.85	€39,016.24
<b>4th decile</b>	<b>€44,167.80</b>	€45,492.83	€46,857.62	€48,263.35	€49,711.25
<b>5th decile</b>	<b>€54,011.72</b>	€55,632.07	€57,301.03	€59,020.07	€60,790.67
<b>6th decile</b>	<b>€64,431.59</b>	€66,364.54	€68,355.47	€70,406.14	€72,518.32
<b>7th decile</b>	<b>€76,380.62</b>	€78,672.04	€81,032.20	€83,463.16	€85,967.06
<b>8th decile</b>	<b>€90,451.12</b>	€93,164.66	€95,959.60	€98,838.38	€101,803.53
<b>9th decile</b>	<b>€109,627.01</b>	€112,915.82	€116,303.30	€119,792.40	€123,386.17
<b>10th decile</b>	<b>€165,867.36</b>	€170,843.38	€175,968.69	€181,247.75	€186,685.18



#### 4. Affordability Analysis

The following section presents the results of a detailed housing demand and affordability assessment (as specified in the 2000 Model Housing Strategy and Step-by-Step Guide) for the area for the period of the housing strategy.

It is important to note that the Model Housing Strategy was predicated on the concept of house purchase affordability and does not address the issue of rental affordability, an issue which is of increasing importance.

Using the ‘annuity formula’ set out in the Part V guidance, it is possible to project the value of a house that the various cohorts of the population will be able to afford.

The assessment is based on the following assumptions:

1. That no more than 35% of disposable income is to be spent on the cost of a mortgage.
2. Loan –To –Value ratio is 90%.
3. Terms of the loan are 25 years.
4. Annual Percent Rate of Interest (APR) of 4%.

The annuity formula used:

$$PV = Pt \left[ \frac{1 - (1 - i)^{-n}}{i} \right]$$

Where

<i>PV</i>	=	total loan size (no greater than 90% of Market Value – Section 93(1))
<i>Pt</i>	=	monthly repayment amount
<i>i</i>	=	monthly interest rate
<i>n</i>	=	number of months over which the loan is to be paid. (25 years loan = 12*25 = 300 months)

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 present the affordability threshold calculations made using the annuity formula.

**Table 4.1** — Maximum affordable house prices by disposable income band 2016–2024

-	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>1st decile</b>	€64,630.33	€68,178.54	€71,137.48	€76,728.89	€78,263.47	€79,828.74	€81,425.31	€83,868.07	€86,384.11
<b>2nd decile</b>	€106,211.14	€112,042.13	€116,904.76	€126,093.48	€128,615.35	€131,187.65	€133,811.41	€137,825.75	€141,960.52
<b>3rd decile</b>	€152,526.27	€160,899.96	€167,883.02	€181,078.63	€184,700.20	€188,394.20	€192,162.09	€197,926.95	€203,864.76
<b>4th decile</b>	€194,336.27	€205,005.33	€213,902.56	€230,715.30	€235,329.61	€240,036.20	€244,836.92	€252,182.03	€259,747.49
<b>5th decile</b>	€237,649.07	€250,696.00	€261,576.21	€282,136.10	€287,778.82	€293,534.39	€299,405.08	€308,387.23	€317,638.85
<b>6th decile</b>	€283,496.00	€299,059.93	€312,039.13	€336,565.41	€343,296.72	€350,162.65	€357,165.90	€367,880.88	€378,917.31
<b>7th decile</b>	€336,071.17	€354,521.48	€369,907.71	€398,982.46	€406,962.11	€415,101.35	€423,403.37	€436,105.48	€449,188.64
<b>8th decile</b>	€397,980.74	€419,829.88	€438,050.50	€472,481.27	€481,930.90	€491,569.51	€501,400.90	€516,442.93	€531,936.22
<b>9th decile</b>	€482,353.77	€508,834.99	€530,918.43	€572,648.62	€584,101.59	€595,783.63	€607,699.30	€625,930.28	€644,708.19
<b>10th decile</b>	€729,808.71	€769,875.20	€803,287.79	€866,426.21	€883,754.73	€901,429.83	€919,458.42	€947,042.18	€975,453.44

**Table 4.2** — Maximum affordable house prices by disposable income band 2025–2028

-	2025	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>1st decile</b>	€88,975.64	€91,644.91	€94,394.25	€97,226.08	€100,142.86
<b>2nd decile</b>	€146,219.34	€150,605.92	€155,124.09	€159,777.82	€164,571.15
<b>3rd decile</b>	€209,980.70	€216,280.12	€222,768.53	€229,451.58	€236,335.13
<b>4th decile</b>	€267,539.92	€275,566.11	€283,833.10	€292,348.09	€301,118.53
<b>5th decile</b>	€327,168.02	€336,983.06	€347,092.55	€357,505.32	€368,230.48
<b>6th decile</b>	€390,284.83	€401,993.37	€414,053.17	€426,474.77	€439,269.01
<b>7th decile</b>	€462,664.30	€476,544.23	€490,840.56	€505,565.77	€520,732.75
<b>8th decile</b>	€547,894.31	€564,331.14	€581,261.07	€598,698.90	€616,659.87
<b>9th decile</b>	€664,049.43	€683,970.91	€704,490.04	€725,624.74	€747,393.49
<b>10th decile</b>	€1,004,717.04	€1,034,858.56	€1,065,904.31	€1,097,881.44	€1,130,817.88

**Table 4.1 Maximum affordable house prices by disposable income band 2016-2024**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>1st decile</b>	€64,630.33	€69,438.83	€72,584.41	€76,133.78	€81,706.78	€83,340.91	€85,007.73	€87,557.96	€90,184.70
<b>2nd decile</b>	€106,211.14	€114,113.25	€119,282.58	€125,115.50	€134,273.95	€136,959.43	€139,698.62	€143,889.58	€148,206.27
<b>3rd decile</b>	€152,526.27	€163,874.23	€171,297.73	€179,674.19	€192,826.34	€196,682.86	€200,616.52	€206,635.02	€212,834.07
<b>4th decile</b>	€194,336.27	€208,794.89	€218,253.29	€228,925.88	€245,683.25	€250,596.92	€255,608.86	€263,277.12	€271,175.44
<b>5th decile</b>	€237,649.07	€255,330.16	€266,896.61	€279,947.86	€300,440.04	€306,448.84	€312,577.82	€321,955.15	€331,613.81
<b>6th decile</b>	€283,496.00	€304,588.10	€318,385.95	€333,955.02	€358,400.53	€365,568.54	€372,879.91	€384,066.30	€395,588.29
<b>7th decile</b>	€336,071.17	€361,074.87	€377,431.56	€395,887.96	€424,866.96	€433,364.30	€442,031.58	€455,292.53	€468,951.31
<b>8th decile</b>	€397,980.74	€427,590.51	€446,960.36	€468,816.72	€503,134.10	€513,196.79	€523,460.72	€539,164.54	€555,339.48
<b>9th decile</b>	€482,353.77	€518,240.89	€541,717.21	€568,207.18	€609,799.94	€621,995.94	€634,435.86	€653,468.94	€673,073.00
<b>10th decile</b>	€729,808.71	€784,106.47	€819,626.50	€859,706.23	€922,636.73	€941,089.46	€959,911.25	€988,708.59	€1,018,369.85

**Table 4.2 Maximum affordable house prices by disposable income band 2024-2028**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>
<b>1st decile</b>	<b>€90,184.70</b>	€92,890.24	€95,676.95	€98,547.26	€101,503.68
<b>2nd decile</b>	<b>€148,206.27</b>	€152,652.45	€157,232.03	€161,948.99	€166,807.46
<b>3rd decile</b>	<b>€212,834.07</b>	€219,219.09	€225,795.66	€232,569.53	€239,546.62
<b>4th decile</b>	<b>€271,175.44</b>	€279,310.70	€287,690.02	€296,320.72	€305,210.34
<b>5th decile</b>	<b>€331,613.81</b>	€341,562.22	€351,809.09	€362,363.36	€373,234.26
<b>6th decile</b>	<b>€395,588.29</b>	€407,455.94	€419,679.62	€432,270.01	€445,238.11
<b>7th decile</b>	<b>€468,951.31</b>	€483,019.85	€497,510.44	€512,435.76	€527,808.83
<b>8th decile</b>	<b>€555,339.48</b>	€571,999.66	€589,159.65	€606,834.44	€625,039.48
<b>9th decile</b>	<b>€673,073.00</b>	€693,265.19	€714,063.15	€735,485.04	€757,549.60
<b>10th decile</b>	<b>€1,018,369.85</b>	€1,048,920.94	€1,080,388.57	€1,112,800.23	€1,146,184.24



## 5 House Prices & Rents

Given the measure of affordability now established for Wicklow over the strategy period, the remaining element required to complete the assessment of social housing need in the County is to make some estimate of the prices at which new housing will be introduced over the life of the strategy.

As set out above, as the principal function of this strategy is to determine if it will be necessary for the Local Authority to intervene in the housing market and require developers to dedicate lands / units for social housing, this strategy would be most defensible if a situation were to be considered where incomes grow steadily but house price growth is moderate, following longer term trends rather than extreme peaks and troughs, as this would give the least justification for seeking the maximum 10% social housing.

The housing market in Ireland has seen considerable volatility in prices in the past decade. From the time of economic downturn, both house prices and rents fell markedly and by 2013 prices were below 2007 levels. This time saw both housing supply and housing completions drop dramatically in contrast to population and housing demand.

The economic recovery from 2013 has led to rapid increase in both rental and house prices. Counties like Wicklow have experienced an acceleration in house prices and rents due to acute supply shortages and a tightening of credit availability. Housing supply has not kept up with demand and only in recent time has seen an upward turn in house completions; this and inward migration has added more pressure on housing/rental market.

### 5.1 Rental Market

The issue of affordability in the private rental sector was not addressed in detail in the Model Housing Strategy which was focused primarily on affordable house ownership. As a result, it does not provide any guidance on how to assess rental affordability at Local Authority level. It is expected that the forthcoming Ministerial Guidelines on Housing Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) will provide guidance in this respect.

There has been a steady increase in the number of people renting in County Wicklow. By 2019 2020 the average rent for all property types in the county was €1,199-€1,293 (CSO / Residential Tenancies Board). This represents an increase of 40.7%-51.8% on the average rental price in 2011.

The eastern side of the county had the highest rental price in 20192020. Greystones has the highest average monthly rents at €1,543€1,686, which is 20%-24.5% higher than Bray at €1,281€1,354.

In general all parts of the county have seen rental increase between 2011 -20192020 with the highest percentage increase in monthly rental price in both Blessington (58%70.84%) and Greystones (56%70.78%).

**Table 5.1 — Average monthly rents in Wicklow between 2011 and 2019**

Average Monthly Rents	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baltinglass	€630	€635	€609	€626	€684	€745	€757	€810	€898
Arklow	€680	€646	€629	€647	€675	€731	€798	€878	€959
Wicklow Town	€793	€761	€757	€807	€856	€919	€994	€1,042	€1,070
Rathnew	€809	€815	€803	€810	€874	€984	€992	€1,006	€1,081
Blessington	€798	€800	€839	€899	€950	€1,035	€1,121	€1,185	€1,261
Bray	€926	€916	€935	€995	€1,072	€1,132	€1,196	€1,252	€1,281
Newtownmountkenndy	€994	€957	€947	€953	€1,013	€1,139	€1,304	€1,377	€1,320
Kilcoole	€977	€961	€962	€997	€1,079	€1,122	€1,219	€1,316	€1,350
Greystones	€989	€995	€1,029	€1,122	€1,195	€1,299	€1,407	€1,512	€1,543
County	€852	€835	€841	€887	€943	€1,022	€1,101	€1,161	€1,199

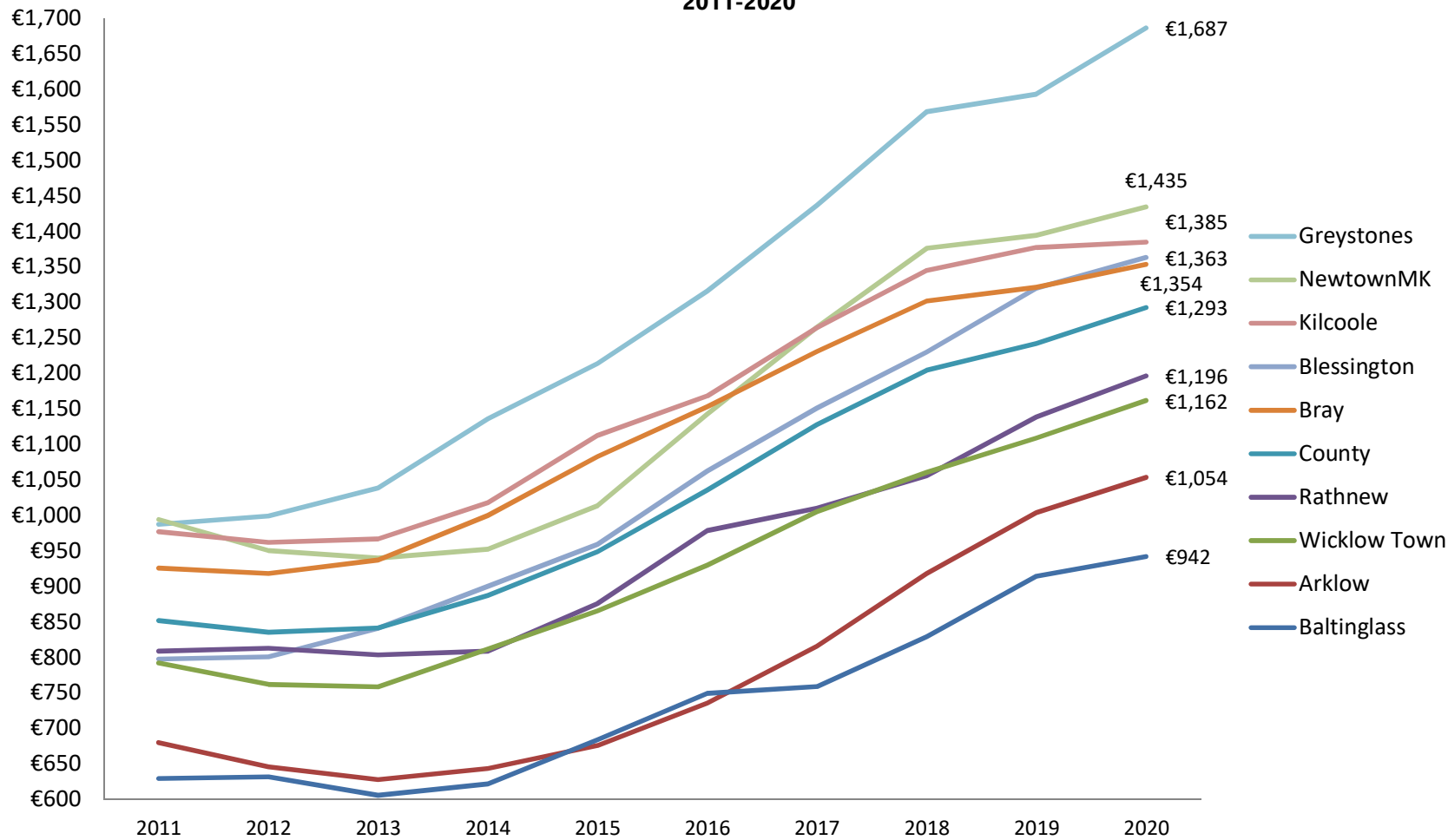
**Table 5.1 — Average monthly rents in Wicklow between 2011 and 2020**

Average Monthly Rents	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Baltinglass	630	632	606	622	684	749	759	829	914	942
Arklow	680	646	628	644	676	736	816	918	1004	1054
Wicklow Town	792	762	759	812	866	930	1005	1060	1109	1162
Rathnew	809	813	803	809	876	979	1010	1056	1138	1196
Bray	926	918	937	1000	1083	1153	1231	1302	1321	1354
Blessington	798	801	841	900	959	1062	1151	1230	1320	1363
Kilcoole	977	962	967	1018	1113	1168	1264	1345	1377	1385
Newtownmountkenndy	994	951	940	952	1014	1143	1265	1376	1395	1435
Greystones	988	999	1039	1136	1214	1316	1437	1568	1593	1687
County	852	836	842	887	949	1036	1128	1204	1242	1293

Source: CSO/ RTB Average Monthly Rent Report



**Fig. 5.1 Residential Tenancies Board Average Monthly Rents Within Wicklow 2011-2020**



Source: CSO/ RTB Average Monthly Rent Report  
(updated chart)



## 5.2 Housing Market

Like the rental market in County Wicklow, house prices have also seen sharp increase during the period 2010 to 2019/2020. Taking the crude measurement of 'average house price' based on the total value of sales divided by total number of sales between 2010 and 2019/2020, average prices rose by 31%35.6%. In 2010, the average house price was €241,745. This increased to €318,763 – €327,721 in 2019/2020 (CSO/Residential Property Price Register). This compares to the State which saw 15%38% increase over the same period.

All regions in Wicklow have experienced increase in house prices, with the highest increases in Greystones (21%35%) and Bray (17%27%). Analysis of property prices shows a difference between the east and west of the County. In 2019/2020 the mean property prices for all types of house on the eastern seaboard ranged from €335,123 to €441,741 €337,061 to €492,824 (Wicklow Town, Bray and Greystones) compared to the west where the prices range from €161,949 to €268,698 €180,956 to €286,770 (Baltinglass and Blessington).

**Table 5.2 — Mean property sale prices for all type of properties in Wicklow 2010 to 2019 (€)**

Mean Sale Price	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baltinglass*	140,917	109,303	103,114	109,250	118,292	125,156	156,796	171,967	191,535	161,949
Arklow	193,332	158,372	129,944	129,255	150,850	160,519	188,143	203,880	207,738	206,249
Rathnew*	270,969	187,500	146,350	79,694	167,672	204,947	225,826	235,940	240,698	252,316
Newtown*	217,697	185,235	155,945	164,024	198,014	214,523	233,424	240,586	252,710	259,776
Blessington*	231,703	184,669	176,811	164,709	163,165	205,192	236,792	265,036	278,125	268,698
Kilcoole*	258,728	200,504	179,127	202,139	241,072	290,078	309,388	298,130	303,372	326,363
Wicklow Town	318,048	243,264	193,505	202,087	216,949	274,902	279,825	301,494	303,440	335,123
Greystones	365,734	321,123	313,646	306,024	358,829	403,073	389,632	414,136	451,892	441,741
Bray	339,748	286,420	256,662	330,606	322,996	341,972	379,233	385,888	404,871	397,384
County	241,745	169,034	184,159	211,138	232,781	259,545	286,551	310,173	308,847	318,763

**Table 5.2 — Mean property sale prices for all type of properties in Wicklow 2010 to 2020 (€)**

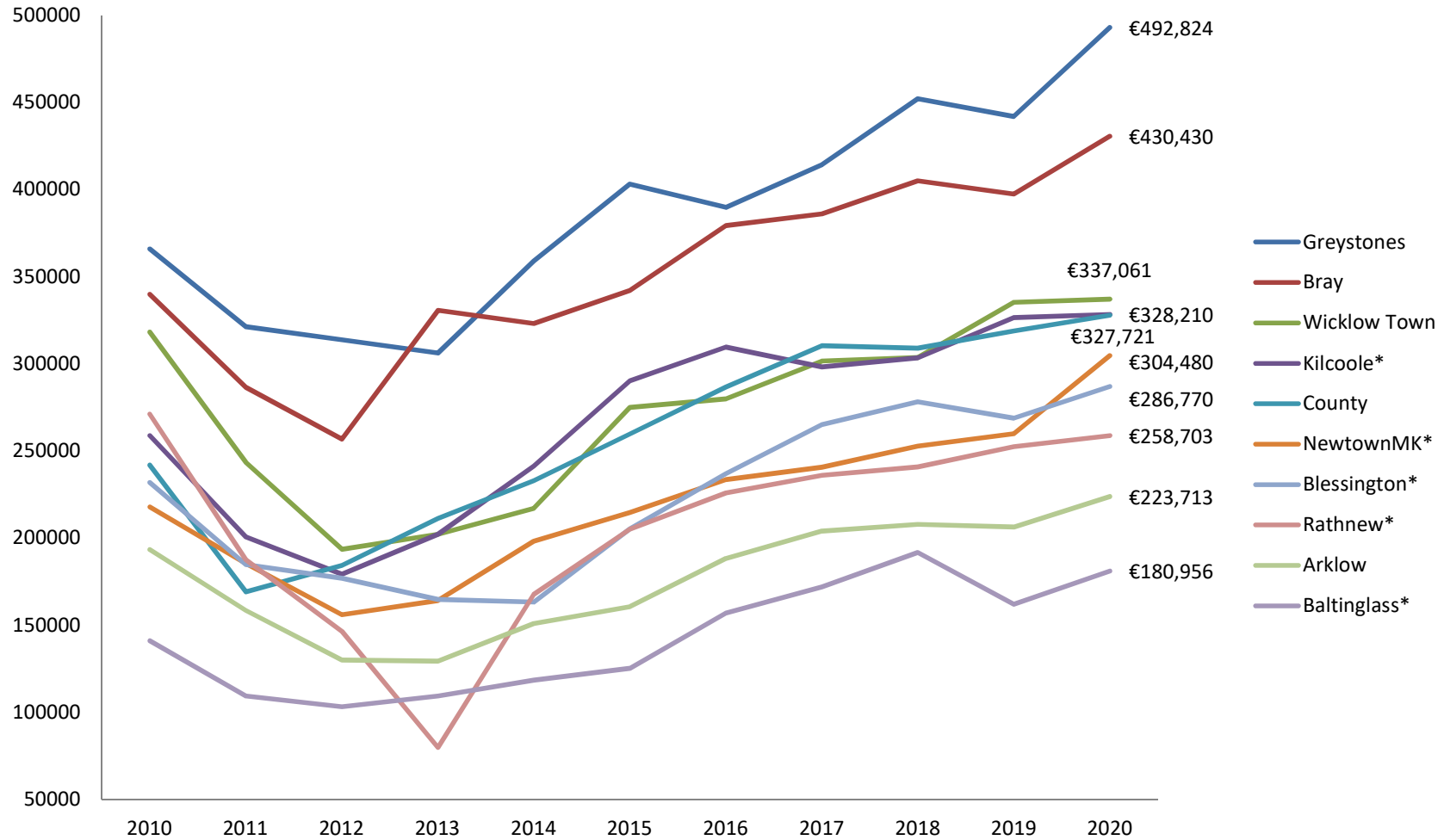
Mean Sale Price	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Baltinglass*	140,917	109,303	103,114	109,250	118,292	125,156	156,796	171,967	191,535	161,949	180,956
Arklow	193,332	158,372	129,944	129,255	150,850	160,519	188,143	203,880	207,738	206,249	223,713
Rathnew*	270,969	187,500	146,350	79,694	167,672	204,947	225,826	235,940	240,698	252,316	258,703
Blessington*	231,703	184,669	176,811	164,709	163,165	205,192	236,792	265,036	278,125	268,698	286,770
NewtownMK*	217,697	185,235	155,945	164,024	198,014	214,523	233,424	240,586	252,710	259,776	304,480
Kilcoole*	258,728	200,504	179,127	202,139	241,072	290,078	309,388	298,130	303,372	326,363	328,210
Wicklow Town	318,048	243,264	193,505	202,087	216,949	274,902	279,825	301,494	303,440	335,123	337,061
Bray	339,748	286,420	256,662	330,606	322,996	341,972	379,233	385,888	404,871	397,384	430,430
Greystones	365,734	321,123	313,646	306,024	358,829	403,073	389,632	414,136	451,892	441,741	492,824
County	241,745	169,034	184,159	211,138	232,781	259,545	286,551	310,173	308,847	318,763	327,721

**Source:** CSO Market-based Household Purchases of Residential Dwellings /RPPR and Wicklow County Council

\* All towns denoted are estimated yearly prices calculated by Wicklow County Council using data from Residential Property Price Register.



**Fig. 5.2 Mean Property prices for all types of residential property within Wicklow 2010-2020**



**Source:** CSO Market-based Household Purchases of Residential Dwellings /RPPR and Wicklow County Council

\* All towns denoted are estimated yearly prices calculated by Wicklow County Council using data from Residential Property Price Register

[\(updated chart\)](#)

### 5.3 Proportion of Houses in each band ~~2019~~2020

In accordance with the guidance set out in *Part V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 – Housing Supply – A Model Strategy and Step by Step Guide (DoEHLG 2000)*, data has been collected on the number of houses that are available in price *bands*, that is, the number of houses that are available in the market within certain price ranges.

**Table 5.3 House Proportion of Houses in each Band ~~2019~~2020**

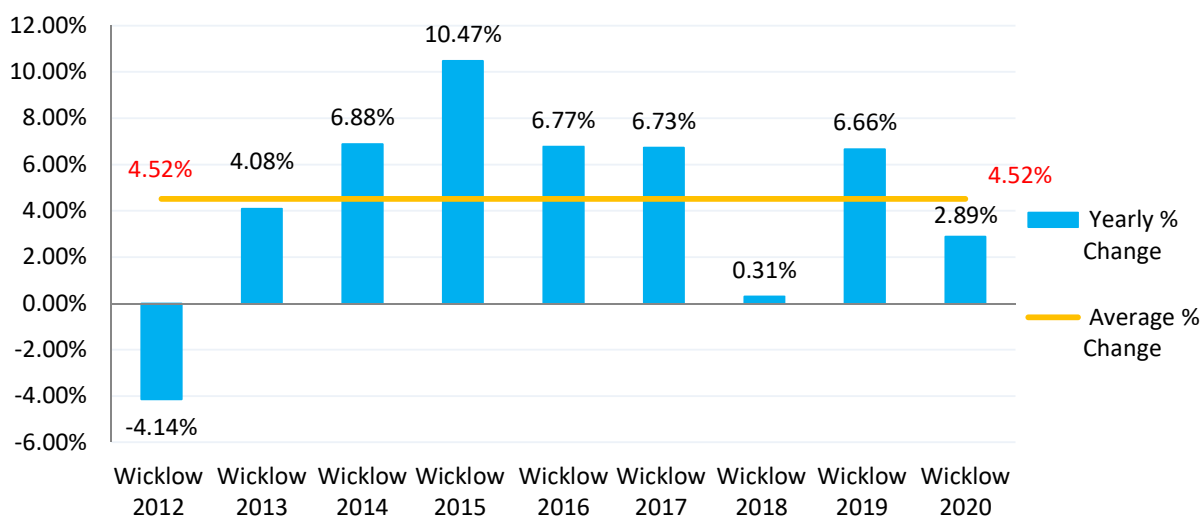
	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	Band 9	Band 10
<b>Price band (000's €)</b>	<b>Under 99,999</b>	<b>100-149</b>	<b>150-199</b>	<b>200-249</b>	<b>250-299</b>	<b>300-349</b>	<b>350-399</b>	<b>400-449</b>	<b>450-499</b>	<b>500+</b>
<b>2019</b>										
<b>% of Wicklow units in each band</b>	3.5%	4.3%	8.3%	17.1%	16.3%	13.4%	11.9%	8.5%	4.7%	11.7%
<b>2020</b>										
<b>% of Wicklow units in each band</b>	2.71%	4.21%	8.54%	14.76%	13.67%	16.03%	10.44%	6.57%	6.63%	16.44%

[Source: Residential Property Price Register](#)

### 5.4 Estimated Property Prices

In projecting property prices over period of the strategy and up to 2031, assumptions will be based upon Residential Property Price Register for Wicklow for all residential property prices. Looking at the yearly percentage change for the period 2011-~~2019~~2020, the average property price rose ~~by 4.72%~~ by 4.52% in County Wicklow. This compares to the national average including Dublin over the same period of ~~5.85%~~ 5.22% and national average excluding Dublin of ~~4.74%~~ 4.33%.

**Yearly % Change of Wicklow - all residential properties from 2012-2020**



[Source: Residential Property Price Register \(updated table\)](#)



~~The chart shows the annual change in property prices for all residential properties in the County. On average this came in at 4.72%. With so much uncertainty regarding the economic outlook as a result of COVID 19 and Brexit, 3% growth rate is assumed for 2021 and 2022 and 5% thereafter up to 2028.~~

The chart shows the annual change in property prices for all residential properties in the County. On average this came in at 4.52%. With so much uncertainty regarding the economic outlook as a result of COVID 19 and Brexit, 4% growth rate is assumed for 2021 up to 2028.





**Table 5.4 House price band inflation Wicklow 2019-2028**

Year	Av price increase/decrease	Band 1		Band 2		Band 3		Band 4		Band 5		Band 6		Band 7		Band 8		Band 9		Band 10
2019	-	99,999	100,000	149,999	150,000	199,999	200,000	249,999	250,000	299,999	300,000	349,999	350,000	399,999	400,000	449,999	450,000	499,999	500,000	500,000
2020	3%	102,999	103,000	154,499	154,500	205,999	206,000	257,499	257,500	308,999	309,000	360,499	360,500	411,999	412,000	463,499	463,500	514,999	515,000	515,000
2021	3%	106,089	106,090	159,134	159,135	212,179	212,180	265,224	265,225	318,269	318,270	371,314	371,315	424,359	424,360	477,404	477,405	530,449	530,450	530,450
2022	3%	109,272	109,273	163,908	163,909	218,544	218,545	273,181	273,182	327,817	327,818	382,453	382,454	437,090	437,091	491,726	491,727	546,362	546,364	546,364
2023	5%	114,735	114,736	172,103	172,105	229,472	229,473	286,840	286,841	344,208	344,209	401,576	401,577	458,944	458,945	516,312	516,314	573,681	573,682	573,682
2024	5%	120,472	120,473	180,709	180,710	240,945	240,946	301,182	301,183	361,418	361,419	421,655	421,656	481,891	481,893	542,128	542,129	602,365	602,366	602,366
2025	5%	126,496	126,497	189,744	189,745	252,992	252,994	316,241	316,242	379,489	379,490	442,738	442,739	505,986	505,987	569,234	569,236	632,483	632,484	632,484
2026	5%	132,820	132,822	199,231	199,232	265,642	265,643	332,053	332,054	398,464	398,465	464,874	464,876	531,285	531,287	597,696	597,697	664,107	664,108	664,108
2027	5%	139,461	139,463	209,193	209,194	278,924	278,925	348,655	348,657	418,387	418,388	488,118	488,120	557,850	557,851	627,581	627,582	697,312	697,314	697,314
2028	5%	146,434	146,436	219,652	219,654	292,870	292,872	366,088	366,090	439,306	439,308	512,524	512,526	585,742	585,743	658,960	658,961	732,178	732,179	732,179
% of Wicklow units in each band	-	3.55%	4.31%	8.31%	17.12%	16.31%	13.42%	11.90%	8.56%	4.76%	11.75%									

Year	Av price increase/decrease	Band 1		Band 2		Band 3		Band 4		Band 5		Band 6		Band 7		Band 8		Band 9		Band 10
2019	-	99,999	100,000	149,999	150,000	199,999	200,000	249,999	250,000	299,999	300,000	349,999	350,000	399,999	400,000	449,999	450,000	499,999	500,000	500,000
2020	4%	103,999	104,000	155,999	156,000	207,999	208,000	259,999	260,000	311,999	312,000	363,999	364,000	415,999	416,000	467,999	468,000	519,999	520,000	520,000
2021	4%	108,159	108,160	162,239	162,240	216,319	216,320	270,399	270,400	324,479	324,480	378,559	378,560	432,639	432,640	486,719	486,720	540,799	540,800	540,800

Proposed Amendments to Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

2022	4%	<u>112,485</u>	<u>112,486</u>	<u>168,728</u>	<u>168,730</u>	<u>224,972</u>	<u>224,973</u>	<u>281,215</u>	<u>281,216</u>	<u>337,458</u>	<u>337,459</u>	<u>393,701</u>	<u>393,702</u>	<u>449,944</u>	<u>449,946</u>	<u>506,188</u>	<u>506,189</u>	<u>562,431</u>	<u>562,432</u>
2023	4%	<u>116,985</u>	<u>116,986</u>	<u>175,478</u>	<u>175,479</u>	<u>233,971</u>	<u>233,972</u>	<u>292,463</u>	<u>292,465</u>	<u>350,956</u>	<u>350,958</u>	<u>409,449</u>	<u>409,450</u>	<u>467,942</u>	<u>467,943</u>	<u>526,435</u>	<u>526,436</u>	<u>584,928</u>	<u>584,929</u>
2024	4%	<u>121,664</u>	<u>121,665</u>	<u>182,497</u>	<u>182,498</u>	<u>243,329</u>	<u>243,331</u>	<u>304,162</u>	<u>304,163</u>	<u>364,995</u>	<u>364,996</u>	<u>425,827</u>	<u>425,829</u>	<u>486,660</u>	<u>486,661</u>	<u>547,493</u>	<u>547,494</u>	<u>608,325</u>	<u>608,326</u>
2025	4%	<u>126,531</u>	<u>126,532</u>	<u>189,797</u>	<u>189,798</u>	<u>253,063</u>	<u>253,064</u>	<u>316,328</u>	<u>316,330</u>	<u>379,594</u>	<u>379,596</u>	<u>442,860</u>	<u>442,862</u>	<u>506,126</u>	<u>506,128</u>	<u>569,392</u>	<u>569,394</u>	<u>632,658</u>	<u>632,660</u>
2026	4%	<u>131,592</u>	<u>131,593</u>	<u>197,388</u>	<u>197,390</u>	<u>263,185</u>	<u>263,186</u>	<u>328,982</u>	<u>328,983</u>	<u>394,778</u>	<u>394,780</u>	<u>460,575</u>	<u>460,576</u>	<u>526,371</u>	<u>526,373</u>	<u>592,168</u>	<u>592,169</u>	<u>657,965</u>	<u>657,966</u>
2027	4%	<u>136,856</u>	<u>136,857</u>	<u>205,284</u>	<u>205,285</u>	<u>273,712</u>	<u>273,714</u>	<u>342,141</u>	<u>342,142</u>	<u>410,569</u>	<u>410,571</u>	<u>478,998</u>	<u>478,999</u>	<u>547,426</u>	<u>547,428</u>	<u>615,855</u>	<u>615,856</u>	<u>684,283</u>	<u>684,285</u>
2028	4%	<u>142,330</u>	<u>142,331</u>	<u>213,495</u>	<u>213,497</u>	<u>284,661</u>	<u>284,662</u>	<u>355,827</u>	<u>355,828</u>	<u>426,992</u>	<u>426,994</u>	<u>498,158</u>	<u>498,159</u>	<u>569,323</u>	<u>569,325</u>	<u>640,489</u>	<u>640,490</u>	<u>711,654</u>	<u>711,656</u>
% of Wicklow units in each band	-	<u>2.71%</u>	<u>4.21%</u>	<u>8.54%</u>	<u>14.76%</u>	<u>13.67%</u>	<u>16.03%</u>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>6.57%</u>	<u>6.63%</u>	<u>16.44%</u>								

## 6. Conclusion

Affordability for each year of the strategy is set out in the following tables. The purpose of this analysis is to determine what proportion of new private housing developed will require to be devoted to social housing. As set out above, as the principal function of this strategy is to determine if it will be necessary for the Local Authority to intervene in the housing market and require developers to dedicate lands / units for social housing, this strategy assumes incomes grow steadily but house price growth is moderate, following longer term trends rather than extreme peaks and troughs, as this would give the least justification for seeking the maximum 10% social housing.



### 6.1 Affordability Index 2021

Year	Range	%	No-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No-of units required within each band	%-of-units projected to-be provided-in each-band	No-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no-of households not-meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2021</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	113	113	79,829	Band 1	1	106,089	189	3.55%	41	149	12.95%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	121	234	131,188								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	120	354	188,394	Band 1 & 2	2	159,134	110	4.31%	49	61	5.27%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	120	474	240,036	Band 2 & 3	3	212,179	120	8.31%	95	24	2.13%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	118	592	293,534	Band 3 & 4	4	265,224	116	17.12%	197	-81	
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	114	706	350,163	Band 4 & 5	5	318,269	107	16.31%	187	-80	
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	110	816	415,101	Band 5 & 6	6	371,314	89	13.42%	154	-65	
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	111	927	491,570	Band 6,7 & 8	8	477,404	170	20.47%	235	-65	
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	110	1,038	595,784	Band 9	9	530,449	23	4.76%	55	-31	
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	110	1,148	901,430	Band 10	10	None	224	11.75%	135	89	
-	<b>-Total</b>		<b>1148</b>						<b>1,148</b>				<b>20.35%</b>



<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	<u>9.83%</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>83,341</u>	Band 1	<u>1</u>	<u>108,159</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>2.71%</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>13.40%</u>
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	<u>10.57%</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>136,959</u>								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	<u>10.47%</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>196,683</u>	Band 1 & 2	<u>2</u>	<u>162,239</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>4.21%</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>5.14%</u>
-	<b>4th decile</b>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>250,597</u>	Band 2 & 3	<u>3</u>	<u>216,319</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>8.54%</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1.66%</u>
-	<b>5th decile</b>	<u>10.25%</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>483</u>	<u>306,449</u>	Band 3 & 4	<u>4</u>	<u>270,399</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>14.76%</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>-46</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>6th decile</b>	<u>9.94%</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>576</u>	<u>365,569</u>	Band 4 & 5	<u>5</u>	<u>324,479</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>13.67%</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>-43</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>7th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>433,364</u>	Band 5,6 & 7	<u>7</u>	<u>432,639</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>26.47%</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>-94</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>8th decile</b>	<u>9.65%</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>513,197</u>	Band 7 & 8	<u>8</u>	<u>486,719</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>6.57%</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>-9</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>9th decile</b>	<u>9.61%</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>846</u>	<u>621,996</u>	Band 8 & 9	<u>9</u>	<u>540,799</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6.63%</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>-44</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>10th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>936</u>	<u>941,089</u>	Band 9 & 10	<u>10</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>16.44%</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>Total</b>		<b>936</b>						<b>936</b>				<b>20.20%</b>



## 6.2 Affordability Index 2022

Year	Range	%	No-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by-each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price-in band upper value	No-of units required within each band	%-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	No-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no-of households not-meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2022</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	113	113	81,425	Band 1	1	109,272	191	3.55%	41	151	13.11%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	121	234	133,811								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	120	354	192,162	Band 1 & 2	2	163,908	111	4.31%	49	62	5.37%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	120	474	244,837	Band 2 & 3	3	218,544	121	8.31%	95	26	2.23%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	118	592	299,405	Band 3 & 4	4	273,181	117	17.12%	197	-80	
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	114	706	357,166	Band 4 & 5	5	327,817	108	16.31%	187	-79	
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	110	816	423,403	Band 5 & 6	6	382,453	90	13.42%	154	-65	
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	111	927	501,401	Band 6, 7 & 8	8	491,726	172	20.47%	235	-63	
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	110	1,038	607,699	Band 9	9	546,362	23	4.76%	55	-31	
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	110	1,148	919,458	Band 10	10	None	215	11.75%	135	80	
-	<b>-Total</b>		<b>1148</b>						<b>1,148</b>				<b>20.71%</b>



<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2022</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	115	115	85,008	Band 1	1	112,485	193	2.71%	32	161	13.71%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	124	239	139,699								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	123	362	200,617	Band 1 & 2	2	168,728	112	4.21%	49	63	5.33%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	123	485	255,609	Band 2 & 3	3	224,973	122	8.54%	100	22	1.86%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	120	605	312,578	Band 3 & 4	4	281,215	118	14.76%	173	-56	-
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	117	722	372,880	Band 4 & 5	5	337,458	109	13.67%	160	-52	-
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	113	835	442,032	Band 5 & 6	6	393,701	90	16.03%	188	-98	-
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	113	948	523,461	Band 6,7 & 8	8	506,188	173	17.01%	200	-26	-
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	113	1,061	634,436	Band 8 & 9	9	562,431	24	6.63%	78	-54	-
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	113	1,174	959,911	Band 9 & 10	10	None	233	16.44%	193	40	-
-	<b>Total</b>		<b>1174</b>						<b>1174</b>				<b>20.90%</b>



### 6.3 Affordability Index 2023

Year	Range	%	No-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by-each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price-in band upper value	No-of units required within each band	%-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	No-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no-of households not-meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2023</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	113	113	83,868	Band 1	1	114,735	195	3.55%	41	154	13.43%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	121	234	137,826								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	120	354	197,927	Band 1 & 2	2	172,103	113	4.31%	49	64	5.55%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	120	474	252,182	Band 2 & 3	3	229,472	123	8.31%	95	28	2.44%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	118	592	308,387	Band 3 & 4	4	286,840	119	17.12%	197	-78	
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	114	706	367,881	Band 4 & 5	5	344,208	110	16.31%	187	-77	
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	110	816	436,105	Band 5 & 6	6	401,576	91	13.42%	154	-63	
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	111	927	516,443	Band 6,7 & 8	8	516,312	175	20.47%	235	-60	
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	110	1,038	625,930	Band 9	9	573,681	24	4.76%	55	-31	
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	110	1,148	947,042	Band 10	10	None	197	11.75%	135	62	
-	<b>-Total</b>		<b>1148</b>						<b>1,148</b>				<b>21.43%</b>





<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2023</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	<u>9.83%</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>87,558</u>	Band 1	<u>1</u>	<u>116,985</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>2.71%</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>13.87%</u>
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	<u>10.57%</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>143,890</u>								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	<u>10.47%</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>206,635</u>	Band 1 & 2	<u>2</u>	<u>175,478</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>4.21%</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>5.42%</u>
-	<b>4th decile</b>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>583</u>	<u>263,277</u>	Band 2 & 3	<u>3</u>	<u>233,971</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>8.54%</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>1.96%</u>
-	<b>5th decile</b>	<u>10.25%</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>321,955</u>	Band 3 & 4	<u>4</u>	<u>292,463</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>14.76%</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>-65</u>	-
-	<b>6th decile</b>	<u>9.94%</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>868</u>	<u>384,066</u>	Band 4 & 5	<u>5</u>	<u>350,956</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>13.67%</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>-61</u>	-
-	<b>7th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,004</u>	<u>455,293</u>	Band 5 & 6	<u>6</u>	<u>409,449</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>16.03%</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>-117</u>	-
-	<b>8th decile</b>	<u>9.65%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>539,165</u>	Band 6,7 & 8	<u>8</u>	<u>526,435</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>17.01%</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>-30</u>	-
-	<b>9th decile</b>	<u>9.61%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>653,469</u>	Band 8 & 9	<u>9</u>	<u>584,928</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>6.63%</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>-65</u>	-
-	<b>10th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>988,709</u>	Band 9 & 10	<u>10</u>	None	<u>270</u>	<u>16.44%</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>38</u>	-
-	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1411</u></b>						<b><u>1411</u></b>				<b><u>21.25%</u></b>



#### 6.4 Affordability Index 2024

Year	Range	%	No.-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No.-of units required within each band	%-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	No.-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no.-of households not meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2024</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	113	113	86,384	Band 1	1	120,472	199	3.55%	41	158	13.76%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	121	234	141,961								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	120	354	203,865	Band 1 & 2	2	180,709	115	4.31%	49	66	5.74%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	120	474	259,747	Band 2 & 3	3	240,945	126	8.31%	95	30	2.65%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	118	592	317,639	Band 3 & 4	4	301,182	121	17.12%	197	-75	
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	114	706	378,917	Band 4 & 5	5	361,418	112	16.31%	187	-75	
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	110	816	449,189	Band 5 & 6	6	421,655	93	13.42%	154	-61	
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	111	927	531,936	Band 6 & 7	7	481,891	74	11.90%	137	-63	
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	110	1,038	644,708	Band 7,8 & 9	9	602,365	129	13.32%	153	-24	
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	110	1,148	975,453	Band 10	10	None	179	11.75%	135	44	
-	<b>Total</b>		<b>1148</b>						<b>1,148</b>				<b>22.16%</b>



<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2024</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	<u>9.83%</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>90,185</u>	Band 1	<u>1</u>	<u>121,664</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>2.71%</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>14.03%</u>
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	<u>10.57%</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>148,206</u>								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	<u>10.47%</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>212,834</u>	Band 1 & 2	<u>2</u>	<u>182,497</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>4.21%</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>5.51%</u>
-	<b>4th decile</b>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>583</u>	<u>271,175</u>	Band 2 & 3	<u>3</u>	<u>243,329</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>8.54%</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>2.06%</u>
-	<b>5th decile</b>	<u>10.25%</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>331,614</u>	Band 3 & 4	<u>4</u>	<u>304,162</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>14.76%</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>-64</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>6th decile</b>	<u>9.94%</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>868</u>	<u>395,588</u>	Band 4 & 5	<u>5</u>	<u>364,995</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>13.67%</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>-59</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>7th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,004</u>	<u>468,951</u>	Band 5 & 6	<u>6</u>	<u>425,827</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>16.03%</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>-116</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>8th decile</b>	<u>9.65%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>555,339</u>	Band 6,7 & 8	<u>8</u>	<u>547,493</u>	<u>212</u>	<u>17.01%</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>-28</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>9th decile</b>	<u>9.61%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>673,073</u>	Band 8 & 9	<u>9</u>	<u>608,325</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>6.63%</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>-65</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>10th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>1,018,370</u>	Band 9 & 10	<u>10</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>16.44%</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1411</u></b>						<b><u>1411</u></b>				<b><u>21.61%</u></b>



### 6.5 Affordability Index 2025

Year	Range	%	No.-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No.-of units required within each band	%-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	No.-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no.-of households not meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2025</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	113	113	88,976	Band 1	1	126,496	203	3.55%	41	162	14.10%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	121	234	146,219								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	120	354	209,981	Band 1 & 2	2	189,744	118	4.31%	49	68	5.94%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	120	474	267,540	Band 2 & 3	3	252,992	128	8.31%	95	33	2.86%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	118	592	327,168	Band 3 & 4	4	316,241	124	17.12%	197	-73	
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	114	706	390,285	Band 4 & 5	5	379,489	114	16.31%	187	-73	
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	110	816	462,664	Band 5 & 6	6	442,738	95	13.42%	154	-59	
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	111	927	547,894	Band 6 & 7	7	505,986	75	11.90%	137	-62	
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	110	1,038	664,049	Band 7,8 & 9	9	632,483	132	13.32%	153	-21	
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	110	1,148	1,004,717	Band 10	10	None	160	11.75%	135	25	
-	<b>Total</b>		<b>1148</b>						<b>1,148</b>				<b>22.90%</b>



Year	Range	%	No. of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No. of units required within each band	% of units projected to be provided in each band	No. of units projected to be provided in each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required
2025	1st decile	9.83%	139	139	92,890	Band 1	1	126,531	239	2.71%	38	200	14.20%
-	2nd decile	10.57%	149	288	152,652								
-	3rd decile	10.47%	148	436	219,219	Band 1 & 2	2	189,797	139	4.21%	59	79	5.61%
-	4th decile	10.44%	147	583	279,311	Band 2 & 3	3	253,063	151	8.54%	120	31	2.17%
-	5th decile	10.25%	145	727	341,562	Band 3 & 4	4	316,328	146	14.76%	208	-63	-
-	6th decile	9.94%	140	868	407,456	Band 4 & 5	5	379,594	135	13.67%	193	-58	-
-	7th decile	9.62%	136	1,004	483,020	Band 5 & 6	6	442,860	112	16.03%	226	-115	-
-	8th decile	9.65%	136	1,140	572,000	Band 6,7 & 8	8	569,392	214	17.01%	240	-26	-
-	9th decile	9.61%	136	1,275	693,265	Band 8 & 9	9	632,658	29	6.63%	94	-64	-
-	10th decile	9.62%	136	1,411	1,048,921	Band 9 & 10	10	None	247	16.44%	232	15	-
-	<b>Total</b>		<b>1411</b>						<b>1411</b>				<b>21.97%</b>



### 6.6 Affordability Index 2026

Year	Range	%	No-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No-of units required within each band	%-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	No-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no-of households not meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2026</b>	<b>1st-decile</b>	9.83%	113	113	91,645	Band 1	1	132,820	207	3.55%	41	166	14.44%
-	<b>2nd-decile</b>	10.57%	121	234	150,606								
-	<b>3rd-decile</b>	10.47%	120	354	216,280	Band 1 & 2	2	199,231	120	4.31%	49	70	6.14%
-	<b>4th-decile</b>	10.44%	120	474	275,566	Band 2 & 3	3	265,642	131	8.31%	95	35	3.08%
-	<b>5th-decile</b>	10.25%	118	592	336,983	Band 3 & 4	4	332,053	126	17.12%	197	-70	
-	<b>6th-decile</b>	9.94%	114	706	401,993	Band 4 & 5	5	398,464	117	16.31%	187	-71	
-	<b>7th-decile</b>	9.62%	110	816	476,544	Band 5 & 6	6	464,874	97	13.42%	154	-57	
-	<b>8th-decile</b>	9.65%	111	927	564,331	Band 6 & 7	7	531,285	76	11.90%	137	-60	
-	<b>9th-decile</b>	9.61%	110	1,038	683,971	Band 7,8 & 9	9	664,107	134	13.32%	153	-19	
-	<b>10th-decile</b>	9.62%	110	1,148	1,034,859	Band 10	10	None	141	11.75%	135	6	
-	<b>-Total</b>		<b>1148</b>						<b>1,148</b>				<b>23.66%</b>



<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2026</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	<u>9.83%</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>95,677</u>	Band 1	<u>1</u>	<u>131,592</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>2.71%</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>14.36%</u>
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	<u>10.57%</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>157,232</u>								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	<u>10.47%</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>225,796</u>	Band 1 & 2	<u>2</u>	<u>197,388</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>4.21%</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>5.70%</u>
-	<b>4th decile</b>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>583</u>	<u>287,690</u>	Band 2 & 3	<u>3</u>	<u>263,185</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>8.54%</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>2.27%</u>
-	<b>5th decile</b>	<u>10.25%</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>351,809</u>	Band 3 & 4	<u>4</u>	<u>328,982</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>14.76%</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>-61</u>	-
-	<b>6th decile</b>	<u>9.94%</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>868</u>	<u>419,680</u>	Band 4 & 5	<u>5</u>	<u>394,778</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>13.67%</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>-57</u>	-
-	<b>7th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,004</u>	<u>497,510</u>	Band 5 & 6	<u>6</u>	<u>460,575</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>16.03%</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>-113</u>	-
-	<b>8th decile</b>	<u>9.65%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>589,160</u>	Band 6 & 7	<u>7</u>	<u>526,371</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>-58</u>	-
-	<b>9th decile</b>	<u>9.61%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>714,063</u>	Band 7,8 & 9	<u>9</u>	<u>657,965</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>13.21%</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>-30</u>	-
-	<b>10th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>1,080,389</u>	Band 9 & 10	<u>10</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>16.44%</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>4</u>	-
-	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1411</u></b>						<b><u>1411</u></b>				<b><u>22.33%</u></b>



## 6.7 Affordability Index 2027

Year	Range	%	No.-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No.-of units required within each band	%-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	No.-of units projected to-be provided in-each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no.-of households not meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-%-of total housing units required
<b>2027</b>	<b>1st-decile</b>	9.83%	95	95	94,394	Band 1	1	139,461	177	3.55%	34	143	14.79%
-	<b>2nd-decile</b>	10.57%	102	197	155,124								
-	<b>3rd-decile</b>	10.47%	101	298	222,769	Band 1 & 2	2	209,193	103	4.31%	42	61	6.34%
-	<b>4th-decile</b>	10.44%	101	399	283,833	Band 2 & 3	3	278,924	112	8.31%	80	32	3.30%
-	<b>5th-decile</b>	10.25%	99	498	347,093	Band 3 & 4	4	348,655	108	17.12%	165	-57	
-	<b>6th-decile</b>	9.94%	96	593	414,053								
-	<b>7th-decile</b>	9.62%	93	686	490,841	Band 4,5 & 6	6	488,118	183	29.74%	287	-104	
-	<b>8th-decile</b>	9.65%	93	779	581,261	Band 6 & 7	7	557,850	66	11.90%	115	-49	
-	<b>9th-decile</b>	9.61%	93	872	704,490	Band 7,8 & 9	9	697,312	115	13.32%	129	-13	
-	<b>10th-decile</b>	9.62%	93	965	1,065,904	Band 10	10	None	102	11.75%	113	-12	
-	<b>-Total</b>		<b>965</b>						<b>965</b>				<b>24.43%</b>





<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2027</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	<u>9.83%</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>98,547</u>	Band 1	<u>1</u>	<u>136,856</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>2.71%</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>14.53%</u>
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	<u>10.57%</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>161,949</u>								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	<u>10.47%</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>232,570</u>	Band 1 & 2	<u>2</u>	<u>205,284</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>4.21%</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>5.80%</u>
-	<b>4th decile</b>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>583</u>	<u>296,321</u>	Band 2 & 3	<u>3</u>	<u>273,712</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>8.54%</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>2.37%</u>
-	<b>5th decile</b>	<u>10.25%</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>727</u>	<u>362,363</u>	Band 3 & 4	<u>4</u>	<u>342,141</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>14.76%</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>-60</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>6th decile</b>	<u>9.94%</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>868</u>	<u>432,270</u>	Band 4 & 5	<u>5</u>	<u>410,569</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>13.67%</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>-56</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>7th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,004</u>	<u>512,436</u>	Band 5 & 6	<u>6</u>	<u>478,998</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>16.03%</u>	<u>226</u>	<u>-112</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>8th decile</b>	<u>9.65%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,140</u>	<u>606,834</u>	Band 6 & 7	<u>7</u>	<u>547,426</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>10.44%</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>-57</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>9th decile</b>	<u>9.61%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,275</u>	<u>735,485</u>	Band 7,8 & 9	<u>9</u>	<u>684,283</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>13.21%</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>-28</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>10th decile</b>	<u>9.62%</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>1,112,800</u>	Band 9 & 10	<u>10</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>16.44%</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>-7</u>	<u>-</u>
-	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1411</u></b>						<b><u>1411</u></b>				<b><u>22.70%</u></b>



## 6.8 Affordability Index 2028

Year	Range	%	No-of houses required	Running total	Affordability by each decile	Household band position	Upper band position	House price in band upper value	No-of units required within each band	% of units projected to be provided in each band	No-of units projected to be provided in each band	Housing shortfall i.e. no-of households not meeting affordability criteria	Housing shortfall as-% of total housing units required
<b>2028</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	95	95	97,226	Band 1	1	146,434	180	3.55%	34	146	15.15%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	102	197	159,778								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	101	298	229,452	Band 1 & 2	2	219,652	105	4.31%	42	63	6.55%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	101	399	292,348	Band 2 & 3	3	292,870	122	8.31%	80	42	4.38%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	99	498	357,505	Band 3 & 4	4	366,088	102	17.12%	165	-63	
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	96	593	426,475								
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	93	686	505,566	Band 4 & 5	5	439,306	87	16.31%	157	-70	
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	93	779	598,699	Band 5, 6 & 7	7	585,742	166	25.33%	244	-78	
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	93	872	725,625	Band 7 & 8	8	658,960	29	8.56%	83	-53	
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	93	965	1,097,881	Band 8,9 & 10	10	None	173	16.51%	159	14	
-	<b>-Total</b>		<b>965</b>						<b>965</b>				<b>26.08%</b>



<u>Year</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No. of houses required</u>	<u>Running total</u>	<u>Affordability by each decile</u>	<u>Household band position</u>	<u>Upper band position</u>	<u>House price in band upper value</u>	<u>No. of units required within each band</u>	<u>% of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>No. of units projected to be provided in each band</u>	<u>Housing shortfall i.e. no. of households not meeting affordability criteria</u>	<u>Housing shortfall as % of total housing units required</u>
<b>2028</b>	<b>1st decile</b>	9.83%	95	95	101,504	Band 1	1	142,330	169	2.71%	26	142	14.69%
-	<b>2nd decile</b>	10.57%	102	198	166,807								
-	<b>3rd decile</b>	10.47%	101	299	239,547	Band 1 & 2	2	213,495	98	4.21%	41	57	5.90%
-	<b>4th decile</b>	10.44%	101	400	305,210	Band 2 & 3	3	284,661	107	8.54%	83	24	2.48%
-	<b>5th decile</b>	10.25%	99	500	373,234	Band 3 & 4	4	355,827	103	14.76%	143	-40	-
-	<b>6th decile</b>	9.94%	96	596	445,238	Band 4 & 5	5	426,992	95	13.67%	132	-37	-
-	<b>7th decile</b>	9.62%	93	689	527,809	Band 5 & 6	6	498,158	79	16.03%	155	-76	-
-	<b>8th decile</b>	9.65%	94	783	625,039	Band 6 & 7	7	569,323	62	10.44%	101	-39	-
-	<b>9th decile</b>	9.61%	93	876	757,550	Band 7,8 & 9	9	711,654	110	13.21%	128	-18	-
-	<b>10th decile</b>	9.62%	93	969	1,146,184	Band 9 & 10	10	None	146	16.44%	159	-13	-
-	<b>Total</b>		<b>969</b>						<b>969</b>				<b>23.07%</b>

## 6.9 Summary & Conclusion

Affordability for each year of the strategy is set out in the tables above and is summarised below.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
<b>New Household Formations</b>	<del>1,148</del> <u>936</u>	<del>1,148</del> <u>1174</u>	<del>1,148</del> <u>1411</u>	<del>1,148</del> <u>1411</u>	<del>1,148</del> <u>1411</u>	<del>1,148</del> <u>1411</u>	<del>965</del> <u>1411</u>	<del>965</del> <u>1411</u>
<b>No. not meeting affordability criteria</b>	<del>234</del> <u>189</u>	<del>238</del> <u>245</u>	<del>246</del> <u>300</u>	<del>254</del> <u>305</u>	<del>263</del> <u>310</u>	<del>272</del> <u>315</u>	<del>236</del> <u>320</u>	<del>252</del> <u>224</u>
<b>% not meeting affordability criteria</b>	<del>20.35%</del> <u>20.20%</u>	<del>20.71%</del> <u>20.90%</u>	<del>21.43%</del> <u>21.25%</u>	<del>22.16%</del> <u>21.61%</u>	<del>22.90%</del> <u>21.97%</u>	<del>23.66%</del> <u>22.33%</u>	<del>24.43%</del> <u>22.70%</u>	<del>26.08%</del> <u>23.07%</u>

It is therefore concluded that there is justification for seeking the maximum 10% [\(or 20% in certain circumstances\)](#) of land zoned for residential use, or for mixed of residential and other uses, to be reserved for the provision of social [\(and affordable\)](#) housing.

## 7. Housing Supply

Section 2.2 of this Strategy outlines the population and housing demand projections for the County up to 2031. These were prepared in accordance with the methodology for translating population targets into housing targets as set out in Ministerial Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning' (DHLGH December 2020).

~~In accordance with the methodology, housing demand for the period 2021 to 2026 is 4,981 units and thereafter it is assumed that housing demand will be delivered evenly up to 2031, up to the total target of 11,126 units.~~

~~However, neither the NPF 'Roadmap' nor the 2020 Ministerial Guidelines take account of the additional population allocation to Bray as per the MASP. This equates to 3,820 units<sup>15</sup>, and assuming they will be delivered over a 10 year period from 2022 to 2031, this equates to 382 units per annum. This will be assumed to be delivered in a linear even manner and no 'front loading' for 2026 is provided for as per the MASP.~~

**Table 7.1 Housing Demand NPF Roadmap / Ministerial Guidelines 2022, 2028, 2031**

County Wicklow	Units delivered 2017-2020	2021-2026	2027-2028	2029-2031	Total
New housing demand	3,230	4,981	1,166	1,749	11,126
New housing demand including Bray MASP allocation	3,230	6,981	1,930	2,895	14,946

County Wicklow	Units delivered 2017-2020	Estimated completions Q1 2021 – Q2 2022	Target Q3 2022 – Q2 2028	Target Q3 2028 - 2031	Total
New housing demand	3,230	1,404	8,467	1,848	14,949

It has also been shown that there will be significant affordability issues and that the Local Authority will be required to intervene in new developments to the maximum permitted extent of 10% (or 20% in certain circumstances). Intervention at this level, assuming all developments between 2021 and 2025 are eligible development with respect to Part V at the 10% rate, and all developments post 2026 are eligible at 20% rate, could yield up to 1,495,135 units up to 2031. In reality, the yield would be expected to be much lower given the number of housing developments that would, due to the number of houses or size of the site, be exempt from Part V requirements<sup>16</sup>.

### 7.1 Zoned Land

The County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets the population and housing targets for the County up to Q2 2028/2031. However, it only provides 'zoning' for 13 settlements, the remainder of the settlements having their own stand-alone 'Local Area Plans', which will be reviewed after the adoption of the County Development Plan.

<sup>15</sup> ~~Using the same ratio of population: housing units as provided for in the guidelines~~

<sup>16</sup> ~~During the 2017 to 2020 period, Part V units accounted for only 4% of the total units delivered.~~

It is planned that these LAPs will be adopted following the adoption of the County Development Plan. Each LAP will cover a period of 6 years and zoning will be provided on the basis of the land needed to meet a 6 year horizon. The horizons utilised for each plan will also be cognisant of the fact the LAPs have the potential to be extended to last for up to 10 years, but no plan will include a timeline beyond 2031.

The zoning provisions of each Local Area Plan and Small Town Plan will be crafted on the basis of ensuring that the population and housing unit targets can be fulfilled. In accordance with national policy, 30% of the housing target will be delivered as compact growth i.e. within the existing built up area.

Table 7.2 to follow shows the housing growth targets for all the towns in the County that have development plans.

**Table 7.2 Housing Growth Targets up to 2031**

Level	Settlement	Further Housing Unit Growth Target up to 2031	Minimum target for compact growth <sup>17</sup>	Maximum allowance outside built up envelope
1	Bray	4,855	1,456	3,398
2	Wicklow – Rathnew	1,687	506	1,181
3	Arklow	1,076	323	753
3	Greystones – Delgany	1,044	313	731
3	Blessington	502	151	351
4	Baltinglass	145	44	102
4	Enniskerry	111	33	78
4	Kilcoole	191	57	134
4	Newtownmountkennedy	612	184	429
4	Rathdrum	200	60	140
5	Ashford	294	294	0
5	Aughrim			
5	Carnew			
5	Dunlavin			
5	Tinahely			
6	Avea	195	195	0
6	Donard			
6	Kilmacanogue			
6	Newcastle			
6	Roundwood			
6	Shillelagh			

<sup>17</sup> Defined as development within the existing built up envelope of the settlement

<u>Level</u>	<u>Settlement</u>	<u>Housing Stock 2016</u>	<u>Completions 2017-2020</u>	<u>Estimated completions 2021-Q2 2022</u>	<u>Housing Growth Q3 2022-Q2 2028</u>	<u>Housing Growth Q3 2028-Q4 2031</u>	<u>Total Housing Growth 2016-2031</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Bray</u>	<u>11,232</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>4,026</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>5062</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Wicklow - Rathnew</u>	<u>5,456</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>1,267</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>2392</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Arklow</u>	<u>5,406</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>1,221</u>
	<u>Greystones - Delgany</u>	<u>6,766</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>1953</u>
	<u>Blessington</u>	<u>1,914</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>519</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Baltinglass</u>	<u>903</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>195</u>
	<u>Enniskerry</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>125</u>
	<u>Kilcoole</u>	<u>1,451</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>287</u>
	<u>Newtownmount-kennedy</u>	<u>1,222</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>882</u>
	<u>Rathdrum</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>331</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	<u>2,390</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>515</u>
	<u>Aughrim</u>						
	<u>Carnew</u>						
	<u>Dunlavin</u>						
	<u>Tinahely</u>						
<u>6</u>	<u>Avoca</u>	<u>1,534</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>218</u>
	<u>Donard</u>						
	<u>Kilmacanogue</u>						
	<u>Newcastle</u>						
	<u>Roundwood</u>						
	<u>Shillelagh</u>						
<u>7-9</u>	<u>Villages / clusters</u>	<u>15,395</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>478</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>1249</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Open countryside</u>						
	<u>Total</u>	<u>54,968</u>	<u>3,230</u>	<u>1,404</u>	<u>8,467</u>	<u>1,848</u>	<u>14,949</u>

The review of each LAP will ensure that each plan is consistent with the CDP 'Core Strategy' and its associated housing targets. The Core Strategy has determined that there is a surplus of land zoned for residential development in all of the towns with Local Area Plans. This surplus will be addressed as part of the review of the local area plans.

**Table 7.3 — Future zoning requirements outside compact growth boundary (Levels 1-4)**

Future Plan	Settlement	Core Strategy Housing Unit Target-maximum permissible outside compact growth boundary	Housing Yield of existing undeveloped zoned land outside compact growth boundary <sup>18</sup>	Shortfall/surplus (UNITS)	Method of addressing shortfall/surplus
LAP	Bray	3,398	4,126	+728	To be addressed in new LAP.
LAP	Wicklow—Rathnew	1,181	1,959	+778	
LAP	Arklow	753	2,890	+2,137	
LAP	Greystones—Delgany	731	823	+92	
LAP	Blessington	351	870	+519	
LAP	Kilcoole	102	328	+226	
LAP	Enniskerry <sup>19</sup>	78	198	+120	
STP	Baltinglass	134	90	-48	Requirement exceeded
STP	Newtownmountkennedy	429	590	+161	Requirement not met—legacy planning permissions under construction
STP	Rathdrum	140	0	-140	Requirement exceeded

With respect to the remaining 10 settlements, their plans form part of this County Development Plan. Zoning is therefore provided to meet the requirements of the Core Strategy targets. The zoning plans included as part of the County Development Plan and those that will be prepared as part of future Local Area Plans will ensure that adequate land is zoned to accommodate the housing target as identified in the Core Strategy (Chapter 3 of the County Development Plan).

The Infrastructural Assessment (Appendix 9 of the CDP) outlines infrastructure constraints to the delivery of zoned land. All land that is zoned as part of the County Development plan is either serviced (Tier 1) or has the potential to be serviced (Tier 2). There is an urgent need to address services deficiencies, particularly in the growth towns of Bray, Arklow and Blessington, where there is a high demand for social housing. The deficiencies in Arklow and Blessington relate principally to wastewater treatment whereas the infrastructure required in Bray to release zoned land is the delivery of motorway enhancement and public transport infrastructure to Fassaroe. The delivery of much of this infrastructure is outside the remit of the Local

<sup>18</sup> For LAP towns, estimated in accordance with current local plan zoning provisions; zoned housing lands or lands zoned for a mix of housing and other uses, excluding lands already developed for housing (by November 2020) or where new housing development is currently underway (as of November 2020); disregarding extant permissions as yet to commence. For Small Towns, based on zoning provisions / development objectives set out in this plan.

<sup>19</sup> as part of Bray MD LAP



Authority, being the responsibility of Irish Water and Transport Infrastructure Ireland / National Transport Authority. It is essential that these agencies deliver services in accordance with the priorities set out in the Wicklow Core Strategy.

## 7.2 Local Authority Land Bank

Wicklow County Council currently owns c. 38.49 hectares of zoned / designated housing land and the estimated capacity of this land is c. 1417 units, as detailed in the table below. Not all of this land is however currently serviced<sup>20</sup>.

**Table 7.4 Local Authority Land Bank**

Municipal Area	Hectares	Location of Land	Serviced land Tier 1 or Tier 2 <sup>21</sup>	Estimated development potential (units) <sup>22</sup>	
				Tier 1	Tier 2
Baltinglass	11.07	Burgage more, Blessington	Tier 2	126	261
		Milltown Rd., Dunlavin	Tier 2		
		Ballard Site, Shillelagh	Tier 1		
		Lugduff, Tinahely	Tier 2		
		Kilcommon Phase 2, Tinahely	Tier 2		
Arklow	9.82	Ballanagh Estate, Avoca	Tier 2	-	34 <del>43.7</del>
		Chapel Lane, Aughrim	Tier 2		
		Sheepshouse, Arklow	Tier 2		
		Tinahask, Arklow	Tier 2		
Wicklow	2.8	Ballinahinch, Ashford	Tier 1	98	-
		Riversite, Rathnew	Tier 1		
		O'Sullivan's Lands, Rathnew (Phase 2)	Tier 1		
Bray	4.7	Rehills, Bray	Tier 1	235	
		Fassaroe, Dargle Road, Bray	Tier 1		
Greystones	10.1	Burnaby Mills, Greystones	Tier 1	353	
		Lott Lane, Kilcoole	Tier 1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.49</b>			<b>812</b>	<b>605</b>

<sup>20</sup> In accordance with NPO 72a of the National Planning Framework, planning authorities are required to apply a standardised, tiered approach to differentiate between i) zoned land that is serviced and ii) zoned land that is serviceable within the life of the plan.

<sup>21</sup> Tier 1 is land that is serviced and Tier 2 is land that is serviceable within the life of the Plan.

<sup>22</sup> A minimum density of 50 units/ha is assumed for the Bray MD and 35 units / ha is used for Wicklow, Greystones, Baltinglass and Arklow MDs.

### 7.3 Housing Output & Targets

Since ~~Between Q1 2017 and Q4 2020~~, 3,230 units have been completed which is an average of 808 units per year. Although the number of units is well below the target identified in the 2016 County Development Plan, the data shows that the County has seen a consistent increase in the number of housing completions year on year since 2012.

**Table 7.5 House Completions**

CSO House Completions 2011 – <del>2019</del> 2020												
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average 17-20	Total 11-20	Average 11- 20
218	149	138	155	293	354	479	589	1116	1,046	808	4,537	454

Source: CSO

**Table 7.5 Annual ~~Future Housing Targets~~ housing delivered / delivery targets 2017-2031**

	2021	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Units	1148.5	1148.5	1148.5	1148.5	1148.5	1148.5	965	965	965	965	965
Total						6891		8821			11716

Year	Completions	Estimated completions up to Q2 2022	Targeted completions Q3 2022 – Q4 2031
2017	479		
2018	588		
2019	1,116		
2020	1,046		
2021		936	
2022		468	706
2023			1,411
2024			1,411
2025			1,411
2026			1,411
2027			1,411
2028			969
2029			528
2030			528
2031			528

In order to meet the plan period housing targets set out in the Core Strategy, housing completions will be required to increase to 1,411 per annum by 2023, from a previous 'high' of 1,116 completions seen in 2019 (last full year of construction without COVID interruptions). ~~of 6,891 units by 2026, approximately 1,150 units will have to be delivered annually between 2021 and 2028. Taking into account that the average number of annual completions between 2017 and 2020 was 808, this target~~ While ambitious, this increase is not considered unachievable given the pent up demand created in part by the COVID slowdown in 2020-2021 and both the number of units under construction as of March 2021 (estimated at just over 3,000) and

the number of extant permissions in the County (c. 3,500 units) which will presumably be delivered over the next 4-5 years (given planning permission durations), which is the equivalent of around 1,300 units per annum. Further applications for large scale development are likely in 2021-2022, in particular on the strategic sites in Bray, and these will add to the annual output during the plan period.

## 8. Social Housing

This section of the Housing Strategy addresses the provision of social housing in County Wicklow. In doing so, regard is had to the requirements of Section 94(4) of the planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

This Housing Strategy takes into account the need to ensure that social housing is available for people across all tenures. As such, this strategy is designed to ensure that a mixture of house types and sizes is developed to reasonably match the requirements of the different categories of households, as may be determined by the housing authority, including the requirements of target groups including older people, people with disabilities and members of the Travelling Community.

### 8.1 National Context

'Programme for Government – our Shared Future' launched in 2020, emphasised the role of the private housing stock, addresses the challenge of viability, access to finance, land availability, infrastructure delivery, building standards, quality and regulation, as well as sufficient skilled labour capacity.

#### Programme for Government: 5-year housing objectives

1. Put affordability at the heart of the housing system.
2. Prioritise the increased supply of public, social and affordable homes.
3. Progress a State-backed affordable home purchase scheme to promote home ownership.
4. Increase the social housing stock by more than 50,000, with an emphasis on new builds.
5. Tackle homelessness.
6. Ensure local authorities are central to delivering housing.
7. Work with the private sector to ensure an appropriate mix and type of housing is provided nationally.
8. Improve the supply and affordability of rental accommodation and the security of tenure for renters.

Previous national policy is contained within Rebuilding Ireland – An Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, launched in 2016, under which Wicklow County Council progressed its Supply Programme up to and including 2020. The overarching aim of Rebuilding Ireland was to increase delivery of housing across all tenures to help individuals and families meet their housing needs, and to help those who are currently housed to remain in their homes or be provided with appropriate options of alternative accommodation, especially those families in emergency accommodation.

### 8.2 Social Housing Demand

At the end of December 2020, there were 4,466 households on Wicklow County Council's list for Social Housing Support. This represents an increase of 17% on the number of housing applicants as per the Housing Needs Assessment 2015.

The demands are arising at the following locations and for the following type of units:

**Table 8.1 Social housing demand in Wicklow as of December 2020**

Municipal District	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	Total
Baltinglass	140	273	123	25	561
Arklow	281	376	154	18	829
Wicklow	337	451	149	25	962
Bray	399	428	176	22	1,026
Greystones	328	487	251	23	1,089
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>4,466</b>

The key objective of Wicklow County Council is to facilitate the provision of sustainable, high quality, social, affordable and cost effective housing accommodation to meet the existing and likely future needs, responsive to the requirements of all categories of persons in the County, in accordance with current Government strategy.

This remains a challenge for a number of reasons emanating from the legacy of the economic downturn. While construction of units has resumed since 2016, progress has been slow due to long lead in time in design, approvals and tendering. The use of design and build has now improved supply, which has increased significantly since 2019, and should continue for the lifetime of this plan. Availability of suitable land is expected to be a significant challenge in future. While the Covid-19 pandemic has caused disruption to construction activity, particularly during the lockdown period, it is too soon to predict the short / medium term impacts of the pandemic on housing delivery in the County.

Wicklow County Council has a significant social housing need as outlined in Table 8.1. Much of the housing development in County Wicklow is in the north-east of the County and along the east coast which corresponds with the areas of most significant demand for social housing. These are also the areas where land and property prices are highest and the Local Authority has few sites to address the demand by constructing social housing in significant numbers.

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness since 2016 with over 500 people presenting each year.

### 8.3 Social Housing Supply

This section sets out the record of delivery of social housing over the lifetime of the last Housing Strategy 2016-2022.

It should be noted that as per the Government's Housing Policy Statement of 16 June 2011, the Government 'stood down' all existing affordable housing programmes in 2011 to reflect affordability conditions. Accordingly there were no affordable housing units provided under the previous plan.

An overriding objective of current national strategy is to make homes more affordable and proposes a focus on provision of Affordable Housing with the progression of a state backed affordable home purchase scheme.

Part V provides 10% social housing in [eligible private developments, and as of September 2021, in certain circumstances, this is increased to 20%.](#)—This augments the Council's own supply in areas of particularly high demand. Part V assists in the Government Policy of social integration as social houses are provided,

tenure blind, in private residential estates in a dispersed manner. In addition Part V prevents segregation as it ensures a mix of income groups within developments. In 2018, 45 Part V units were provided, in 2019 - 46 units and in 2020 - 29 units. This has resulted in 120 families being housed. Due to the provisions of the Act this accommodation is purchased at reasonable prices and provides value for money.

~~Wicklow County Council supply in the 2021-2025 period is anticipated at circa 300 units per year including the provision of 25-45 Part V units per year.~~

**Table 8.2 Provision of Social Housing units 2016-2020**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Provision of Social Housing units to incl. Acquisitions/Built/Leased</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Built Social Units</b>	0	0	28	27	322	<b>377</b>
<b>Direct Acquisitions</b>	28	15	21	23	22	<b>109</b>
<b>Part V Social Unit Acquisitions</b>	0	1	45	46	29	<b>121</b>
<b>Social Units either acquired directly by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) or leased from this sector by Wicklow County Council</b>	16	4	12	133	83	<b>248</b>
<b>Social units provided under short and long term leasing from private sector</b>	11	6	0	4	17	<b>38</b>
<b>Social units provided under Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS) from private sector</b>	516	516	429	347	280	<b>280</b>
<b>Social units provided under Housing Assistance Scheme (HAP) from private sector</b>	348	62	566	686	482	<b>2,144</b>
<b>Casual Vacancies - houses available to rent from existing stock</b>	74	112	84	126	48	<b>444</b>
<b>Mortgage to Rent</b>	1	0	3	16	25	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Social Housing Provision</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>3,806</b>

#### 8.4 Housing needs of the elderly and people with a disability

The 'National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability' 2016-2020 sets out a framework for the delivery of housing for people with disabilities through mainstream housing policy. In Wicklow, a 5-year Strategic Plan has been developed. Its objectives include:

- Developing plans to meet the housing needs and related supports for people with disabilities;
- Ascertain with Housing Allocations Department the needs of the households on the Local Authority waiting list;
- Consult on pipeline delivery (Local Authority, Part V's and Approved Housing Bodies) and developing mechanisms to ensure that delivery will meet the need including specific design requirements;
- Explore options for increasing the supply of housing for people with a disability being delivered by the private sector.

The Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2019 indicated that the number of people over 70 years of age requiring housing assistance increased from 58 persons in 2018 to 73 in 2019.

## 8.5 Homelessness

Significant challenges are being faced by Wicklow County Council in dealing with the increasing numbers of people and families presenting as homeless.

**Table 8.3: Number of Homeless Presentations (2016-2020)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homeless Presentations	522	446	480	520	546

Wicklow works closely with Approved Housing Bodies to provide differing levels of supported accommodation within the County, through the Capital Assistance Scheme and through providing units from its own stock for such purpose.

**Housing First:** Housing First is a participant-centred model that focuses on ending homelessness for people who have been homeless for many years or who are particularly vulnerable. The Housing First model aims to provide a person sleeping rough, or someone who has been long-term homeless, with their own secure accommodation as well as access to intensive and specialised support services. One bed units are essential to progress this programme.

**Homelessness from Notice to Quit (NTQ):** Since the last Development Plan, there was a noticeable increase in families becoming homeless from private rented properties which were being withdrawn from the market by landlords. The Council is utilising all resources to ensure these families are transitioned to either social housing or other resultant vacant RAS/HAP rentals.

## 8.6 Traveller Accommodation

Under the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998, Wicklow County Council is required to prepare, adopt and implement a new Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the accommodation needs of the County's Traveller community, i.e. those families who have been resident in the county for at least three years prior to the adoption of the programme and who are on the Council's list for Social Housing Support.

It is the policy of Wicklow County Council, within the resources available, to provide group and standard housing options as well as halting sites for the accommodation of Travellers who are on the list for Social Housing Support with Wicklow County Council, in accordance with the Assessment of Need carried out under the Traveller Accommodation Act.

The current Traveller Accommodation Programme for Wicklow covers the period from 01 June 2019 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Current need is estimated to be 80 units of accommodation, comprising 59 standard housing units and 21 units of traveller specific accommodation (specially built to include Group Housing, halting sites and one off single sites).

[This was spread throughout the Municipal Districts as follows:](#)

**Table 8.4 Assessment of Demand for Accommodation for Travellers 2019-2024**

	<b>Standard Housing</b>	<b>Traveller Specific Accommodation (specially built to include Group Housing, halting sites and one off single sites)</b>	<b>Total Units of Accommodation Required</b>
<a href="#">Arklow MD</a>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>
<a href="#">Baltinglass MD</a>	<u>7</u>		<u>7</u>
<a href="#">Bray MD</a>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>21</u>
<a href="#">Greystones MD</a>	<u>8</u>		<u>8</u>
<a href="#">Wicklow MD</a>	<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>26</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>80</b>

The 59 standard housing units required will be provided through a combination of the Council's own house building programme and Part V, with 16% of all social units being allocated to travellers<sup>23</sup>. There is adequate zoned and serviced land in each MD to meet this demand, across the various settlements in each district.

With respect to traveller specific accommodation, 8 new units are in train in the Wicklow and Arklow MDs and are due to completion in 2022. The remaining 13 units (8 in Arklow MD, 3 in Bray MD and 2 in Wicklow MD) will be provided during the lifetime of the programme on Council owned land in these districts, which is sufficient to meet this demand.

<sup>23</sup> Having regard to the Council's goal to build c.300 units per annum, this would provide for c. 19 units per annum.



## 9. Conclusions & Objectives

### 9.1 Conclusions

1. The 2021-2027 County Development Plan identifies a housing target of 14,946 by 2031. In order to meet this target it will be necessary for c. 1,150 units to be delivered annually between 2021 and 2026 and c. 965 units per annum thereafter up to 2031.
2. House completions have increased consistently year on year between 2012 and 2019. Between 2017 and 2020 the average number of house completions was 808 units per annum.
3. The 2021-2027 County Development Plan and the Local Area Plans that will flow from it, will provide for adequate zoned land to meet the housing target.
4. All regions in Wicklow have experienced an increase in house prices, with the highest increases in Greystones (21%) and Bray (17%). Analysis of property prices shows a difference between the east and west of the County. In 2019 the mean property prices for all types of house on the eastern seaboard ranged from €335,123 to €441,741 (Wicklow town, Bray and Greystones) compared to the west where the prices range from €161,949 to €268,698 (Baltinglass and Blessington).
5. Analysis of affordability has indicated that at least 20% of households will not be able to afford housing in the private market during the lifetime of this strategy. Therefore the maximum 10% social housing is required to be sought.
6. The maximum number of social units that could be delivered through Part V requirements up to 2028 is 882 units through the lifetime of the strategy. This is only achievable where all housing projects are subject to Part V. The yield is likely to be much lower given the house number and site size exemptions that apply to Part V. The Local Authority also has capacity for 1417 units, on the basis of all the land in its ownership being serviced and funded for development. Even in the unlikely scenario that all of these units could be delivered; there would still be a shortfall in the order of 1,167 units given current housing demand (c. 4,466 households).
7. There is an urgent need to address service infrastructure deficiencies, particularly in the growth towns of Bray, Arklow and Blessington, where there is a high demand for social housing. The deficiencies in Arklow and Blessington relate to wastewater treatment whereas the infrastructure required in Bray to release zoned land is the delivery of major transport investment. The delivery of much of this infrastructure is outside the remit of the Local Authority, being the responsibility of Irish Water and the Transport Infrastructure Ireland / National Transport Authority. It is essential that these agencies deliver services in accordance with the priorities set out in the Wicklow Core Strategy.
8. It is essential that funding streams are made available to develop, to the maximum capacity, housing lands in the ownership of the Local Authority.

## 9.2 Objectives

- HS1** To facilitate the delivery of sufficient new homes to meet the housing target of 14,946 by 2031. In this regard, it will be necessary for c. ~~1,400-150~~ units to be delivered annually between 202~~12~~2 and 202~~68~~8, ~~and c. 965 units per annum thereafter up to 2031.~~
- HS2** To facilitate the delivery of houses on designated housing land within the boundaries of settlements in accordance with the requirements of the settlement strategy, which directs growth into the key towns, self-sustaining growth towns, self-sustaining towns and small towns.
- HS3** To monitor housing development and the delivery of services on an ongoing basis and to review population targets where service delivery is impeded.
- HS4** To ensure sufficient zoned land is available in all settlements to meet projected housing demand.
- HS5** To facilitate the provision of ~~water~~ services so that they are or will be available during the currency of the plan, sufficient to meet the housing demand.
- HS6** To prioritise as much as possible ~~investment~~ investment in and distribution of infrastructure in a balanced manner around the County, with priority given to towns that have the highest growth targets.
- HS7** To require the highest standard of design in all new social development or development containing an element of social housing, in accordance with the development standards set out in the County Development Plan and the DoEHLG social housing guidelines.
- HS8** Support the provision of lifetime adaptable homes that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time and in particular to require that all new residential developments in excess of 20 residential units to provide a minimum 5% universally designed homes in accordance with the requirements of '*Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach* and the *Universal Design Guidelines for Homes in Ireland (2015)*<sup>24</sup>.
- HS9** To require that 10% of all zoned land developed for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, shall be devoted to social housing. In certain circumstances as set out in the Affordable Housing Act 2021, this requirement will be 20% devoted to social and affordable housing.
- HS10** To require all applicants for permission that will include social and affordable housing to engage in meaningful pre-planning discussions with both the Housing and Planning Authorities, in order to establish at the outset the location, house size and house design requirements of both Authorities.
- HS11** To facilitate the selection of lands or housing units to purchase or lease by the Council, including Part V, to counteract undue segregation by persons of different social backgrounds.


<sup>24</sup> National Disability Authority Centre for Excellence in Universal Design


- HS12** To require new multi-unit residential development to provide an appropriate mix of unit types and sizes to ensure that there is a range unit types available to suit the needs of the various households in the county.
- HS13** To encourage proposals from developers to satisfy Part V obligations which are directed toward special need categories – namely, elderly accommodation, traveller accommodation, and specialised accommodation for the homeless and specially adapted accommodation for persons with disabilities – where the proposal is related to an identified local need and is consistent with other policies of the Development Plan.
- HS14** To support independent living and facilitate the provision of supported housing (specific purpose built accommodation) for older people and people with disabilities towns and villages. To facilitate the provision of nursing homes, retirement villages, residential care facilities at appropriate locations in towns and villages in the County.
- HS15** To protect the existing housing stock to meet housing demand and resist development, including short-term letting that would undermine the provision of housing including a supply of rental properties available for longer-term rental in the area.


**APPENDIX NUMBER 4.1 RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES**


**AMENDMENT V3 – 130**


<b>V3-130-A</b>	<b>ADD16 Octagon Viewing Tower, Glen Of the Downs</b>
<p>Amend the description of as follows :</p> <p><del>Octagonal shaped, picturesque viewing tower constructed of roughly quarried stone in late 18th century. One large room in interior with pointed arched window openings on west facing wall. Second floor added in 19th century, no roof.</del></p> <p>Octagonal shaped Tea-Room/Hunting Lodge on picturesque viewing location comprising of kitchen and main room on ground floor and dining room on upper floor, with pointed arched windows on west side constructed from Red-Brick/Rustic Stone in 1766. Upper floor and Roof no longer present. Additional Underground gothic style banqueting room with pointed arched windows on west side added in 1788.</p>	


<b>V3-130-B</b>	<b>ADD-17 Waters Bridge, Vartry Reservoir, Roundwood</b>				
Amend the description as follows:					
Wicklow	ADD_17	Three arched bridge	Waters Bridge, Vartry <del>Upper</del> Reservoir, Roundwood	Three arched bridge in the centre of the <del>Lower</del> Vartry Reservoir <del>Vartry dam</del> on the main road (R765). Bridge and <del>pillars</del> piers are constructed from stone.	


<b>V3-130-C</b>	<b>ADD-21 Overflow Shaft, Vartry Reservoir, Roundwood</b>				
Amend the description as follows:					
Wicklow	ADD_21	Overflow <del>Shaft</del> spillway weir	Vartry Lower Reservoir, Roundwood	Overflow <del>Shaft</del> spillway weir	

V3-130-D		Reference No. 02-23: Monastery Bridge, Enniskerry				
Amend the description as follows:						
03-23	03	Enniskerry <b>Bridge,</b> Monastery Road	Bridge	Knocksink Td	High, single arch bridge with <del>iron</del> balustrade and granite coping.	

V3-130-E		Reference No. 17-01 Glendasan Mines				
Amend the description as follows:						
17-01	17	Glendasan Lead Mines	Mines	<del>Glendasan and Wicklow Gap Tds</del> <b>Brockagh and Seven Churches / Camaderry Tds</b>	On the slopes of Brockagh and Camaderry Mountains the mines include surviving remains of mine shafts, adits, underground levels, shafts and workings, spoil heaps, settling ponds, water courses, picking floors, cobbled surfaces and buildings, structures including inter alia: crushing mill, water wheel house, ore hopper, blacksmiths forge and buddles.	

V3-130-F		Reference No. 23-07 Derrybawn Bridge				
Amend the description as follows:						
23-07	23	Derrybawn Bridge	Bridge	Brockagh and Derrybawn Tds	Three-arch, <del>18 Century</del> bridge <del>which has decorated stones from the Seven Churches built into it.</del> <b>likely built in 1802; said to have stones from the churches at Glendalough built into it'</b>	

V3-130-G		Reference No. 23-08 Derrybawn House, Laragh				
Amend the description as follows:						
23-08	23	Derrybawn House	Country House	Derrybawn Td	Early-19 <sup>th</sup> Century house of three bays and two storeys with a long garden front of five bays, of coursed-rubble granite with brick dressings, wide eaves and low-pitched, hipped roof, <b>including a range of outbuildings to the north, adjacent to the Green Road"</b>	

V3-130-H		Reference No. 23-11 Glendalough Mines				
Amend the description as follows:						
23-11	23	Glendalough Mines	Mines	Lugduff Td /Seven Churches Td	Former lead mines at the Upper Lake and Van Diemens Land, including surviving remains of mine shafts, underground levels, adits, shafts and workings, spoil heaps, settling ponds, reservoir dam., <i>watercourses, picking floors, cobbled surfaces and buildings including inter alia crushing mill, ore hopper and machinery</i>	

**APPENDIX NUMBER 8 STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**

**AMENDMENT V3 – 131**

*The Proposed Amendments to 'Appendix 8, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment' are presented in full as one amendment with all proposed changes presented in red for new text and ~~blue strikethrough~~ for deleted text.*



**ADDENDUM II.2**  
**TO THE STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT**  
**OF THE**  
**DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 – 2028**

**STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT  
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

THIS REPORT IS ADDENDUM I TO THE 'STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021 – 2027' ISSUED MARCH 2021



## 1 Introduction

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, in accordance with Section 11 (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) was undertaken and prepared in accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works (Flood Risk Guidelines).

The draft plan and associated reports, including the SFRA, were published in June 2021 and observations invited from the public and prescribed authorities. 'Addendum II' to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 was prepared and published in December 2021 on foot of submissions received, and set out:

- (a) Additional data and explanation of elements of the original SFRA for the Draft Plan that required additional clarification and explanation, in order to address issues raised in submissions received;
- (b) A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of any recommended Material Amendments to the Draft Plan, as set out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Executives Report.
- (c) Additional flood maps for settlements in Level 4-6.

Addendum II should be considered part of the overall SFRA document and process.

This document 'Addendum II.2' is a follow on from Addendum II, but it only sets out a SFRA of any proposed material amendments agreed by the members at their meetings of 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.




It should be noted that changes are not made to the original Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report at this stage; this addendum forms part of the documentation of the ongoing SFRA/Plan-making process. It supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report published in June 2021 and Addendum II published December 2021.

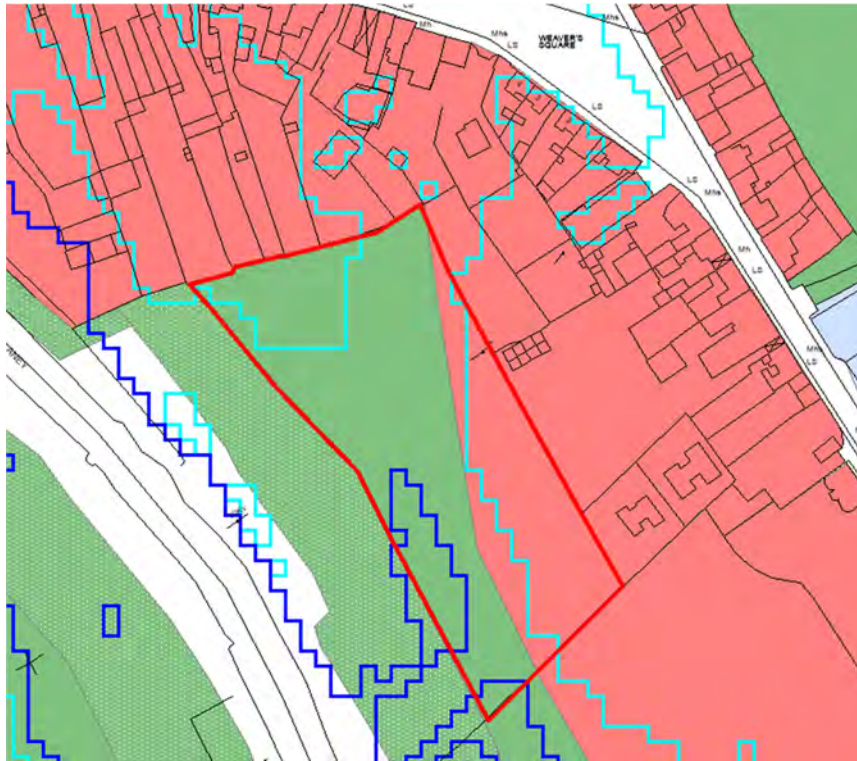
## 2.0 Level 4 Town Plans

### 2.1 Baltinglass

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-87</b>	<p>Change zoning from OS1 and TC to 'T – Tourism &amp; Recreation'</p> <p>Include the following objective</p> <p><i>"This area is located on lands east of the River Slaney, south of Market Square. The subject lands measure c. 1ha and are zoned for tourism use. Parts of these lands are in Flood Zones A and B.</i></p> <p><i>This SLO shall be developed in accordance with the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Only 'water compatible development' as defined by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines' (OPW / DEHLG 2009) may occur in areas identified in this plan SFRA or any future site specific flood risk assessment as being in Flood Zone A;</i></li><li>▪ <i>Only 'water compatible development' or 'less vulnerable development' as defined by the Guidelines may occur in areas identified in this plan SFRA or any future site specific flood risk assessment as being in Flood Zone B;</i></li><li>▪ <i>Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Slaney SAC or any other European site (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 zoning<sup>1</sup>. Any development proposals will be required to 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."</i></li></ul>
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<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**




<b>Land zoning</b>	Tourism & Recreation
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	A, B and C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	Yes
<b>Justification Test</b>	
1	<p>The urban settlement is targeted for growth under the National Spatial Strategy, regional planning guidelines, statutory plans as defined above or under the Planning Guidelines or Planning Directives provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, an amended.</p> <p>Under the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, Baltinglass is designated a Level 4 Self Sustaining Town', in accordance with the settlement typology set out in the RSES. Under the 'Core Strategy' of the draft CDP, the population of Baltinglass is targeted to growth by c. 20% between 2016 and 2031, from a population of 2,251 in 2016.</p> <p>Baltinglass is identified as a Level 3, Tier 2 'town and / or district centres and sub County town centres' in the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. These centres will vary both in the scale of provision and the size of catchment, due to proximity to a Major or County Town Centre.</p>

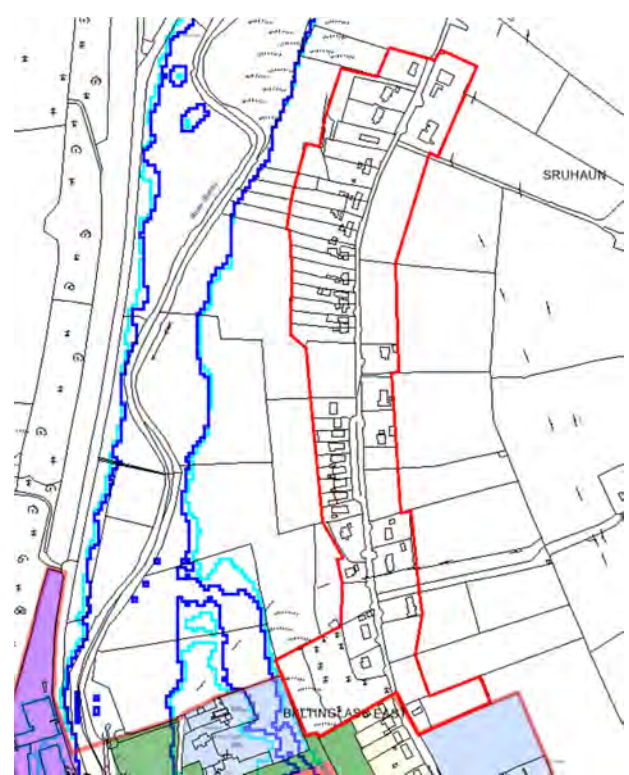
		<p>Generally where the centre has a large catchment (e.g. market town in a rural area such as Baltinglass) and is not close to a larger centre, there will be a good range of comparison shopping, though no large department stores or centres, with a mix of retail types benefiting from lower rents away from larger urban sites, leisure / cultural facilities and a range of cafes and restaurants. At least one supermarket and smaller scale department store are required to meet local needs. It would be expected that financial and other services (banks and building societies) would be located alongside other retail services creating an active and busy centre.</p> <p>The economic function of 'Self Sustaining Towns' is to be attractors for substantial investment and to target investment in the form of product and some 'people' intensive industries.</p> <p>In accordance with the County community facilities hierarchy, Level 4 settlements generally fall into the 2,000-7,000 population range and ideally should be serviced by the following community infrastructure: community/parish hall, multipurpose community space and / or meeting rooms, local town park and open spaces/nature areas, outdoor multi-use games areas, playgrounds, playing pitches and a library.</p>
2	The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is required to achieve the proper and sustainable planning of the urban settlement and in particular:	
	(i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;	No
	(ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;	No
	(iii) Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;	Yes
	(iv) Will be essential in achieving compact or sustainable urban growth;	No
	(v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.	There are areas of undeveloped zoned lands that may be suitable for this use at lower risk of flooding within and adjoining the core of Baltinglass
3	A flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail has been carried out	Refer to main SFRA document
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Justification test FAILED.		
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>While the zoning objective does not proscribe exactly what use may be made of the lands, it does explicitly proscribe that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only 'water compatible development' as defined by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines' (OPW / DEHLG 2009) may occur in areas identified in this plan SFRA or any future site specific flood risk assessment as being in Flood Zone A;</li> <li>▪ Only 'water compatible development' or 'less vulnerable development' as defined by the Guidelines may</li> </ul>		

*occur in areas identified in this plan SFRA or any future site specific flood risk assessment as being in Flood Zone B.*

Any proposals for new development will be required by the plan to be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure compliance with these stipulations.

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-88</b>	Extend plan boundary of Baltinglass
	Zone lands 'RE – Existing Residential'

-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B






**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

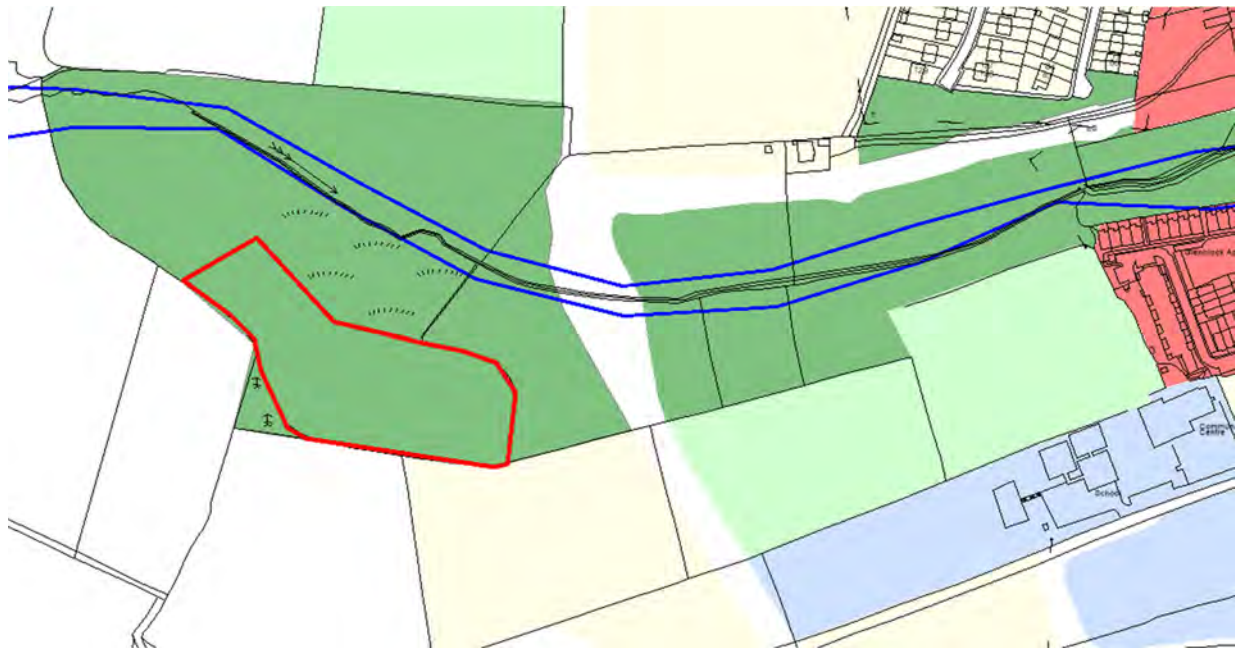
<b>Land zoning</b>	Existing Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

## 2.2 Newtownmountkenny

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-89</b>	Change zoning from 'OS1 – Open Space' to 'CE – Community & Education'
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-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	CE Community - Education
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

**Proposed Amendment No. V2-90**

Change zoning from 'AOS – Active Open Space' to 'RN - New Residential'



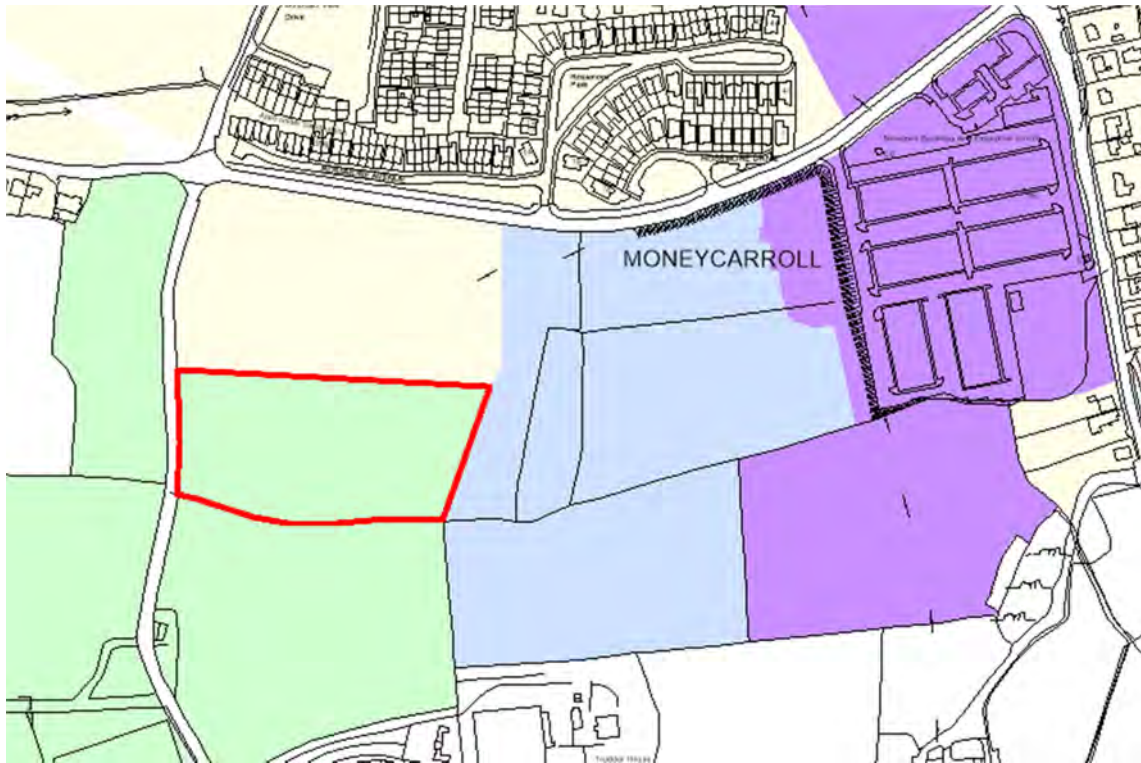
Boundary of proposed amendment



Flood Zone A



Flood Zone B



**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

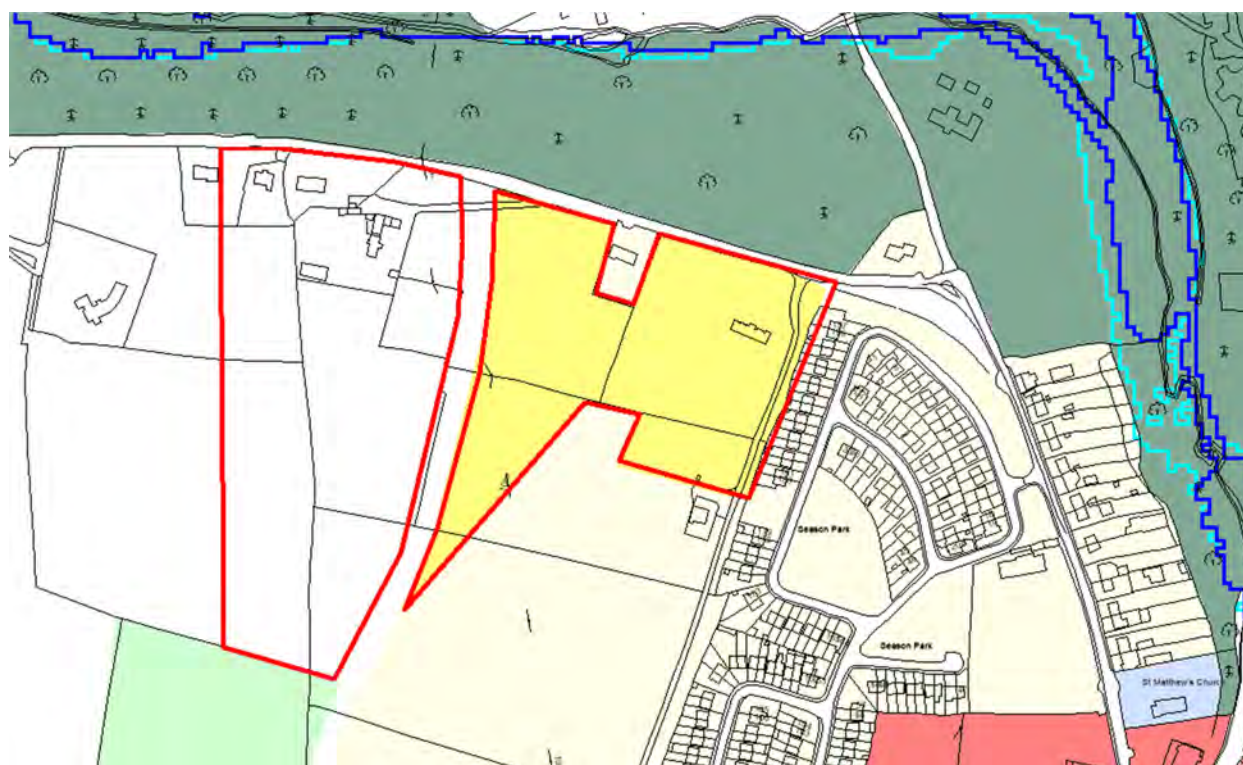
<b>Land zoning</b>	RN New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.



<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-91</b>	Change zoning from 'RN - New Residential' to 'SLB – Strategic Land Bank'
<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-92</b>	Extend plan boundary of Newtownmountkennedy Zone lands 'SLB – Strategic Land Bank'

- Boundary of proposed amendments
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B






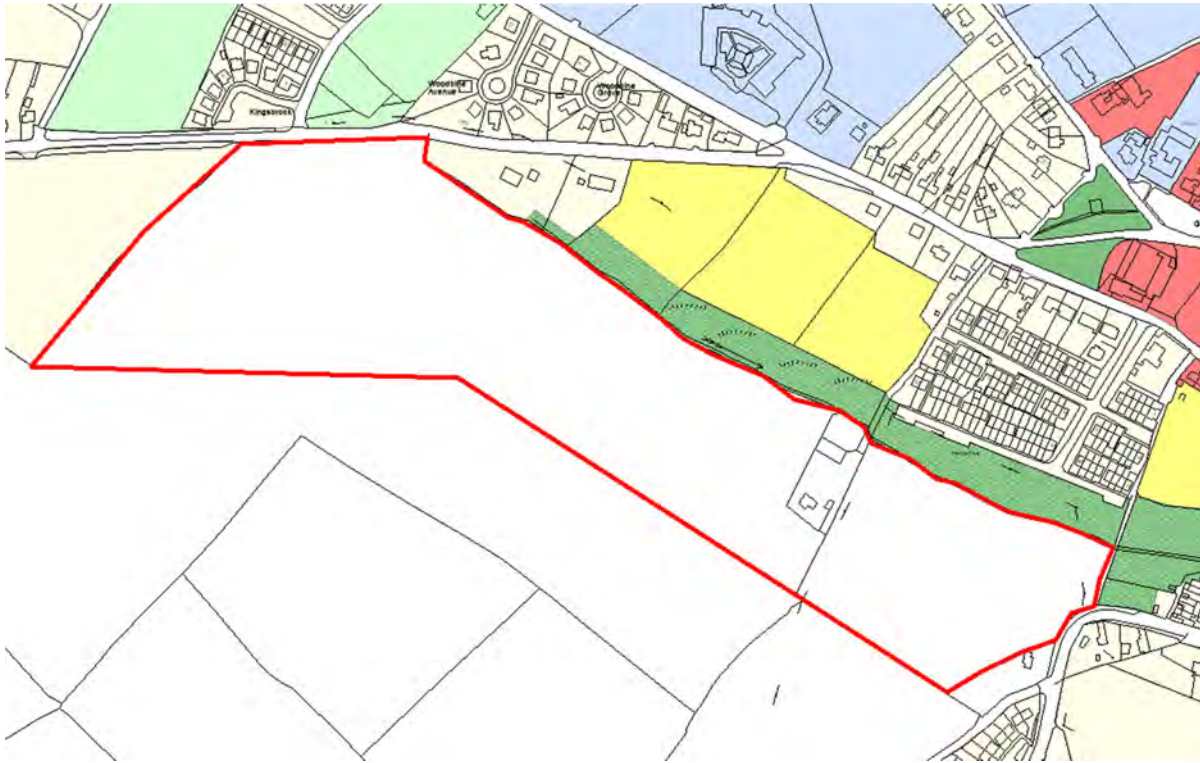
**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

<b>Land zoning</b>	Strategic Land Bank (i.e. potential future development including residential use possible)
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable (potential)
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

### 2.3 Rathdrum

<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-94</b></p>	<p>Extend plan boundary of Rathdrum Zone lands 'RN – New Residential' (6.5ha) and 'AOS – Active Open Space' (6ha)</p>
	<p>Include the following objective</p> <p><b>Action Area X Knockadosan</b></p> <p><i>These lands located at Knockadosan, measure c. 12.5ha and are zoned for residential use (c. 6.5ha) and active open space use (6ha). The development of these lands provides an opportunity to deliver a new sports area to the west of the town (where the majority of existing / planned housing is located) and for the construction of the new street incorporating frontage from the Greenane Road to the Avoca Road via Brewery Bend that would enhance accessibility of community and commercial facilities for the residents of the development and the town.</i></p> <p><i>This action area shall be developed as a residential and active open space zone in accordance with the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A minimum area of 6ha shall be provided by the developer as an active open space / sports facility. The location, layout, design and future management structure of this facility shall be agreed with Wicklow County Council in advance of the occupation of any residential units;</i></li> <li>▪ <i>A maximum of 6.5ha may be developed for residential use, including all services, open spaces, childcare facilities etc required for that quantum of development;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The road layout provided within the lands shall be so designed to allow for through access from the Greenane Road to Brewery Bend.</i></p>




-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B

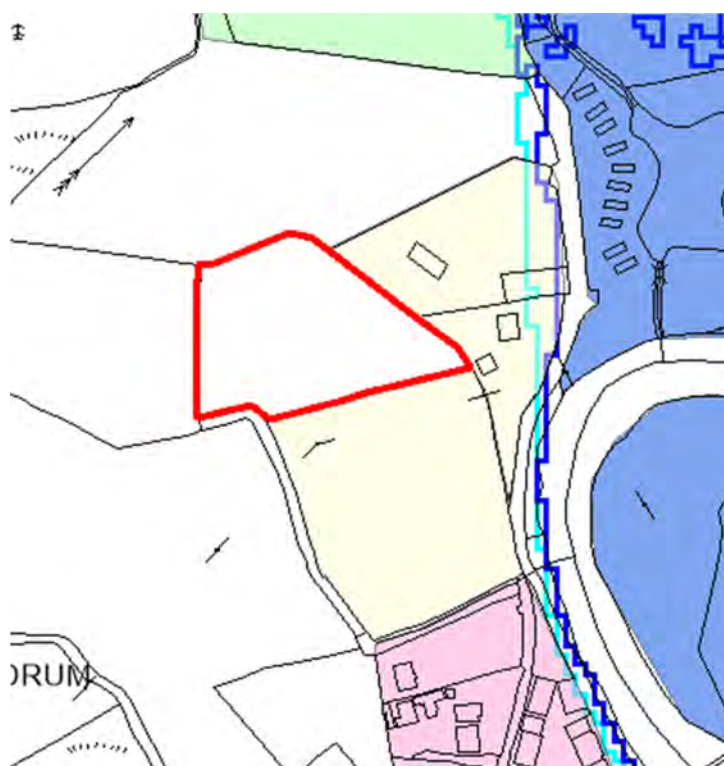


**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

<b>Land zoning</b>	RN – New Residential AOS – Active Open Space
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-95</b>	Extend plan boundary of Rathdrum
	Zone lands 'R Special – Special Residential ' (0.8ha)
	Include the following objective  <i>On lands zoned 'R-Special north of Killian's Glen (0.8ha) to provide for residential development for a maximum of 4 units</i>

-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	R Special – New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

**Proposed Amendment No. V2-96**

Change zoning from 'OS2 - Passive Open Space' to 'E - Employment'



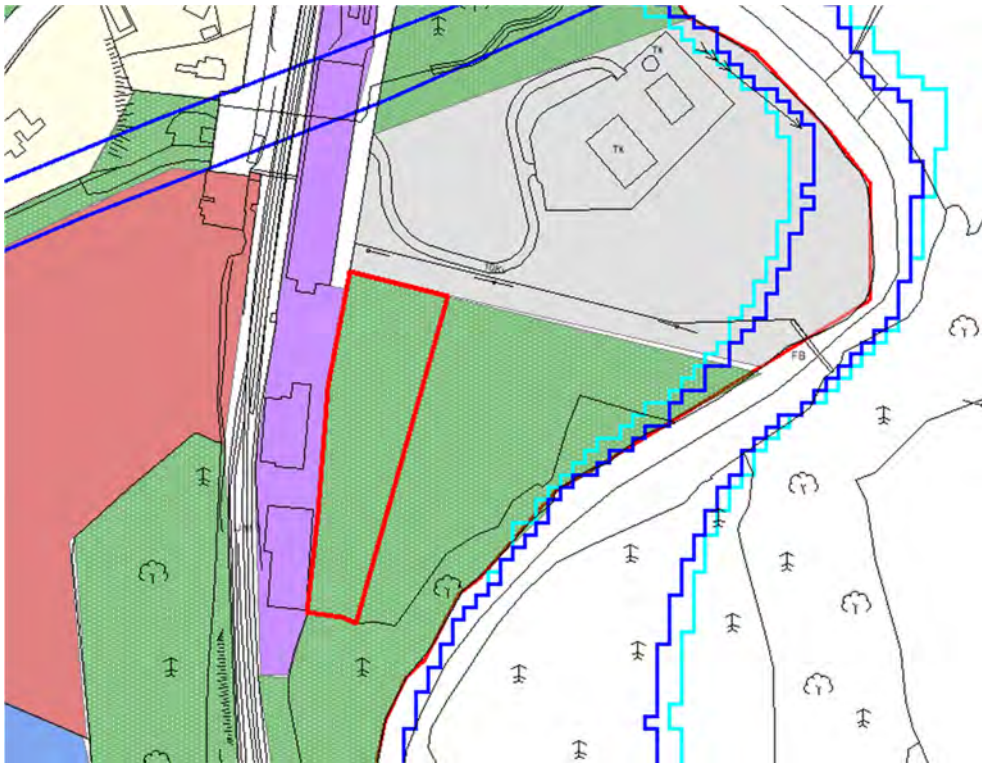
Boundary of proposed amendment



Flood Zone A



Flood Zone B



**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**




<b>Land zoning</b>	E – Employment
<b>Development Type</b>	Less vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No

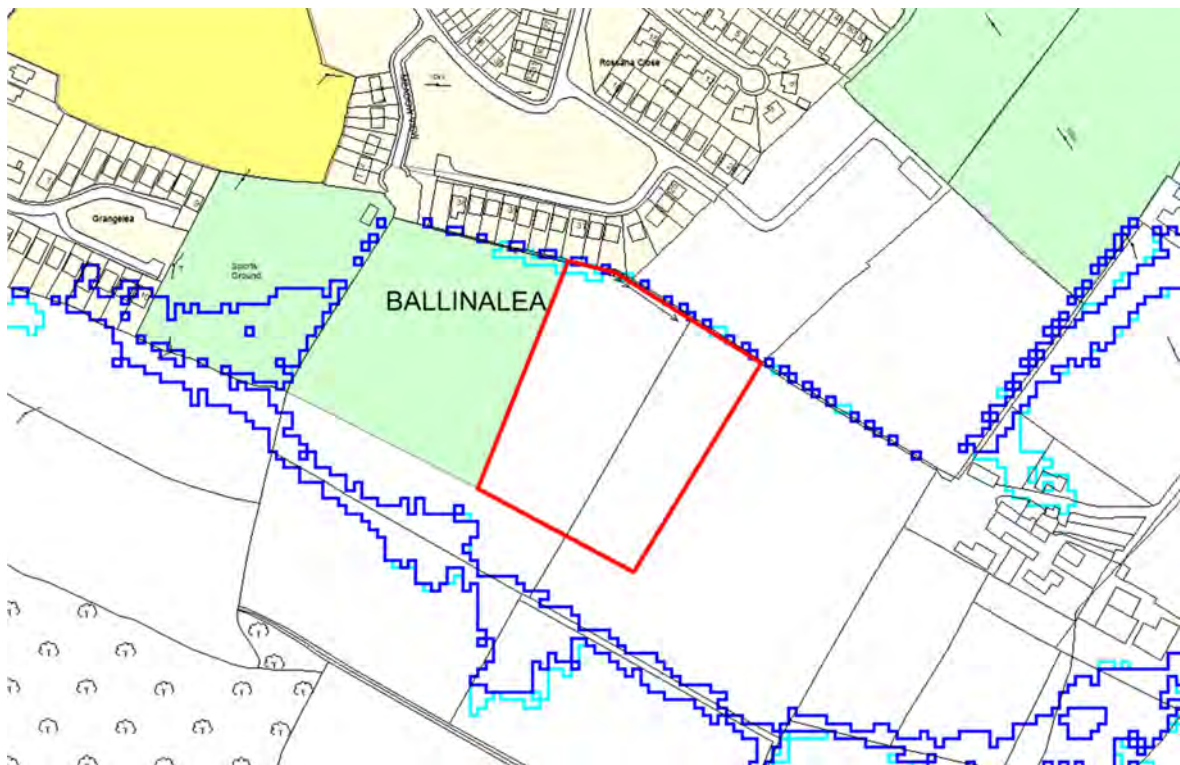
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

### 3.0 Level 5 Town Plans

#### 3.1 Ashford

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-99</b>	Extend plan boundary of Ashford Zone lands 'RN - New Residential'
	<p>Include the following objective (combined with the AOS zone to the west)</p> <p><b>SLO 3</b>      <i>Ballinalea</i></p> <p><i>SLO3 is situated at Ballinalea south of the Woodview estate as shown in Figure X below and measures c. 3.8ha. These lands shall be developed as a residential and open space area, subject to the AOS area being laid out and suitably developed by the landowner to be suitable for active sports use and dedicated to public / sports club use prior to the commencement of any residential development.</i></p>

-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



<b>Land zoning</b>	RN – New Residential	
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable	
<b>Flood Zone</b>	A and B	
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	Yes	
<b>Justification Test</b>		
1	<p>The urban settlement is targeted for growth under the National Spatial Strategy, regional planning guidelines, and statutory plans as defined above or under the Planning Guidelines or Planning Directives provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</p>	<p>Under the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, Ashford is designated a Level 5 Small Town (Type 1), in accordance with the settlement typology set out in the RSES, the larger of the town types in the category described in the RSES as 'towns and villages with local service and employment functions'. Under the 'Core Strategy' of the draft CDP, the population of Ashford is targeted to growth by c. 20% between 2016 and 2031, from a population of 1,427 in 2016.</p> <p>These towns are identified as a Level 4 'local centre – small towns and villages' in the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area where the retail needs would be expected to include one supermarket / two medium sized convenience stores (up to 1,000sqm aggregate) and c. 10-20 smaller shops.</p> <p>The economic function of 'Small Towns (Type 1)' is to be attractors for local investment and to target investment in the form of product and some 'people' intensive industries.</p> <p>In accordance with the County community facilities hierarchy, Level 5 settlements generally fall into the 2,000-7,000 population range and ideally should be serviced by the following community infrastructure: community/parish hall, multipurpose community space and / or meeting rooms, local town park and open spaces/nature areas, outdoor multi-use games areas, playgrounds, playing pitches and a library.</p>
2	The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is required to achieve the proper and sustainable planning of the urban settlement and in particular:	
	(i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;	No
	(ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;	No
	(iii) Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;	No
	(iv) Will be essential in achieving compact or sustainable urban growth;	No
	(v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.	There are suitable alternative lands available for this use.
3	A flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail has been carried out	Refer to main SFRA document
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Justification test FAILED.		

**Comment**

A very small portion of the lands in this zone have been identified as being located in Flood Zone A and B with a high and moderate probability of flooding from rivers/watercourses.

The zoning objective does not proscribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the zone is sufficiently large to provide for the development desired (new residential) while avoiding development in the at risk area.

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as *Open Space* will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.



<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-100</b></p>	<p>Extend plan boundary of Ashford</p>
	<p>Zone lands 'RN - New Residential' and 'AOS – Active Open Space'</p>
	<p>Include the following objective (combined with the OS1 zone to the west)</p> <p><b>SLO XX:</b> <i>Inchanappa</i></p> <p><i>This SLO is located on part of the grounds of Inchanappa House that adjoin the M/N11 to the east, the R772 to the west and bounded by Inchanappa House and outbuildings to the south. The overall SLO measures c. 19.25ha, as shown in Figure XX.</i></p> <p><i>This Specific Local Objective shall be delivered as a residential and open space development in accordance with the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The lands zoned 'OS1' in this SLO shall be developed as a 'community park' open to all (not just residents of this SLO) comprising woodland walks, landscaped areas, seats etc and a teenage zone and adult gym (minimum 0.4ha in area) at an easily accessible and safe location and well connected to Ashford Village;</i></li> <li>• <i>The lands zoned 'AOS' (or other similarly sized lands within the SLO area) shall be developed as a community sports area, including (but not limited to) playing pitches / courts etc and an indoor sports / community hall suitable for a range of sports and community uses; only a site that is well connected to Ashford village by active and sustainable transport modes will be considered for this element of the SLO;</i></li> <li>• <i>Only 50% of the residential element may be developed prior to the OS1 and the community sports zone (including buildings and appropriate access) on AOS being laid out and completed by the developer in manner to be agreed with Wicklow County Council and devoted to the public;</i></li> <li>• <i>The design and layout of the overall SLO, in particular the residential element, shall address and provide for passive supervision of the community park and amenity walks. At no point should the design or layout allow for housing backing onto this proposed public open space area.</i></li> <li>• <i>A pedestrian walk linking the residential area of this SLO to land designated as Opportunity Site 1 shall be provided as part of the development.</i></li> <li>• <i>The minimum set back of new housing development from the M11 in this SLO shall be 50m. Where housing development is proposed within 100m of the M11, the developer shall be responsible for designing, providing and maintaining suitable noise and light pollution mitigation measures.</i></li> </ul>

*This SLO shall be the subject of comprehensive (not piecemeal) masterplan that allows for the sustainable, phased and managed development of the SLO area during the plan period. Separate applications for sections of each SLO will not be considered until an overall SLO masterplan has been agreed in writing with the Planning Authority unless it can be shown that any application will not undermine the achievement of the overall objectives for that Action Area. The position, location and size of the land use zonings shown on plan maps are indicative only and may be altered in light of eventual road and service layouts, detailed design and topography, subject to compliance with the criteria set out for the SLO.*



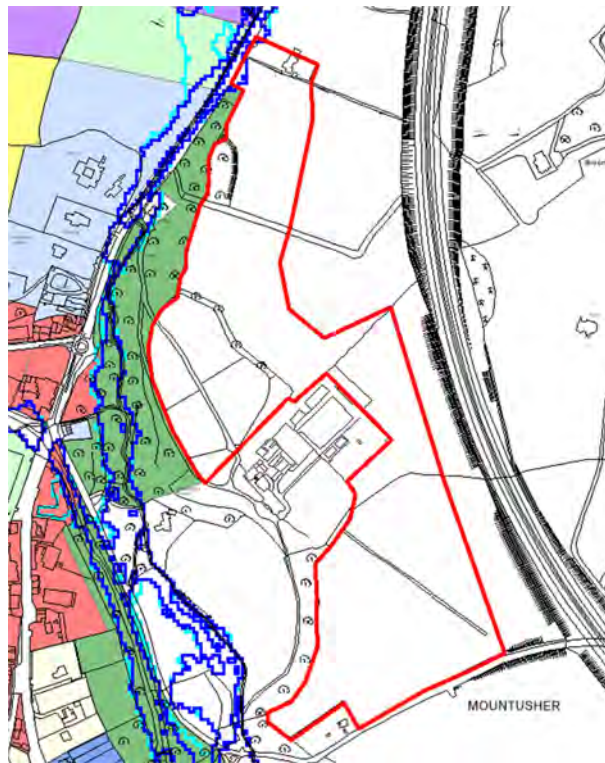
Boundary of proposed amendment



Flood Zone A



Flood Zone B



<b>Land zoning</b>	RN – New Residential AOS – Active Open Space (including indoor sports / community centre)
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	A and B
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	Yes
<b>Justification Test</b>	
1	<p>The urban settlement is targeted for growth under the National Spatial Strategy, regional planning guidelines, and statutory plans as defined above or under the Planning Guidelines or Planning Directives provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</p> <p>Under the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, Ashford is designated a Level 5 Small Town (Type 1), in accordance with the settlement typology set out in the RSES, the larger of the town types in the category described in the RSES as 'towns and villages with local service and employment functions'. Under the 'Core Strategy' of the draft CDP, the population of Ashford is targeted to growth by c. 20% between 2016 and 2031, from a population of 1,427 in 2016.</p> <p>These towns are identified as a Level 4 'local centre – small towns and villages' in the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area where the retail needs would be expected to include one supermarket / two medium sized convenience stores (up to 1,000sqm aggregate) and c. 10-20 smaller shops.</p> <p>The economic function of 'Small Towns (Type 1)' is to be attractors for local investment and to target investment in the form of product and some 'people' intensive industries.</p> <p>In accordance with the County community facilities hierarchy, Level 5 settlements generally fall into the 2,000-7,000 population range and ideally should be serviced by the following community infrastructure: community/parish hall, multipurpose community space and / or meeting rooms, local town park and open spaces/nature areas, outdoor multi-use games areas, playgrounds, playing pitches and a library.</p>
2	<p>The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is required to achieve the proper and sustainable planning of the urban settlement and in particular:</p> <p>(i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement; No</p> <p>(ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands; No</p> <p>(iii) Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement; No</p> <p>(iv) Will be essential in achieving compact or sustainable urban growth; No</p> <p>(v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement. There are suitable alternative lands available for this use.</p>
3	<p>A flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail has been carried out</p> <p>Refer to main SFRA document</p>

**Conclusion**

Justification test FAILED.

**Comment**

A very small portion of the lands in this zone have been identified as being located in Flood Zone A and B with a high and moderate probability of flooding from rivers/watercourses.

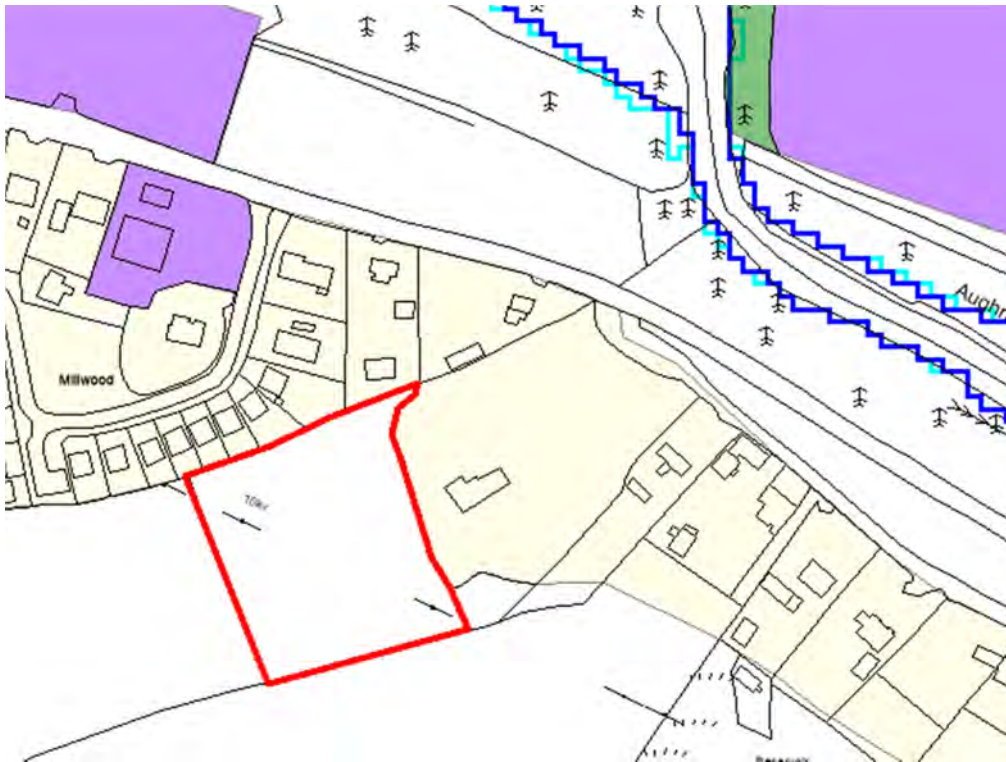
The zoning objective does not proscribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the zone is sufficiently large to provide for the development desired (new residential, active open space and community use) while avoiding development in the at risk area.

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as *Open Space* will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.

### 3.2 Aughrim

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V-101</b>	Extend plan boundary of Aughrim
	Zone lands 'RN - New Residential'

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B






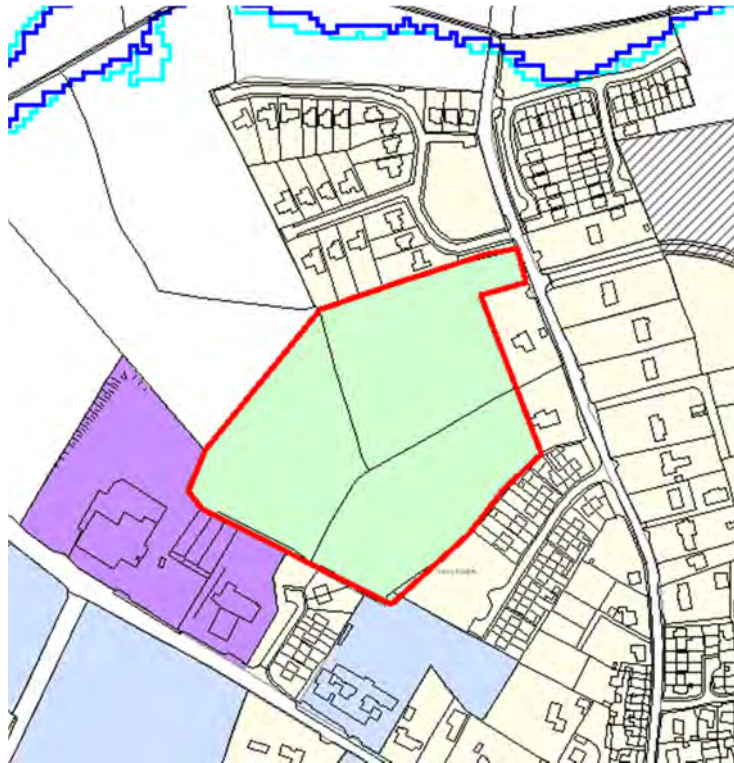
#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	RN - New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

### 3.3 Carnew

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-102</b>	<p>Change zoning from 'AOS – Active Open Space' to 'RN – New Residential' and 'CE – Community &amp; Education'</p> <p>Include the following objective</p> <p><b>SLO 3</b></p> <p><i>This SLO is located to the north of Scoil Aodhan Naofa measuring c. 4.2ha and shall be delivered as a comprehensive residential (c.3.5ha) and new community development (c.0.7ha) in accordance with the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• Access to these lands shall be provided via the Coolattin Road, with a through road being provided to the community zoned lands. Only 50% of the proposed residential element of this SLO shall be developed prior to the completion of the community element of this area.</i></li><li><i>• The community lands shall be developed as a car park, with necessary turning bays and drop-off points and pedestrian access being provided to the existing primary school. A grant of easement along this road shall be provided by the landowner to the primary school and the car park shall be available to school users at all times that the school is in use.</i></li></ul>
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-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B

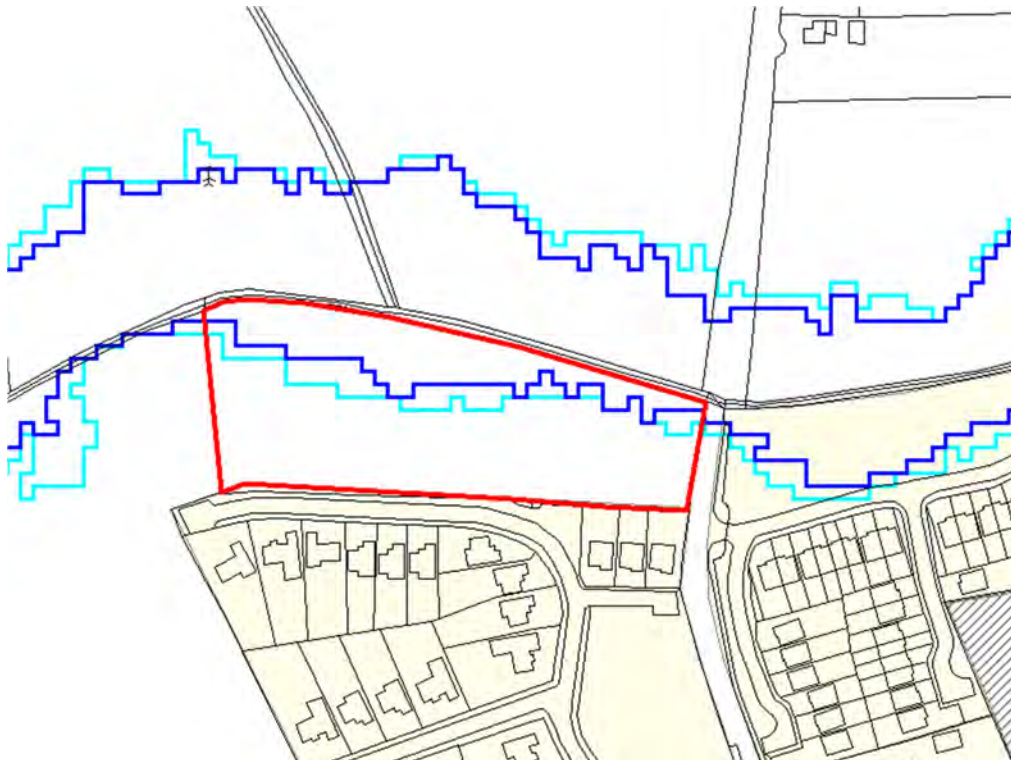


### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	RN - New Residential CE – Community & Education
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-103</b>	Extend plan boundary of Carnew
	Zone lands RN – New Residential (0.51ha) – southern area OS1 – Open Space (0.66ha) – northern area

-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

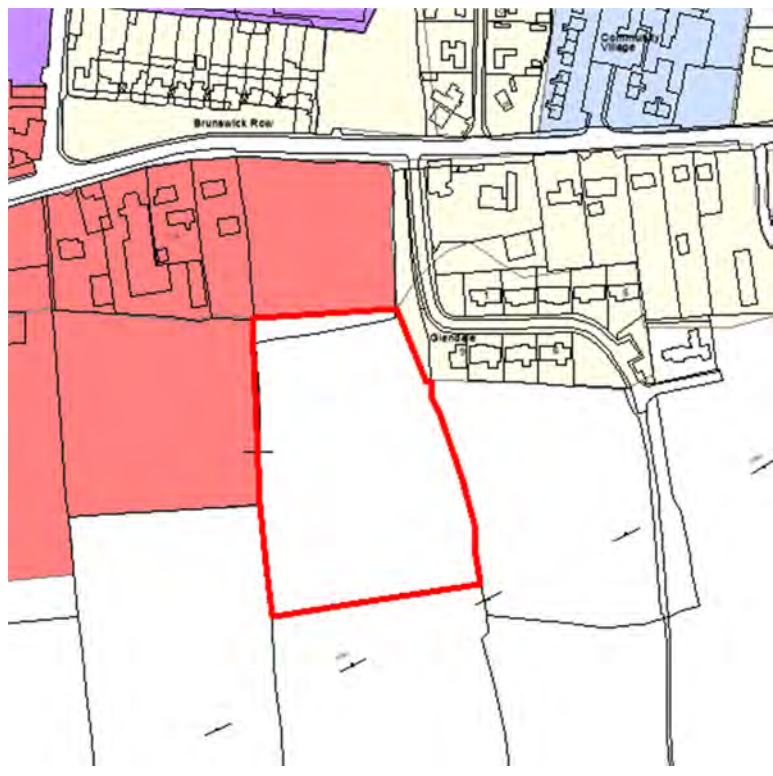
<b>Land zoning</b>	RN - New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

<b>Land zoning</b>	OS1 – Open Space
<b>Development Type</b>	Water Compatible
<b>Flood Zone</b>	A and B
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	



<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-104</b>	Extend plan boundary of Carnew
	Zone lands RN – New Residential

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B

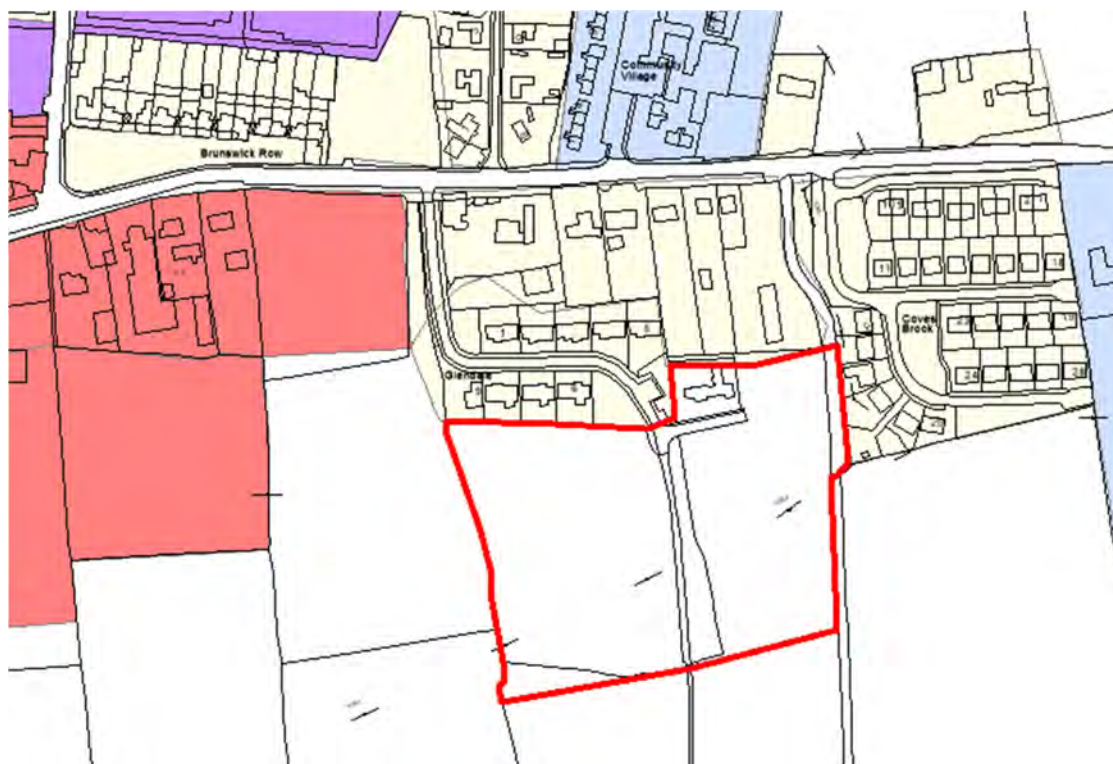


**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

<b>Land zoning</b>	RN - New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-105</b>	Extend plan boundary of Carnew
	Zone lands RN – New Residential

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B



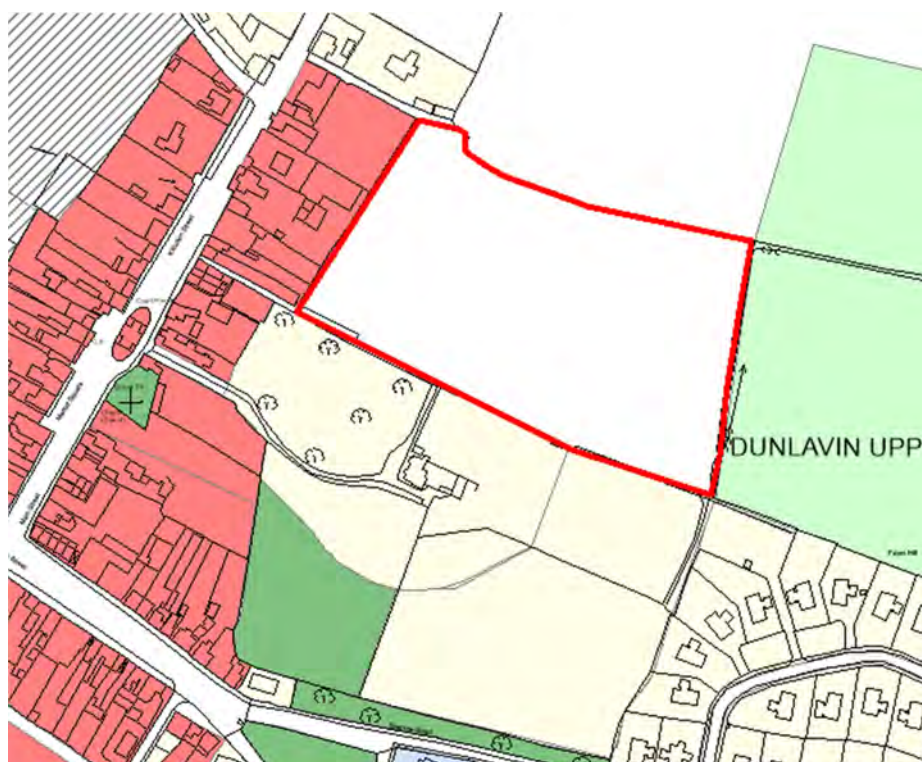
### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	RN - New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

### 3.4 Dunlavin

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-106</b>	Extend plan boundary of Dunlavin
	Zone lands RN – New Residential

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B



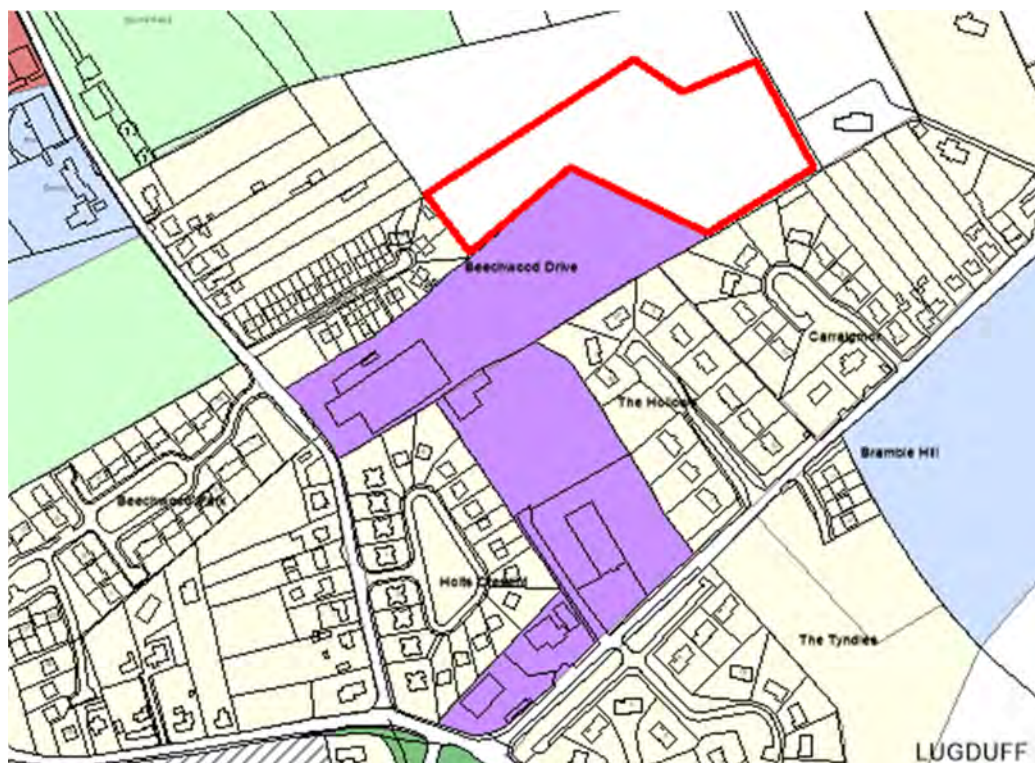
#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	RN - New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

### 3.5 Tinahely

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-108</b>	Extend plan boundary of Tinahely
	Zone lands 'SLB – Strategic Land Bank'

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B






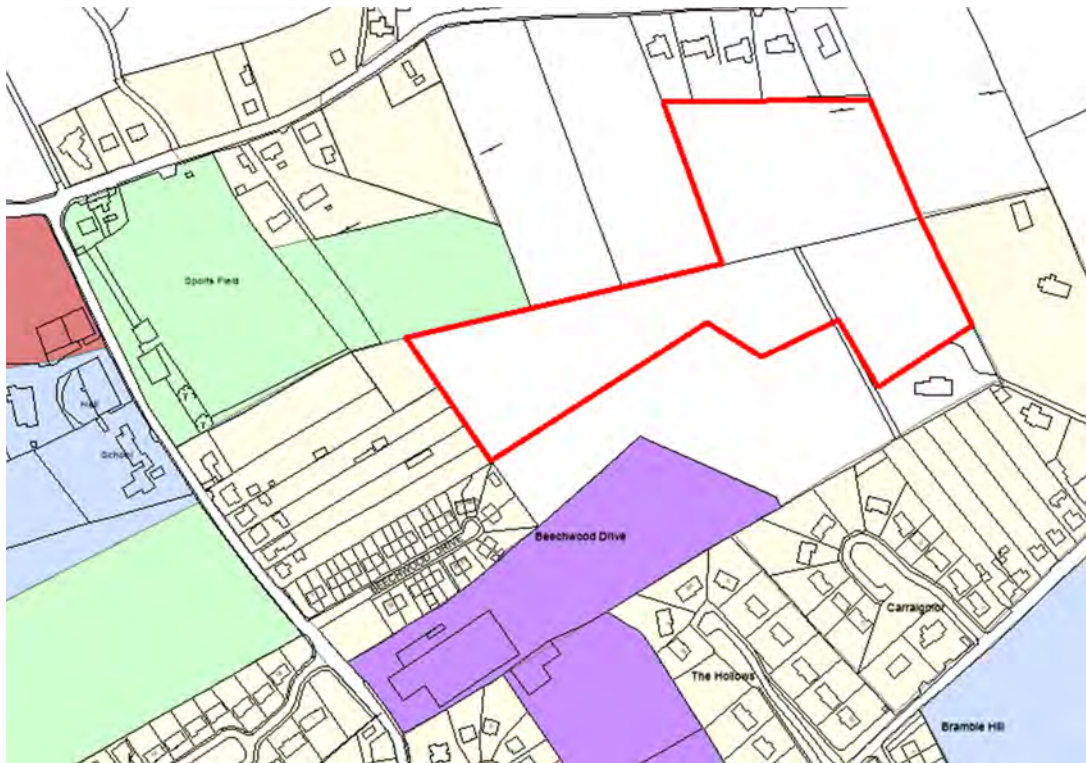
#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Strategic Land Bank (i.e. potential future development including residential use possible)
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable (potential)
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

**Proposed Amendment No. V2-109**




Extend plan boundary of Tinahely
Zone lands 'SLB – Strategic Land Bank'

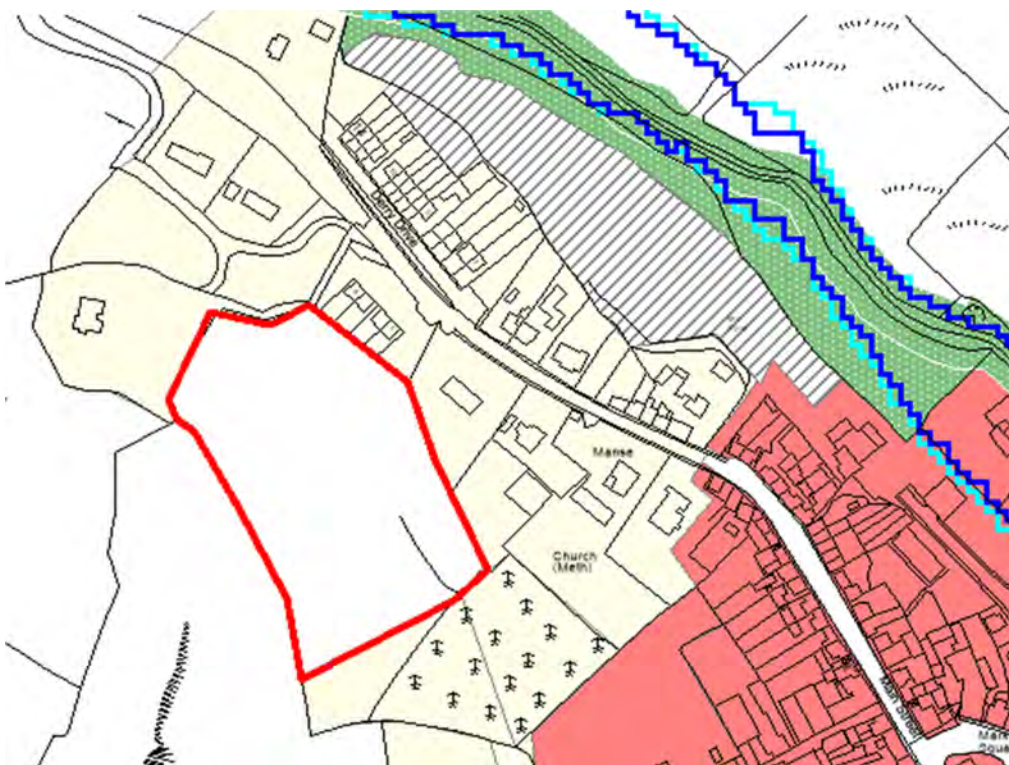
-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B

**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

<b>Land zoning</b>	Strategic Land Bank (i.e. potential future development including residential use possible)
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable (potential)
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-110</b>	Extend plan boundary of Tinahely
	Zone lands 'R Special – Special Residential'
	Include the following objective:  <i>TIN5 To provide for residential development for a maximum of 4 additional units on lands zoned 'R Special'.</i>

-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B






**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

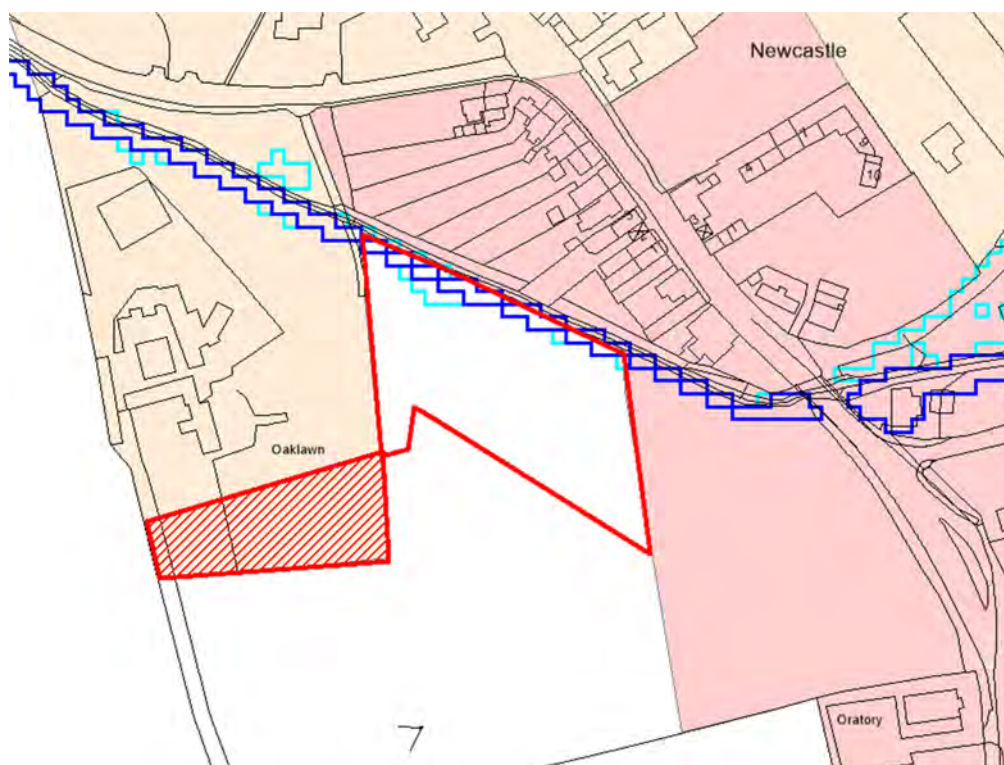
<b>Land zoning</b>	R Special – New Residential
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

## 4.0 Level 6 Town Plans

### 4.1 Newcastle

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-112</b>	Amend plan boundary of Newcastle
	Expand area of 'Primary Zone' (outlined in red) Reduce area of 'Secondary Zone' (shown hatched red)

	Boundary of proposed amendments
	Flood Zone A
	Flood Zone B



### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Primary Zone
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	A and B
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	Yes
<b>Justification Test</b>	
1	<p>The urban settlement is targeted for growth under the National Spatial Strategy, regional planning guidelines, and statutory plans as defined above or under the Planning Guidelines or Planning Directives provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</p> <p>Under the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, Newcastle is designated a Level 6 Small Town (Type 2), in accordance with the settlement typology set out in the RSES, the smaller of the town types in the category described in the RSES as 'towns and villages with local service and employment functions'. Under the 'Core Strategy' of the draft CDP, the population of</p>

		<p>Newcastle is targeted to growth by c. 10%-15% between 2016 and 2031, from a population of 812 in 2016.</p> <p>These towns are identified as a Level 4 'local centre – small towns and villages' in the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area where the retail needs would be expected to include one supermarket / two medium sized convenience stores (up to 1,000sqm aggregate) and c. 10-20 smaller shops.</p> <p>The economic function of 'Small Towns (Type 2)' is to be attractors for local investment and to target investment in the form of product and some 'people' intensive industries.</p> <p>In accordance with the County community facilities hierarchy, Level 6 settlements generally fall into the &lt;2,000 population range and ideally should be serviced by the following community infrastructure: community/parish hall, open spaces/play areas, outdoor multi-use games areas and playing pitches</p>
2	The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is required to achieve the proper and sustainable planning of the urban settlement and in particular:	
	(i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;	No
	(ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;	No
	(iii) Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;	No
	(iv) Will be essential in achieving compact or sustainable urban growth;	No
	(v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.	There are suitable alternative lands available for this use.
3	A flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail has been carried out	Refer to main SFRA document
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Justification test FAILED.		
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>A small portion of the lands in this zone have been identified as being located in Flood Zone A and B with a high and moderate probability of flooding from rivers/watercourses.</p> <p>The zoning objective does not proscribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the zone is sufficiently large to provide for new development while avoiding development in the at risk area. In addition, the CDP provides for the following objective for Level 6 settlements:</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Assessment 'Level 6 Mitigation Objective'</b></p> <p><i>To restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to the uses that are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Table 3.2 of the Guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG, 2009). The planning authority may consider proposals for development that may be vulnerable to</i></p>		






*flooding, and that would generally be inappropriate as set out in Table 3.2 of the Guidelines, subject to all of the following criteria being satisfied:*

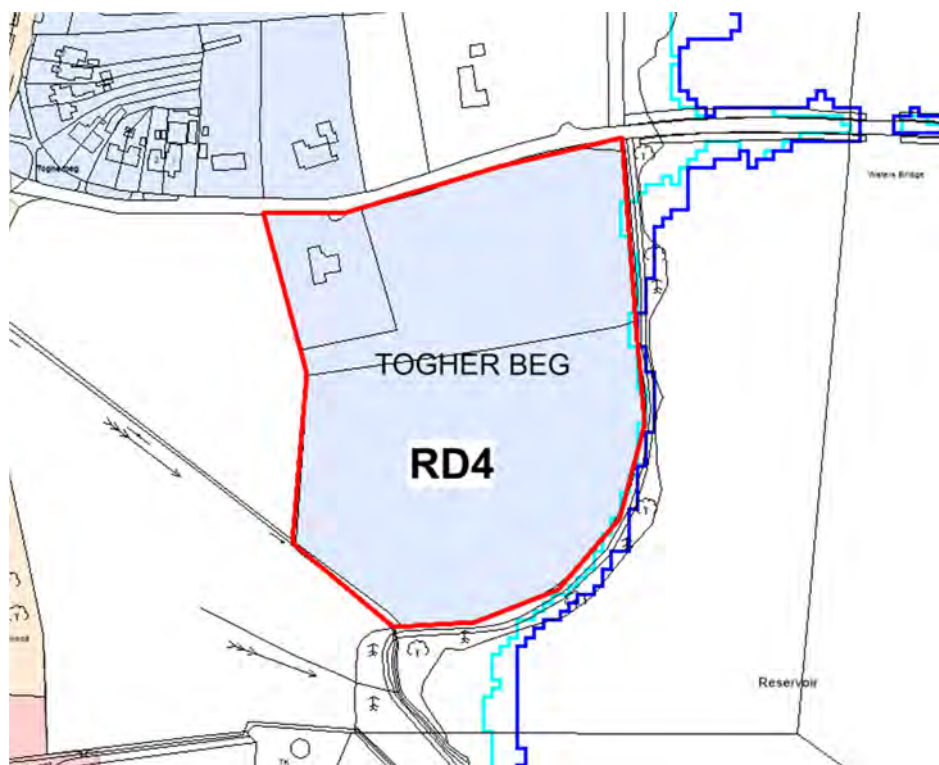
- *The planning authority is satisfied that all of the criteria set out in the justification test as it applies to development management (Box 5.1 of the Guidelines) are complied with.*
- *The development of lands for the particular use is required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement, and complies with at least one of the following:*
  - (i) *The development is located within the 'primary lands' and is essential for the achievement of the 'vision' or for the achievement of a specific objective for these lands.*
  - (ii) *The development comprises previously developed and/or under-utilised lands/sites,*
  - (iii) *There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use, in areas at lower risk of flooding.*

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as *Open Space* will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.

## 4.2 Roundwood

<p><b>Proposed Amendment No. V-113</b></p>	<p>Amend objectives for Roundwood as follows:</p> <p><i>On the lands identified as <b>RD4</b> west of the Waters Bridge on Map 1 (tertiary zone) to provide for tourism use and two family dwellings (on a maximum area of 1.5 acres) only, strictly on the basis of the connection of any development to mains water and wastewater services, and no adverse impacts arising on the proximate Vartry Reservoir.</i></p>
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-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Residential (in Tertiary Zone)
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	A and B
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	Yes
<b>Justification Test</b>	
1	<p>The urban settlement is targeted for growth under the National Spatial Strategy, regional planning guidelines, and statutory plans as defined above or under the Planning Guidelines or Planning Directives provisions of the</p> <p>Under the draft Wicklow County Development Plan, Roundwood is designated a Level 6 Small Town (Type 2), in accordance with the settlement typology set out in the RSES, the smaller of the town types in the category described in the RSES as 'towns and villages</p>

	Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.	<p>with local service and employment functions'. Under the 'Core Strategy' of the draft CDP, the population of Newcastle is targeted to grow by c. 10%-15% between 2016 and 2031, from a population of 908 in 2016.</p> <p>These towns are identified as a Level 4 'local centre – small towns and villages' in the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area where the retail needs would be expected to include one supermarket / two medium sized convenience stores (up to 1,000sqm aggregate) and c. 10-20 smaller shops.</p> <p>The economic function of 'Small Towns (Type 2)' is to be attractors for local investment and to target investment in the form of product and some 'people' intensive industries.</p> <p>In accordance with the County community facilities hierarchy, Level 6 settlements generally fall into the &lt;2,000 population range and ideally should be serviced by the following community infrastructure: community/parish hall, open spaces/play areas, outdoor multi-use games areas and playing pitches</p>
2	The zoning or designation of the lands for the particular use or development type is required to achieve the proper and sustainable planning of the urban settlement and in particular:	
	(i) Is essential to facilitate regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;	No
	(ii) Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;	No
	(iii) Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;	No
	(iv) Will be essential in achieving compact or sustainable urban growth;	No
	(v) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use or development type, in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.	There are suitable alternative lands available for this use.
3	A flood risk assessment to an appropriate level of detail has been carried out	Refer to main SFRA document
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Justification test FAILED.		
<b>Comment</b>		
<p>A small portion of the lands in this zone have been identified as being located in Flood Zone A and B with a high and moderate probability of flooding from rivers/watercourses.</p> <p>The zoning objective does not proscribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the zone is sufficiently large to provide for new development while avoiding development in the at risk area. In addition, the CDP provides for the following objective for Level 6 settlements:</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Assessment 'Level 6 Mitigation Objective'</b></p> <p><i>To restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to the uses that are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Table 3.2 of the Guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG, 2009). The planning authority may consider proposals for development that may be vulnerable to</i></p>		

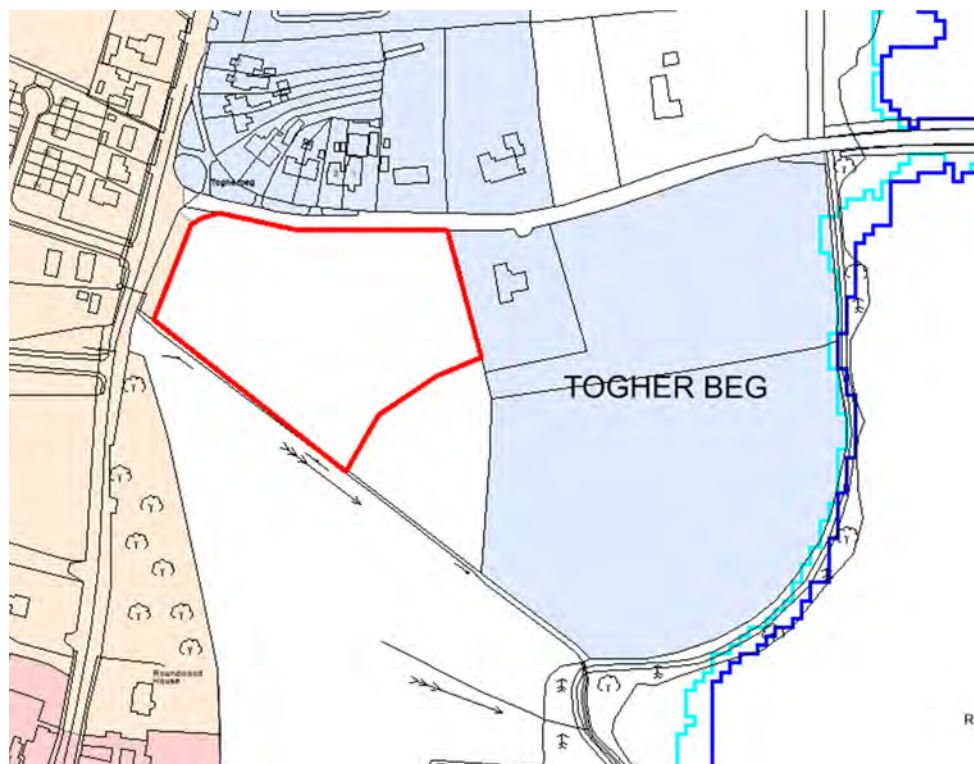
*flooding, and that would generally be inappropriate as set out in Table 3.2 of the Guidelines, subject to all of the following criteria being satisfied:*

- *The planning authority is satisfied that all of the criteria set out in the justification test as it applies to development management (Box 5.1 of the Guidelines) are complied with.*
- *The development of lands for the particular use is required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement, and complies with at least one of the following:*
  - (i) The development is located within the 'primary lands' and is essential for the achievement of the 'vision' or for the achievement of a specific objective for these lands.*
  - (ii) The development comprises previously developed and/or under-utilised lands/sites,*
  - (iii) There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use, in areas at lower risk of flooding.*

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of this SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan, and in particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as *Open Space* will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V2-114</b>	Extend plan boundary of Roundwood
	Zone lands 'Secondary Zone'

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B



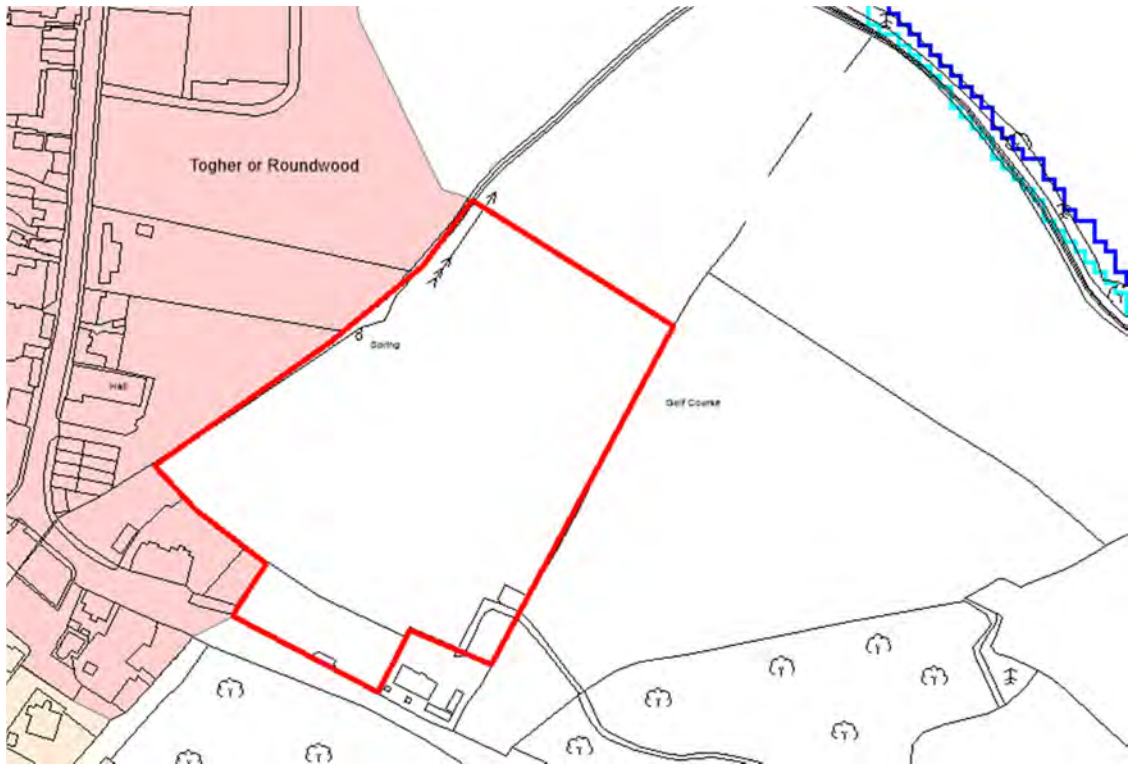
### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Secondary Zone
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

**Proposed Amendment No. V2-115**

Extend plan boundary of Roundwood  
Zone lands 'Secondary Zone'

- Boundary of proposed amendment
- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B



**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**




<b>Land zoning</b>	Secondary Zone
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

## 5.0 Villages – Clusters (Levels 7-9)

### 5.1 Ballinaclash (Level 7)

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V1-10</b>	Extend village boundary of Ballinaclash
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-  Boundary of proposed extension
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Village
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

## 5.2 Kilpedder (Level 7)

**Proposed Amendment No. V1-11**

Extend village boundary of Kilpedder



Boundary of proposed extensions



Flood Zone A



Flood Zone B






### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

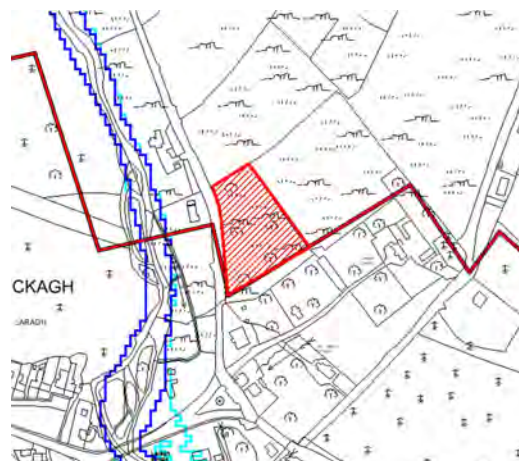
<b>Land zoning</b>	Village
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	



### 5.3 Laragh (Level 7)

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V1-12</b>	Extend village boundary of Laragh
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-  Boundary of proposed extension
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Village
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

**5.4 Johnstown (Level 8)**

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V1-13</b>	Extend village boundary of Johnstown
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Boundary of proposed extension



Flood Zone A



Flood Zone B






**Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

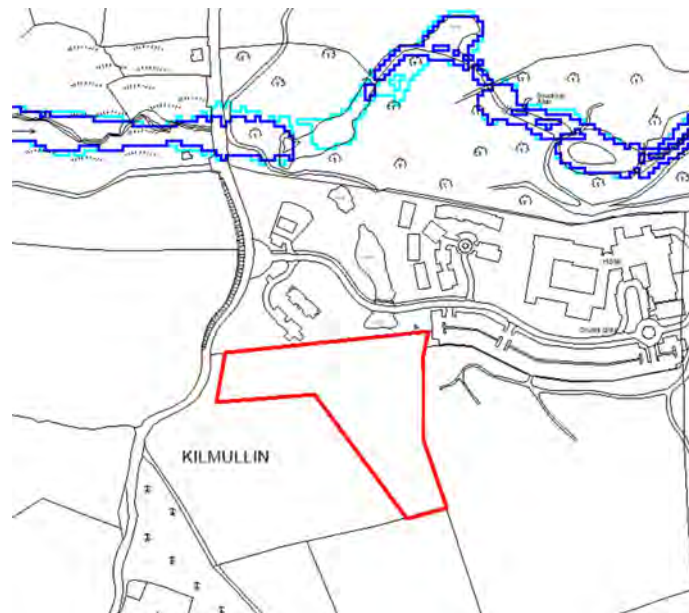
<b>Land zoning</b>	Village
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

## 6.0 Employment / Tourism / Community Zones

### 6.1 Kilmullen Lane

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V1-31</b>	Zone lands for Nursing Home at Kilmullen Lane, Newcastle.
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-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B






#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

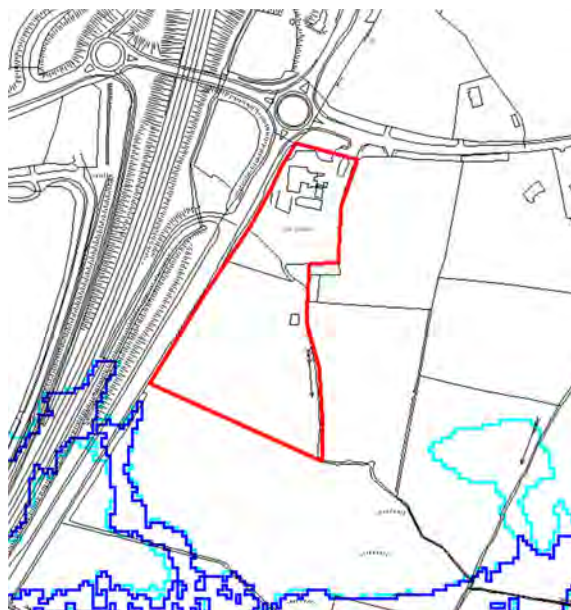
<b>Land zoning</b>	Nursing Home
<b>Development Type</b>	Highly vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No

Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.

## 6.2 The Beehive

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V1-33</b>	Zone lands for 'Motorway Service Area' at 'The Beehive', Coolbeg.
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-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B






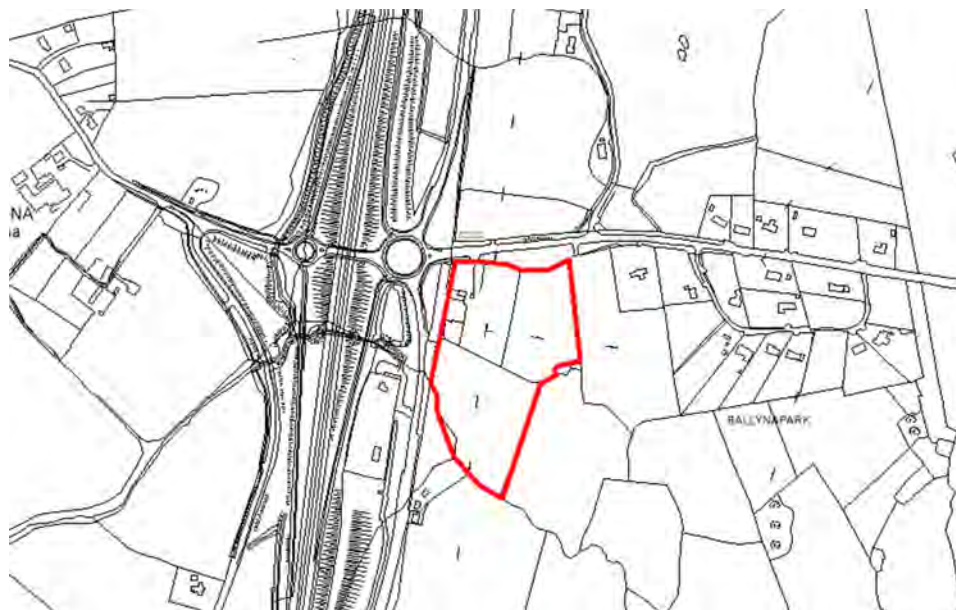
### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Employment (Motorway Service Station)
<b>Development Type</b>	Less vulnerable
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

### 6.3 Jack White's

<b>Proposed Amendment No. V1-51</b>	Zone lands for 'Tourism' at Jack White's Cross, Ballinapark, Brittas Bay.
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-  Boundary of proposed amendment
-  Flood Zone A
-  Flood Zone B



#### Stage 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<b>Land zoning</b>	Tourism
<b>Development Type</b>	Exact use not determined; could include highly vulnerable, less vulnerable and water compatible development
<b>Flood Zone</b>	C
<b>Requirement for Justification Test</b>	No
Any proposals for new development should be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with Section 4 of the SFRA and the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan.	

**APPENDIX NUMBER 9      INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**AMENDMENT V3 – 132**

*The Proposed Amendments to 'Appendix 9 Infrastructural Assessment Report' are presented in full as one amendment with all proposed changes presented in red for new text and ~~blue strikethrough~~ for deleted text.*

*Please note that settlement boundaries shown on the new services maps reflect those set out in the Draft Plan published June 2021.*

## Appendix 9

Infrastructural Assessment - tiered approach to land zoning

### Contents

1. Introduction
2. Strategic Infrastructure – Regional and County
3. Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)
4. Settlement Specific Infrastructure Assessments
- 4.5. **Water Services maps**

**1.0 Introduction**

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out that

- Planning authorities will be required to apply a standardised, tiered approach to differentiate between i) zoned land that is serviced and ii) zoned land that is serviceable within the life of the plan (NPO72a).
- When considering zoning lands for development purposes that require investment in service infrastructure, planning authorities will make a reasonable estimate of the full cost of delivery of the specified services and prepare a report, detailing the estimated cost at draft and final plan stages (NPO72b).
- When considering zoning land for development purposes that cannot be serviced within the life of the relevant plan, such lands should not be zoned for development (NPO72b).

Appendix 3 of the NPF sets out a methodology for a two-tier approach to land zoning as follows:

<p><b>Tier 1 Serviced Zoned land</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>This zoning comprises lands that are able to connect to existing development services, i.e. road and footpath access including public lighting, foul sewer drainage, surface water drainage and water supply, for which there is service capacity available, and can therefore accommodate new development.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>These lands will generally be positioned within the existing built-up footprint of a settlement or contiguous to existing developed lands. The location and geographical extent of such lands shall be determined by the planning authority at a settlement scale as an integral part of the plan-making process and shall include assessment of available development services.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Inclusion in Tier 1 will generally require the lands to be within the footprint of or spatially sequential within the identified settlement.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Tier 2 Serviceable Zoned Land</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>This zoning comprises lands that are not currently sufficiently serviced to support new development but have potential to become fully serviced within the life of the plan i.e. the lands are currently constrained due to the need to deliver some or all development services required to support new development, i.e. road or footpath access including lighting, foul sewer drainage, surface water drainage, water supply and/or additional service capacity.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>These lands may be positioned within the existing built-up footprint of a settlement, or contiguous to existing developed lands or to tier 1 zoned lands, where required to fulfil the spatially sequential approach to the location of the new development within the identified settlement.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The potential for delivery of the required services and/or capacity to support new development must be identified and specific details provided by the planning authority at the time of publication of both the draft and final development or area plan.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>This infrastructural assessment must be aligned with the approved infrastructural investment programme(s) of the relevant delivery agency(ies), for example, Irish Water, or be based on a written commitment by the relevant delivery agency to provide the identified infrastructure within a specified timescale (i.e. within the lifetime of the plan). The planning authority may also commit to the delivery of the required and identified infrastructure in its own infrastructural investment programme (i.e. Budgeted Capital Programme) in order to support certain lands for zoning.</i></li> </ul>

The NPF sets out that current development or area plans may include zoned lands which cannot be serviced during the lifetime of a development or area plan by reference to the infrastructural assessment of the Planning Authority. This means that they cannot be categorised as either Tier 1 lands or Tier 2 lands, as per the above, and are not developable within the plan period. Such lands should not be zoned for development or included within a development plan core strategy for calculation purposes.

In these regards, this County Development Plan (CDP) does not make provision for the zoning of land that it can be stated with absolute certainty will not be or cannot be serviced during the lifetime of the plan.



The NPF requires the CDP to carry out an assessment of the required infrastructure to support any Tier 2 lands identified for development. The assessment must be aligned with the delivery program of relevant infrastructure providers. The following sections set out an assessment of enabling infrastructure requirements for Tier 2 lands across the County. The assessment focuses on the provision of infrastructure that is considered to be more strategic in nature e.g. with respect to wastewater, it will focus on the capacity of the relevant wastewater treatment plant, rather than the sewer network in any town. The delivery of minor and/or local level infrastructure (e.g. the construction of a new sewer or pumping station) may be delivered through operational works of a service provider or developer-led and co-ordinated through the development management process.

The purpose of the assessment is to demonstrate how lands zoned in the CDP with potential for residential development, are in terms of strategic infrastructure either sufficiently serviced (Tier 1) or have potential to become fully serviced within the timeframe of the Plan (Tier 2) (in compliance with Appendix 3 of the NPF). The assessment is point-in-time and it is acknowledged that infrastructure requirements may change. The full extent of requisite enabling infrastructure will continue to be assessed through the development management process whereupon detailed assessment will be undertaken. This assessment does not comprise an exhaustive list of all requisite infrastructure across the County and while it is intended to inform, it is not to be relied upon for development management purposes.

### **1.1 Infrastructure Assessment - Challenges**

A mis-alignment exists between the timeframe of the CDP and some of the capital investment plans that are required to inform same. The delivery of strategic infrastructure projects is ultimately dependent upon the availability of capital, which is itself influenced by economic performance and policy decision-making.

For instance, the current capital investment plan of Irish Water covers the period from 2020 to 2024 and is somewhat shorter than the timeframe of the CDP, which covers the period up to 2028. While a reasonable level of certainty can be anticipated regarding the delivery of infrastructure over the period 2020-2024, no such certainty can be provided regarding the delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure projects that do not form part of Irish Water's current investment plan, and subsequently whether such projects may be completed within the timeframe of the CDP. In the absence of such certainty, due consideration is given to the NPF provision which states that Tier 2 lands must *"...have potential to become fully serviced within the life of the plan"*.

The capital programme for Wicklow is a rolling two-year programme (currently 2020-2022). The basis for the selection of capital projects links back to the objectives of the CDP which is adopted by the Members, and in turn by a number of associated Development Contribution Schemes adopted in accordance with sections 48 and 49 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Each Development Contribution Scheme incorporates a list of capital projects to be progressed which will be funded/part funded from development contributions payable under the terms of the schemes.

Finally, the NPF requires the CDP to include a reasonable estimate for the full cost of delivery of the infrastructure identified. This requirement presents a challenge and not all costs are available or known. Notwithstanding, every effort has been made to include costings where a verifiable source for same has been identified. In most cases, the Council does not bear any responsibility for the preparation of these cost estimates.

## 2.1 Strategic Infrastructure – Regional and County Projects

Certain strategic infrastructure projects are of significance to the future growth of the County, and to the wider Region. The overall water supply and wastewater situation for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) is critical to the north and east of the County and it's almost certain to become more so in the absence of significant infrastructure investment. The speed of change and pace of development experienced in recent decades, both within Wicklow and the wider Eastern & Midlands Region, has placed stresses and pressures on existing water supply and wastewater infrastructure.

There are also a number of transport projects of strategic importance which will improve public transport provision across the County and support ongoing sustainable growth over the course of the CDP and beyond. The following tables set out an overview of such strategic infrastructure projects that relate to overarching growth at both the County and Regional level.

### 2.1.1 Strategic Water Infrastructure

Wicklow is served by a significant number of water supplies, the majority serving a single settlement and its environs, but a small number also serving a wider cross- and sub-County regions such as the Vartry Scheme. North and east Wicklow fall within the wider water supply zone for the GDA (of which the Vartry Scheme forms part) and supply in the Region is currently under pressure. Irish Water is currently progressing a number of projects in order to increase supply and improve water quality standards.

Strategic Water Infrastructure	Project delivery
<p><b>The Vartry Water Supply Scheme</b></p> <p>IW is making a significant investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme to ensure a safe and sustainable water supply for the north Wicklow and south Dublin area. The project includes <i>inter alia</i> the construction of a new water treatment plant at Vartry, the construction of a new 4km pipeline from Vartry and Callowhill and the upgrade / replacement of other infrastructure. The scheme will ensure that water complies with water quality standards set out in the EU Drinking Water Directive and the national Drinking Water Regulations. The project will also ensure that this critical water supply network can operate safely through any intense rainfall events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently under construction and due for completion in 2021.</li> <li>▪ Identified in the National Development Plan 2018-2027 (NDP).</li> <li>▪ Estimated cost of €150m (source: NDP).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Eastern Midlands Water Supply Scheme</b></p> <p>The long-term development of the Region will be dependent on the Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project. The NPF provides that a new long-term water supply source for the Eastern and Midland Region, which includes the Dublin Water Supply Area, is needed by the mid-2020's, to provide for projected growth up to 2050 and contribute to resilience and security of supply.</p> <p>The project involves a 170km pipeline with supporting infrastructure (water treatment plant, pumping stations and terminal point reservoir) to ensure that the long-term water supply needs of the Region are met in a sustainable manner. IW has concluded a four-phase public consultation process and identified the preferred scheme: Abstraction of water from the Lower Shannon at Parteen Basin; water treatment at Birdhill; and treated water piped to a termination point reservoir at Peamount in south County Dublin, with supplies of treated water available to midland communities along the route.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IW is progressing the preparation of a planning application for the scheme.</li> <li>▪ Identified in the NDP within category <i>Strategic Investment Priorities 2018-2027</i>.</li> <li>▪ Estimated cost of €1.2 to €1.3 billion (source: NDP)</li> </ul>

### 2.1.2 Strategic Wastewater Infrastructure

Wicklow is served by a number of wastewater treatment plants, the majority serving a single settlement and its environs, but a small number also serving a wider cross- and sub- County regions such as the Shanganagh WWTP in the functional area of Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council (serving Bray and Kilmacanogue in Wicklow as well as areas in DLR), the Greystones WWTP (serving Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy) and the Wicklow WWTP (serving Wicklow Town, Rathnew and Ashford).

<b>Shanganagh WWTP</b>	Currently operating below design capacity and is key to serving the Metropolitan Area Key Town of Bray, including the strategic development sites identified in the RSES of Fassaroe and Bray Golf Club.
<b>Greystones WWTP</b>	Currently operating below design capacity and will meet the development needs of the Metropolitan Area settlement of Greystones – Delgany and the strategic employment site identified in the RSES at Mill Road Greystones, as well as any growth in the towns of Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy.
<b>Wicklow WWTP</b>	Currently operating below design capacity and will meet the development needs of the Core Region Key Town of Wicklow-Rathnew, as well as any growth in the town of Ashford.

In terms of the other identified Growth Towns in the County (as set out in the CDP 'Core Strategy') namely Arklow and Blessington, significant investment is already committed:

<b>Strategic Wastewater Infrastructure</b>	<b>Project delivery</b>
<p><b>Arklow Waste Water Treatment Plant</b></p> <p>New Wastewater Treatment Plant of 36,000 population equivalent approved in 2019 Sewer pipelines (along the North and South Quays) to bring the untreated wastewater to the WWTP Marine outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater to the Irish Sea</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commencement in 2021</li> <li>▪ Completion in 2024</li> <li>▪ Estimated cost of €100-€250m (source: IW).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant</b></p> <p>Upgrade of the Blessington WWTP approved 2019 will increase the capacity from 6,000pe to 9,000pe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commencement in 2021</li> <li>▪ Completion in 2023</li> <li>▪ Estimated cost of €4m (source: IW)</li> </ul>

### 2.1.3 Strategic Transport Infrastructure

There are a number of transport projects of strategic importance, which will improve regional road and rail networks, as well public transport provision across the County, and support ongoing sustainable growth focussed on the integration of land use and transportation.

Strategic Transport Infrastructure	Project delivery
<p><b>N11 Improvement Scheme</b></p> <p>The N11/M11 route is comprised partly of motorway, dual carriageway and single carriageway sections over a distance of approximately 126km, connecting Dublin in the east of the county to Wexford in the south east, where the route terminates.</p> <p>The N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme is a transportation project aimed at alleviating congestion, improving safety and optimising the efficiency and function of the N11/M11 as a transport corridor. The scheme has been identified in Project Ireland 2040 as one of the 20 priority National Roads to be progressed in order to enable the continued economic development of the state. The scheme has also been identified in relevant regional and local planning policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified in the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027</li> <li>▪ Scheme at 'Stage 2' (Option Selection)</li> <li>▪ Cost range – pending project development (source: TII)</li> </ul>
<p><b>N81 Improvement Scheme</b></p> <p>The N81 as a national secondary route, characterised by the TII National Road Design Office as having poor horizontal and vertical alignment. The route consists of a single lane carriageway without a hard strip or hard shoulder along sections of the road way. The road has limited over-taking capability. In addition, the N81 passes through the centre of a number of towns in Wicklow, most notably Blessington, creating a blockage to free flow of regional traffic as well serious damage to the quality of Blessington town centre.</p> <p>In 2008 the National Roads Design Office began the process of assessing the possibility of upgrading this road network between Tallaght and Hollywood Cross incorporating a bypass of the town of Blessington. Stage 2 of this process has now been completed with a preferred route option being identified. The delivery of this project has not been identified as a strategic priority in the NPF or RSES and funding has not been allocated to same by the TII. However, this is considered a vital project for West Wicklow and its delivery will remain a key objective of this plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not identified in the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027</li> <li>▪ Scheme at 'Stage 2' (Option Selection)</li> <li>▪ Cost range – pending project development</li> </ul>

<p><b>Rail</b></p> <p>Investment in trains, infrastructure, stations and customer service planned during the lifetime of the Wicklow County Development Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to 640 new train carriages to cater for growing demand, with up to 600 electric or battery electric carriages included;</li> <li>▪ Investment in track, signalling and level crossings to increase frequency and improve journey times;</li> <li>▪ New stations, and upgraded existing stations, including improved accessibility and car park facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>DART +</b></p> <p>DART+ is a programme of projects that aims to modernise and improve existing rail services in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). It will provide a sustainable, electrified, reliable and more frequent rail service, improving capacity on rail corridors serving Dublin.</p> <p>The overall scope of the DART+ Coastal South will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elimination of level crossings to reduce rail/road conflict that limits train capacity</li> <li>▪ Provide new grade-separated pedestrian, cycle crossing and vehicle crossings as required</li> <li>▪ Subject to modelling and assessment, station modifications at Dun Laoghaire, Bray and Greystones to enhance train service capacity</li> <li>▪ Upgrading of Tara Station to facilitate enhanced interchange with MetroLink</li> <li>▪ All civil and bridge works as necessary to accommodate an increased service frequency between Bray and Greystones</li> <li>▪ Upgrades to signalling and communications infrastructure to improve safety, and support increased frequency and reliability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified in the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027, Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016 - 2035; and The Climate Action Plan 2019</li> <li>▪ Estimated cost of €2b (source: NDP)</li> <li>▪ New fleet: Delivery due 2024</li> </ul> <p>Southern Coastal line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2020: Design Team Appointed</li> <li>▪ 2022: Railway Order</li> </ul>
<p><b>Luas Green Line Extension to Bray</b></p> <p>The extension of the Luas Green Line from Cherrywood to Bray Town Centre will provide a high frequency, high capacity link between Bray and the key employment areas of Dundrum, Sandyford, Carrickmines and Cherrywood, in addition to connecting to the City Centre. While a decision on the final alignment has yet to be made, it is likely to run to Bray DART station via Shankill and the former Bray Golf Club lands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified in the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027, Transport Strategy for the GDA 2016 - 2035; the NDP commits to the appraisal, planning and design of the extension during the period to 2027</li> <li>▪ Cost range – pending project development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bus</b></p> <p><b>BusConnects</b></p> <p>BusConnects Dublin aims to overhaul the current bus system in Dublin through a 10-year programme of integrated actions to deliver a more efficient, reliable and better bus system. BusConnects includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Redesign of the bus network with high frequency spines, orbital routes and increased bus services.</li> <li>▪ New cycle network.</li> <li>▪ New ticketing and cashless payment system.</li> <li>▪ New bus stops and shelters with better signage and information.</li> <li>▪ Bus-based park and rides in strategic locations.</li> <li>▪ New bus livery and transitioning to a new bus fleet with low emission vehicle technologies</li> </ul> <p><b>N/M11 Bus Priority Scheme</b></p> <p>This is an interim priority scheme to address bus priority in advance of delivery of the main N/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 improvement scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The NDP commits to the delivery of the full BusConnects programme during the period to 2027</li> <li>▪ Estimated cost of €2.4b (source: NDP)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheme at 'Stage 1' Feasibility Assessment (TII)</li> <li>▪ Cost range – pending project development</li> </ul>

In addition, the NTA is intending to carry out / has committed to funding the carrying out of a transport studies to identify areas of improvement of transport infrastructure throughout the County as follows:

- Arklow Area Based Transport Assessment (commencement 2021)
- Greystones-Delgany Area Based Transport Assessment (commencement 2021)
- The Bray Transport Study (completed 2019, review due 2021) – as part of the review of the GDA Transport Strategy
- South of Bray to Arklow – as part of the review of the GDA Transport Strategy
- West Wicklow – as part of the review of the GDA Transport Strategy

### 3. Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP)

The settlement strategy for the CDP is based upon the key principles of the NPF and RSES and corresponds with the strategic development corridor approach of the MASP. There is broad alignment between the strategic growth areas identified in the MASP and the growth areas identified in the CDP. A key aim of the MASP is to unlock the development capacity of strategic development areas within the wider metropolitan area, by identifying the sequencing of enabling infrastructure. A phased sequence of infrastructure investment is identified to enable the accelerated delivery of strategic development corridors; within the short term to 2026; the medium term to 2031; and in the long term to 2040.

The MASP is aligned with the NDP to ensure that it can inform national-level sectoral investment plans and co-ordinate investment within the metropolitan area. The MASP thus provides the planning policy framework, which is interlinked with the requisite capital investment programmes, to ensure the co-ordination of strategic growth areas through the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

Area	Phasing / Enabling Infrastructure
<p><b>South County Dublin – North Wicklow</b></p> <p>Development of new residential communities at Woodbrook- Shanganagh and Bray Golf course and Harbour lands</p>	<p><b>Short term</b></p> <p>Access road, new station at Woodbrook - Shanganagh. Access to Bray station and PT bridge.</p>
<p><b>Bray Fassaroe</b></p> <p>Westward extension of Bray at Old Connaught- Fassaroe (Dún Laoghaire) and Bray-Fassaroe (Wicklow) lands</p>	<p><b>Short to medium term</b></p> <p>High capacity bus between Bray and Fassaroe, distributor road, N/ M11 upgrades, new bridge to Old Conna. Waste water upgrades.</p> <p>Local and wider area water network and storage upgrades</p> <p><b>Long term</b></p> <p>LUAS extension to Bray</p>
<p><b>Greystones Strategic Employment Site</b></p>	<p>n/a</p>

#### 4. Settlement Specific Infrastructure Assessments

The following section details known infrastructure constraints as they relate to specific settlements within the County. The section follows an area-based approach and identifies infrastructure projects that are considered to be of strategic importance for the delivery of residential zoned lands in each settlement, and in particular any strategic areas for growth identified in the RSES or Core Strategy.

The tables are intended to inform but are not intended to be relied upon for development management purposes. The tables demonstrate that lands identified in the Core Strategy for residential development are either serviced (Tier 1) or have the potential to be serviced within the lifetime of the plan (Tier 2). The full extent of requisite enabling infrastructure with regard to specific sites will continue to be assessed through the development management process.

Town Village /	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting, footpaths etc)	
Bray	Bray Municipal District LAP	<p>Serviced by the Bray/Shanganagh Waste Water Treatment Plant, currently operating below design capacity and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</p> <p>With respect to sewer networks, a Drainage Area Plan (DAP) is nearing completion and Network Plans are being developed to service targeted growth.</p>	<p>Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity. Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021</p>	<p>As set out in the Bray and Environs Transport Study (April 2019) transportation interventions are needed to support the development of two strategic sites in Bray:</p> <p><b>Fassaroe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fassaroe development roads;</li> <li>▪ N11 Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge;</li> <li>▪ N11/M11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme;</li> <li>▪ Delivery of Wicklow County Council Part 8 N11 capacity and safety upgrades, as approved;</li> <li>▪ Busway from Fassaroe to Old Connaught over County Brook at Ballyman Glen;</li> <li>▪ Traffic Management Measures at Fassaroe Interchange to protect strategic function of the N/M11;</li> <li>▪ Delivery of the Upper Dargle Road public transport priority measures schemes and the River Dargle Cycle Scheme; and</li> <li>▪ Commitment to the phased introduction of bus and enhanced rail services in line with increased demand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bray Golf Club &amp; Harbour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Golf Club and harbour lands development roads;</li> <li>▪ Pedestrian and cycle links from the Golf Club and harbour to Bray Town Centre;</li> <li>▪ Dublin Road bus priority (part of Bray Core Bus Corridor);</li> <li>▪ Public transport, pedestrian and cycle bridge from the Golf Club Lands to Bray DART station for future use by Luas;</li> <li>▪ Development of interchange at Bray DART Station;</li> <li>▪ Commitment to the phased introduction of bus and enhanced rail services in line with increased demand.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tier 1:</b> Zoned land in Bray other than strategic sites</p> <p><b>Tier 2:</b> Strategic sites (Fassaroe and Golf Club) pending delivery of Transportation Infrastructure to support new development.</p>

Town Village /	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Wicklow - Rathnew	Wicklow & Rathnew Town Development Plan (to be replaced post CDP adopted with LKAP)	Serviced by the Wicklow Wastewater Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (34,000pe, operating at c. 19,000pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy (including Ashford).	Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity.  Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	Tier 1
Arklow	Arklow LAP	The necessary planning, land and licences have been secured for the provision of a new Waste Water Treatment Plant. <del>Subject to Ministerial consent Irish Water expects construction work commenced 2021. to begin in the second half of 2021.</del>	The Arklow public supply is currently working within operational capacity and is predicted to facilitate the future development needs.	Arklow Area Based Transport Assessment being carried 2021, which will identify transport investment required to support delivery of Core Strategy development objectives.  Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	Tier 2 pending delivery of Wastewater and Road Infrastructure upgrades.
Greystones - Delgany	Greystones - Delgany - Kilcoole LAP	Serviced by the Greystones Wastewater Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (40,000pe, operating at c. 25,000pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy (including Kilcoole & Newtownmountkennedy).  With respect to sewer networks, a Drainage Area Plan (DAP) is to start in 2022 to cover Greystones - Delgany - Kilcoole - Newcastle.	Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity.  Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021	Greystones - Delgany Area Based Transport Assessment being carried 2021, which will identify transport investment required to support delivery of Core Strategy development objectives.  Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	Tier 1
Blessington	Blessington LAP	Serviced by the Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant which is operating above design capacity.  Upgrade due to be completed 2022. and capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy will be available on completion.	The Blessington public supply is currently working within operational capacity and is predicted to facilitate the future development needs.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	Tier 2 pending delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure upgrades.



Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Newtown-mountkennedy	Level 4 Town Plan	<p>Serviced by the Greystones Wastewater Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (40,000pe, operating at c. 25,000pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The pumping station in Newtownmountkennedy may require upgrades to facilitate growth within the catchment. The requirement and extents of upgrades will need to be determined through localised surveys completed in line with the Irish Water's new connection policy.</p> <p>With respect to sewer networks, a sewer network project is to advance.</p>	<p>Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity. Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021.</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	<b>Tier 1</b>
Rathdrum	Level 4 Town Plan	<p>Serviced by the Rathdrum Waste Water Treatment Plant; currently operating below design capacity (3,500pe, operating at c. 2,000pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>Served by a spring water supply to the west of Rathdrum. Water is stored in a reservoir at Ballinderry initially and thereafter at a reservoir in Ballygannon closer to Rathdrum. This water source is under pressure and Wicklow County Council is currently working with Irish Water to augment same to cater for the planned population increase.</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	<b>Tier 2</b> pending delivery of Water Infrastructure upgrades.

Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Baltinglass	Level 4 Town Plan	<p>Serviced by Baltinglass WWTP; currently operating below design capacity (3,600pe, operating at c. 3,000pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>Served by 2 wells (at Tinornan and Parkmore) and springs (at Bawnogues) which are only used seasonably to supplement supply if required.</p> <p>It is intended that these springs will be decommissioned and replaced with a borehole in the event of development at Bawnogues. The capacity of the current supply (including the springs) will meet the water supply needs of the town in the medium term and will be likely sufficient to accommodate development targeted in this plan</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	Tier 1

Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Ashford	Level 5 Small Town Plan	Serviced by the Wicklow Wastewater Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (34,000pe, operating at c. 19,000pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.	Served by the Wicklow Water Supply Scheme from Cronroe Reservoir. The water at Cronroe is a combination of water from the Dublin Regional Scheme at the Vartry Reservoir and groundwater abstracted and treated at the Cronroe Water Treatment plant. Supply will be sufficient to meet the needs of projected population growth.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	Tier 1
Aughrim	Level 5 Small Town Plan	Serviced by the Aughrim Waste Water Treatment Plant which is currently operating above design capacity.  Improvements to this plant are required, and funding has been granted/sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024 with project to commence in 2022.-	Water supply is abstracted from the Tinakilly River at Threewells to the north-east of the town. It is intended during 2021-2022 to replace this supply by connecting Aughrim to the Arklow water supply scheme with a connection to the water treatment plant at Ballyduff, and this new supply will have adequate capacity to accommodate the growth levels targets for Aughrim in this plan.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	Tier 2 pending delivery of Wastewater and Water Infrastructure upgrades.

Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Carnew	Level 5 Small Town Plan	Serviced by the Carnew Waste Water Treatment plant currently operating below <del>design</del> hydraulic capacity (2,300pe, operating at c. 1,600pe). While there is substantial (theoretical) available capacity in the plant, the ELVs that are set out in the discharge licence are extremely tight and difficult to meet on a consistent basis. In the short term new connections will be limited 5 units at a time so as not to suddenly push the plant into non-compliance.	Supplied by the Tinahely regional water supply scheme with water sourced from the Derry River north of Tinahely. This supply has significant spare capacity and no shortage problems have arisen in the scheme.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier 12</b> pending delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure upgrades.
Dunlavin	Level 5 Small Town Plan	Serviced by Dunlavin Waste Water Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (2,400pe, operating at c. 1,400pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.  With respect to sewer networks, the sewer network upgraded recently under CIP project.	Serviced by a well to the south of the town centre operating at capacity, with limited headroom to accommodate future development. Issues also arise with regard to access to the source and water storage. Improvements to this supply are required, and funding has been sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier 2</b> pending delivery of Water Infrastructure upgrades.
Enniskerry	Bray Municipal District LAP	Serviced by the Enniskerry Waste Water Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (6,000pe, operating at c. 2,500pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.	Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity. Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier1</b>

Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Kilcoole	Greystones - Delgany – Kilcoole LAP	Serviced by both the Kilcoole and Greystones Waste Water Treatment Plants, both currently operating below design capacity (Kilcoole 4,000pe, operating at c. 2,000pe) and have capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.	Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity. Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier1</b>
Tinahely	Level 5 Small Town Plan	Is served by the Tinahely WWTP. The plant has limited modest spare capacity for further development. Improvements to this plant are required, and funding has been sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024	Served by the Tinahely Regional Water Supply Scheme, which extracts water from the Derry River north of the bridge at Tinahely. There are currently no deficiencies in this supply or network, which would impact on future development.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier 2</b> pending delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure upgrades.

Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Avoca	Level 6 Small Town Plan	<p>Serviced by Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant at Ballanagh currently operating above design capacity.</p> <p>The plant upgrade / replacement is committed as part of the Irish Water capital investment programme for completion in 2024.</p>	<p>Water sourced from a treated surface water supply at Ballard, Ballinaclash. Water is fed by gravity to Ballymurtagh where it is then pumped to reservoir. The reservoir has sufficient storage capacity to provide for current target levels of future growth</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	<b>Tier 2</b> pending delivery of Wastewater Infrastructure upgrades.
Donard	Level 6 Small Town Plan	<p>Serviced by the Donard Waste Water Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (600pe, operating at c. 240pe) <b>and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</b></p>	<p>Supply is from Donard/Hollywood scheme. This supply has adequate capacity to accommodate the growth target for Donard.</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	<b>Tier1</b>
Kilmacanogue	Bray Municipal District LAP	<p>Serviced by the Bray/Shanganagh Waste Water Treatment Plant, currently operating below design capacity. <b>and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</b></p>	<p>Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity. Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	<b>Tier1</b>
Newcastle	Level 6 Small Town Plan	<p>Serviced by Newcastle Waste Water Treatment plant currently operating close to design capacity (1,000pe, operating at c. 900pe) <b>and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>With respect to sewer networks, a Drainage Area Plan (DAP) is to start in 2022 to cover Greystones – Delgany – Kilcoole - Newcastle.</b></p>	<p>Supplied with potable water from the Vartry water supply and is well within operational capacity. Upgrade to increase capacity is due for completion in 2021</p>	<p>Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.</p>	<b>Tier1</b>

Town / Village	Plan Name	Infrastructure			Zoning Tier
		Waste water	Water	Transport (Roads, lighting footpaths etc)	
Roundwood	Level 6 Small Town Plan	Served by the Roundwood Waste Water Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (1,600pe, operating at c. 1,200pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.	Served by a single bored well which has capacity constraints. Improvements to this supply are required, and funding has been sought for same under Irish Water's Small Town and Villages Growth programme, part of IW's investment programme 2020-2024	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier 2</b> pending delivery of Water Infrastructure upgrades.
Shillelagh	Level 6 Small Town Plan	Served by the Shillelagh Waste Water Treatment Plant currently operating below design capacity (500pe, operating at c. 415pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.	Served by the Tinahely Regional Water Supply Scheme, which extracts water from the Derry River north of the bridge at Tinahely. There are currently no deficiencies in this supply or network, which would impact on future development.	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier 1</b>
Laragh	Level 7 Village	Served by the Laragh Wastewater Treatment Plant, <del>currently</del> , currently operating below design capacity (1,000pe, operating at c. 715pe) and has capacity to accommodate the growth targeted by the Core Strategy.	Water supply from a surface water source at Glenmacnass which is fed to the Laragh Reservoir by gravity from the Glenmacnass Treatment Works. At present, water supply is able to meet demand but in times of dry weather and high demand, such as the tourist season, supply can be limited	Local level supporting infrastructure to be provided in accordance with the implementation of relevant local planning permissions and the Council's capital investment programme.	<b>Tier1</b>

Baltinglass Golf Club



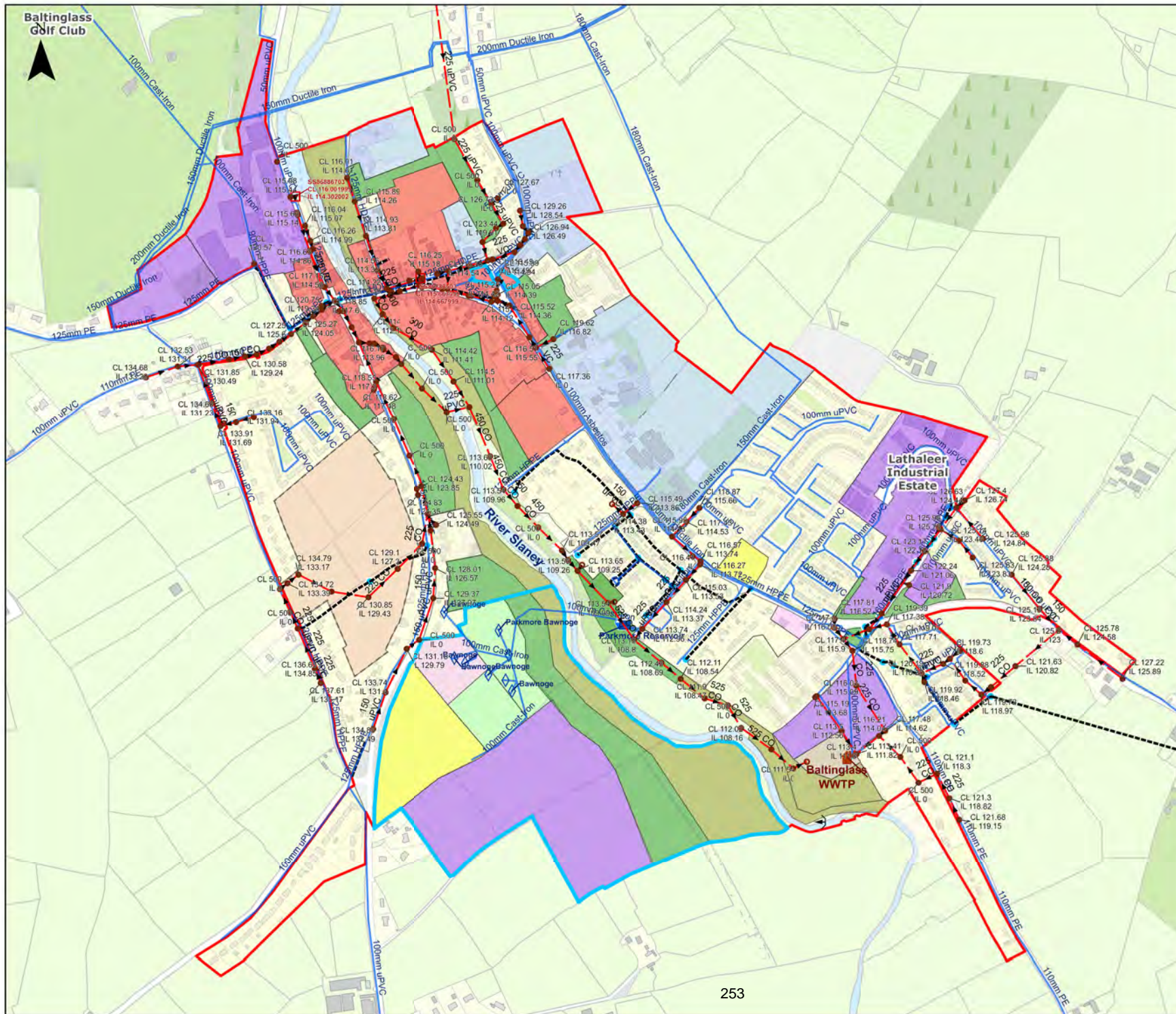
# Baltinglass Town Plan

## Map No. 1 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- LSS-Local Shops & Services
- SLB-Strategic Land Bank
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- OS2-Passive Open Space
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant



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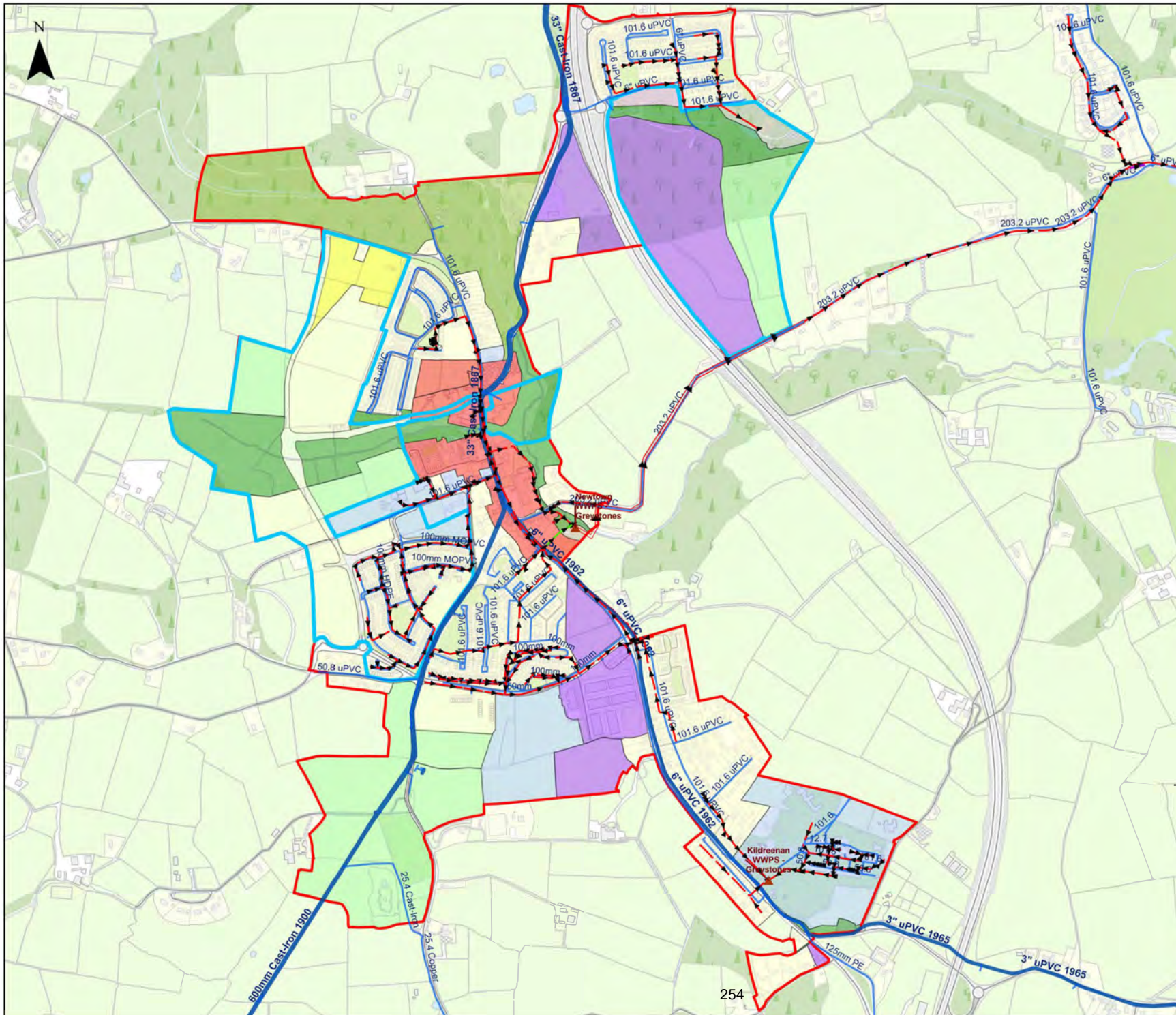
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Scale: 1:7,500 @A3





# Newtownmountkenny Town Plan

## Map No.2 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- LSS-Local Shops & Services
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- F-Forestry
- PU-Public Utility
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant

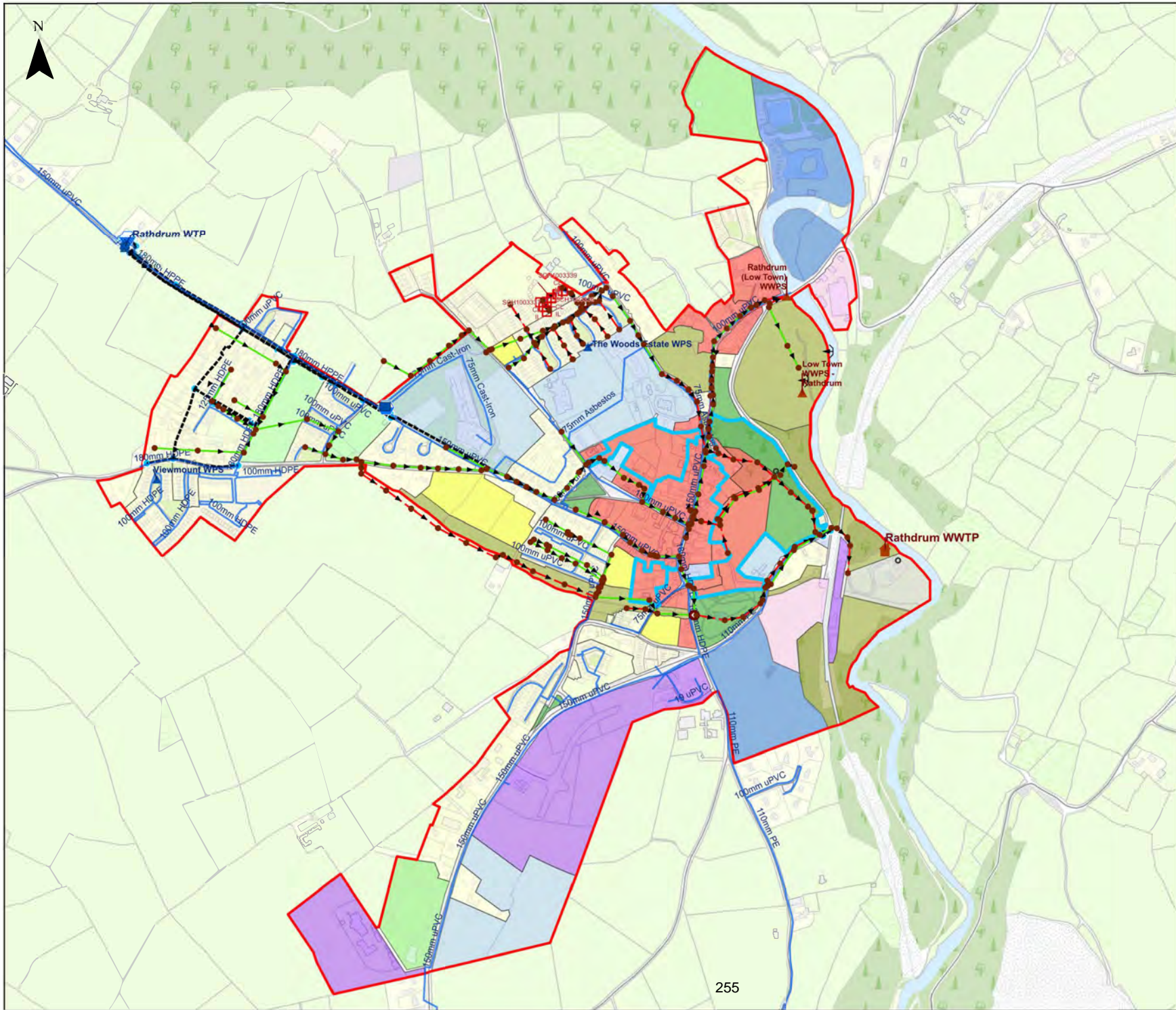
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# Rathdrum Town Plan

## Map No. 3 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- LSS-Local Shops & Services
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- OS2-Passive Open Space
- T-Tourism
- Water Supply Network
- WTP Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- WWS Waste Water Treatment Plant

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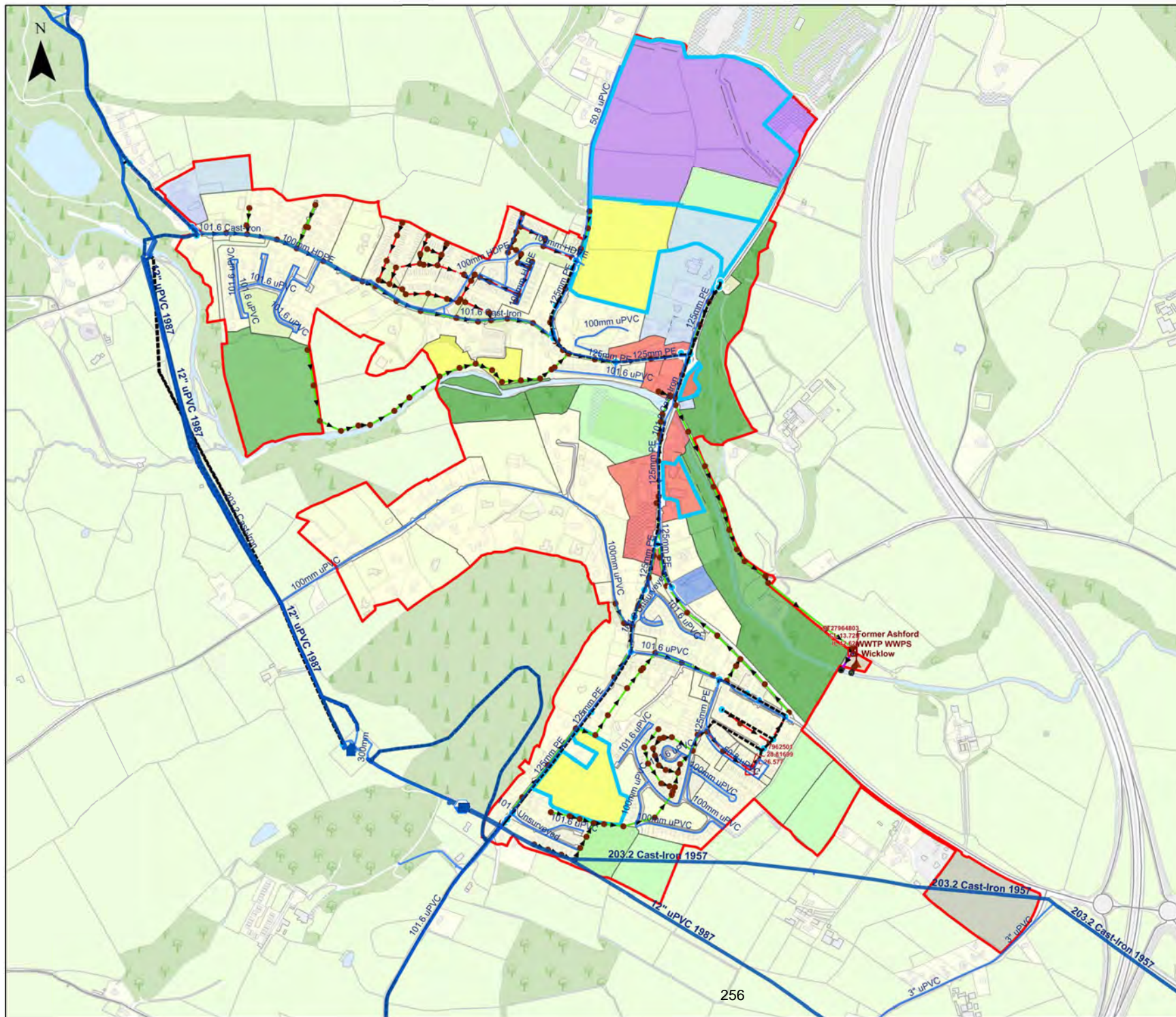
# Ashford Town Plan

## Map No. 4 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- T-Tourism
- PU-Public Utility
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- - - Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant



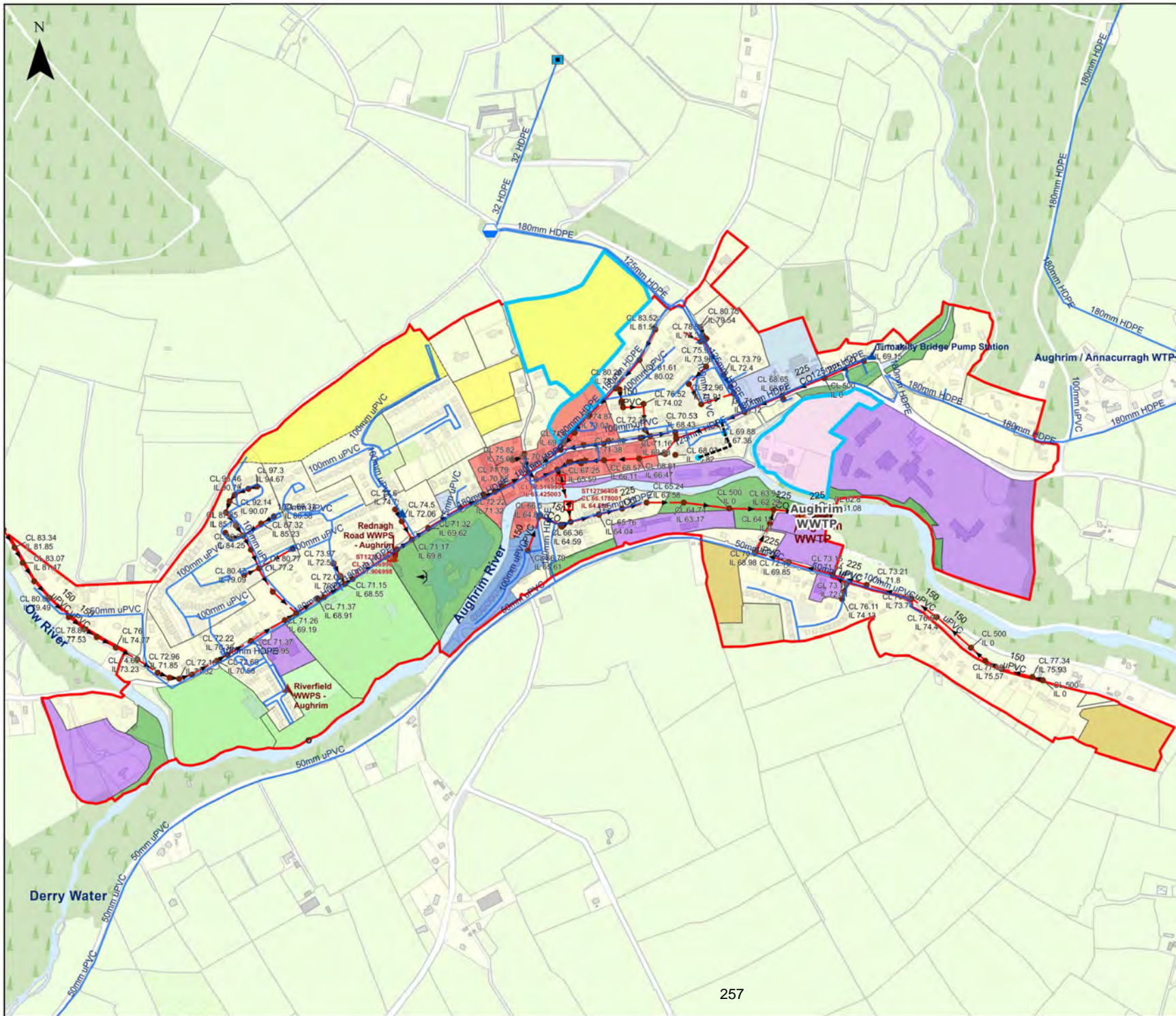
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# Aughrim Town Plan

## Map No. 5 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- LSS-Local Shops & Services
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- T-Tourism
- R Special - Special Residential
- R2.5 - New Residential (Low Density)
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- - - Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant

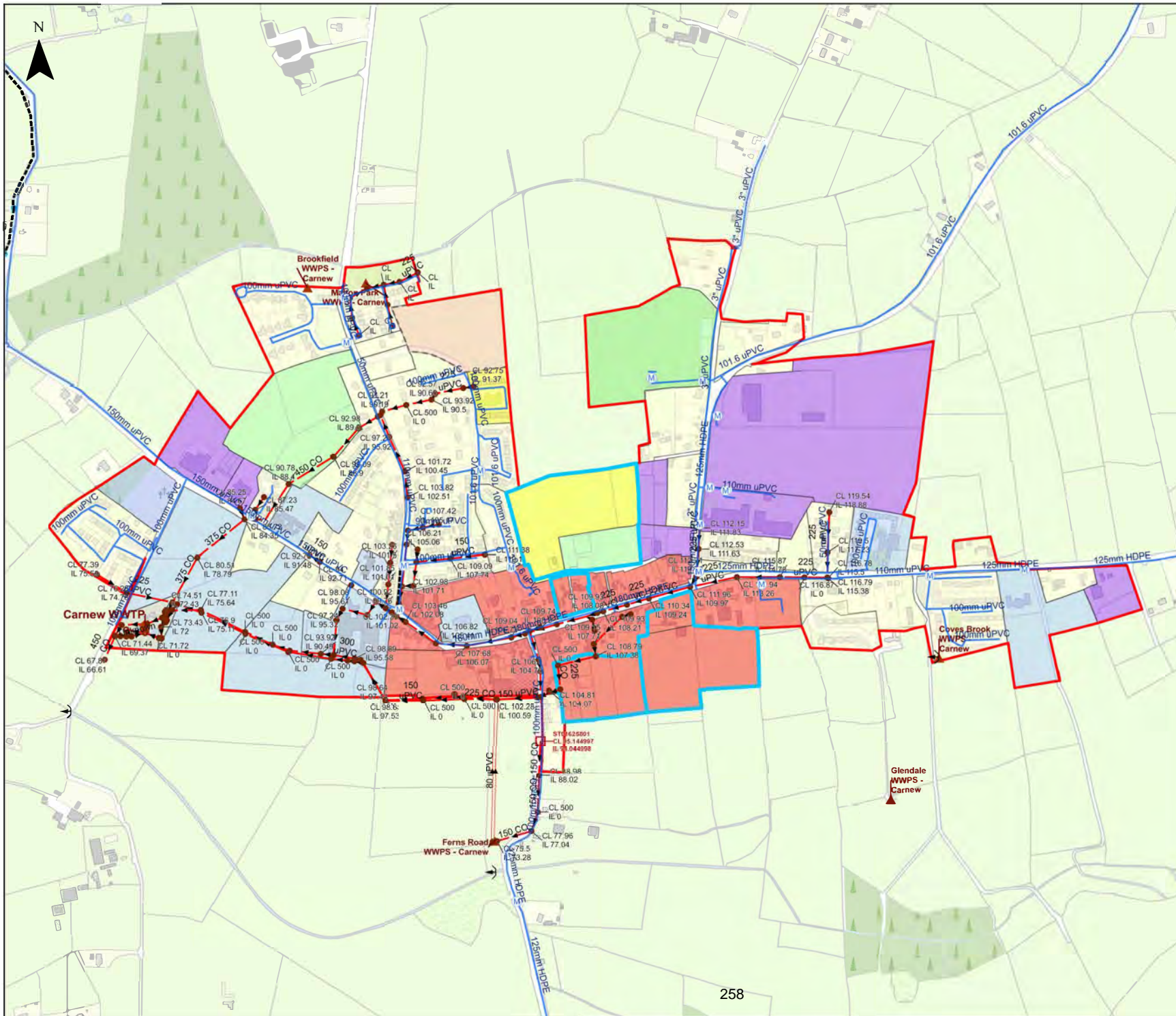
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# Carnew Town Plan

## Map No. 6 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- SLB-Strategic Land Bank
- AOS-Active Open Space
- Water Supply Network
- + Water Treatment Plant
- - - Sewer Network
- + Waste Water Treatment Plant

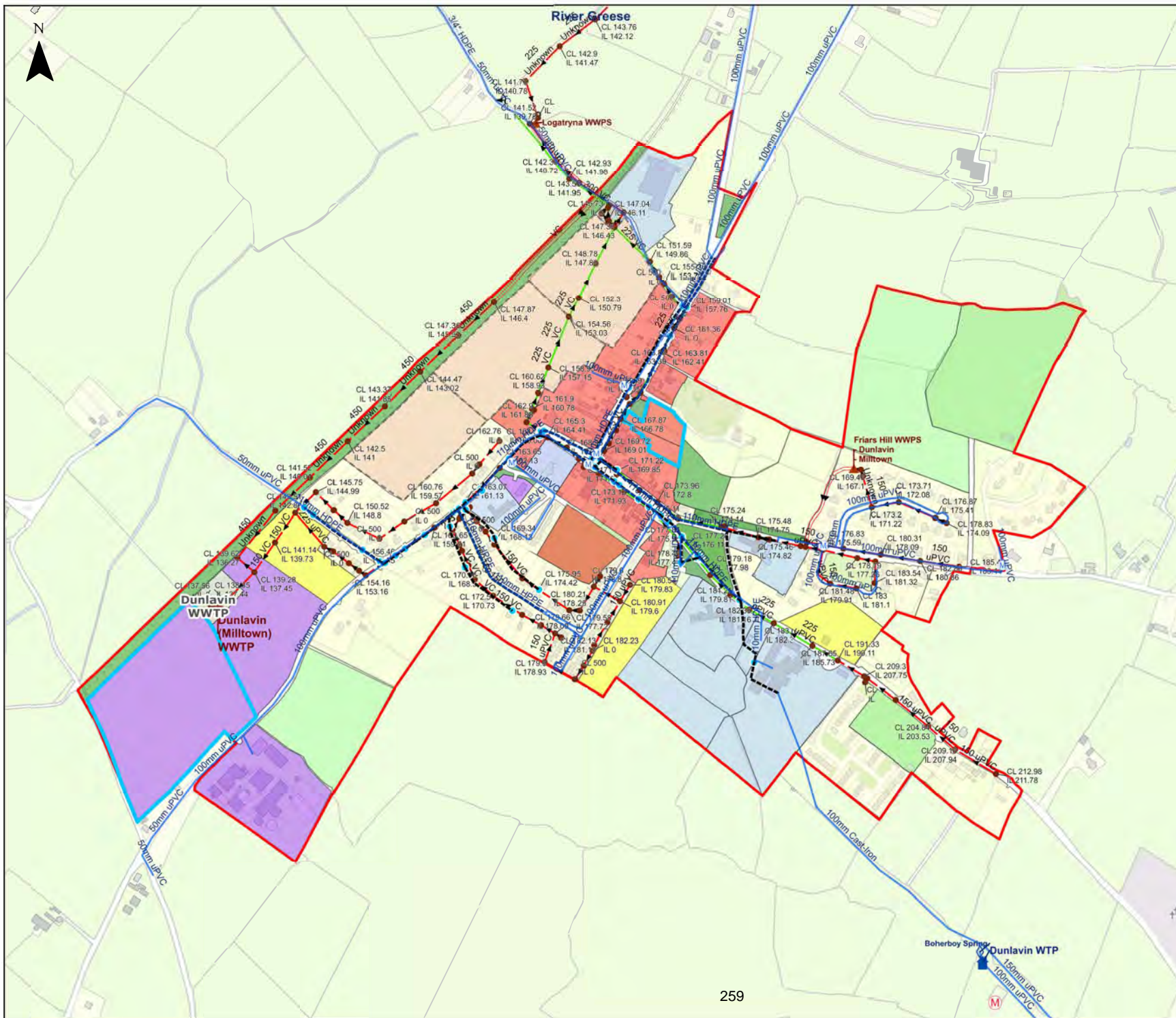
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# Dunlavin Town Plan

## Map No. 7 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- SLB-Strategic Land Bank
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- Water Supply Network
- ♻️ Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- ♻️ Waste Water Treatment Plant

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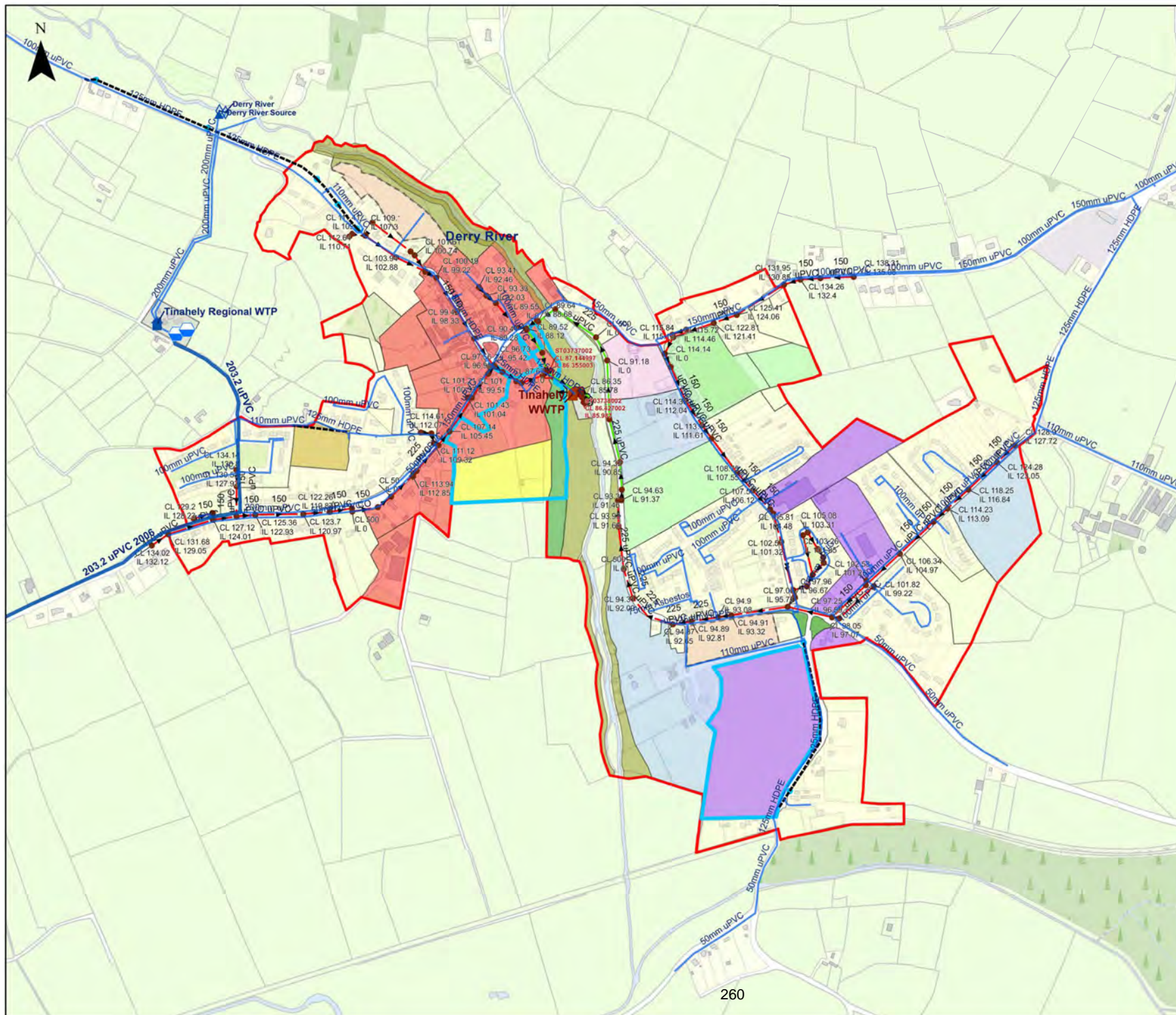
# Tinahely Town Plan

## Map No. 8 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- AA-Action Area, OP-Opportunity Sites
- RN-New Residential
- RE-Existing Residential
- TC-Town Centre
- CE-Community & Education
- E-Employment
- PU-Public Utility
- LSS-Local Shops & Services
- SLB-Strategic Land Bank
- AOS-Active Open Space
- OS1-Open Space
- OS2-Passive Open Space
- R Special - Special Residential
- PU-Public Utility
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- - - Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant



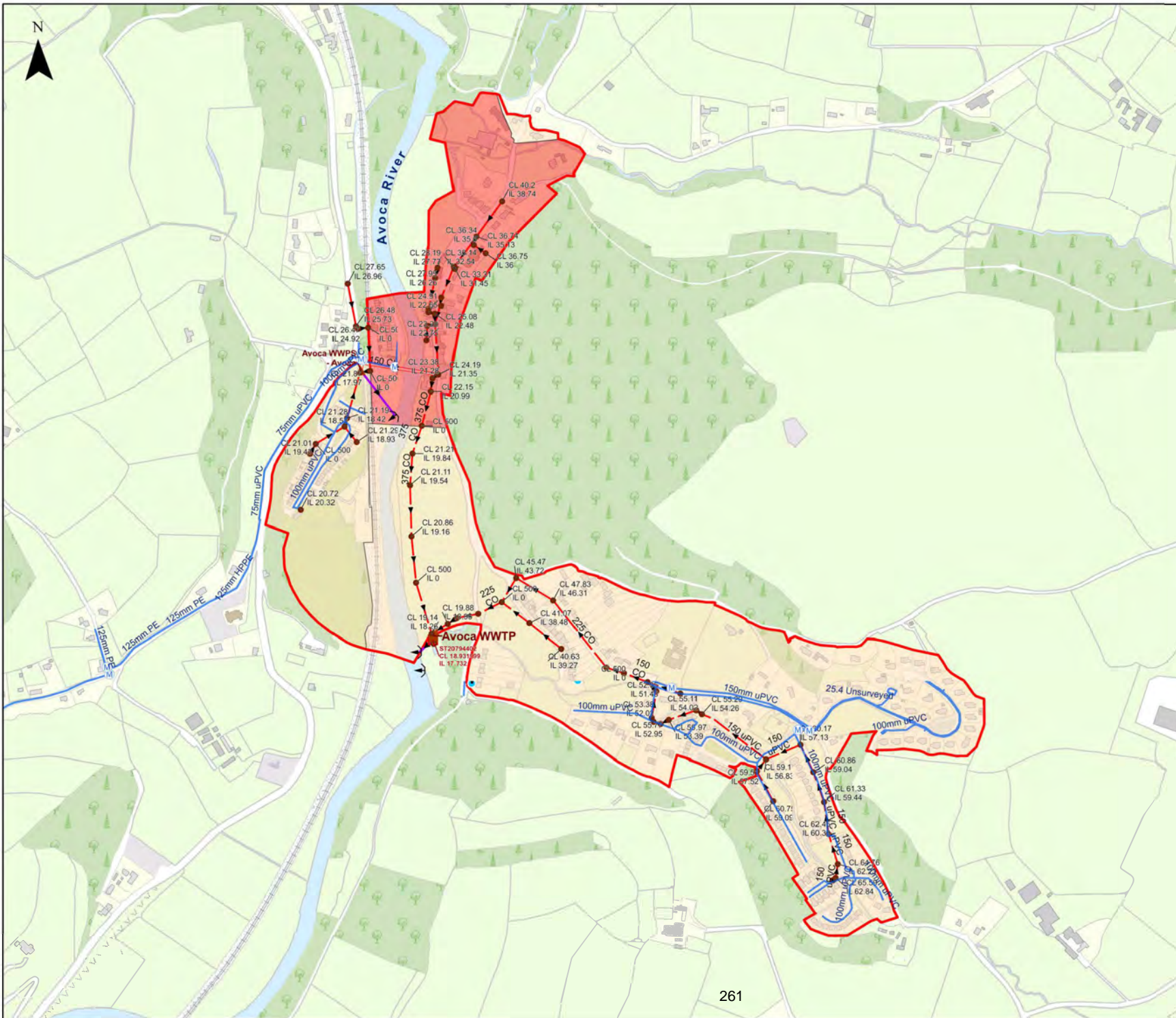
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# Avoca Town Plan

## Map No. 9 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- Primary Development Area
- Secondary Development Area
- Water Supply Network
- ♻️ Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- ♻️ Waste Water Treatment Plant

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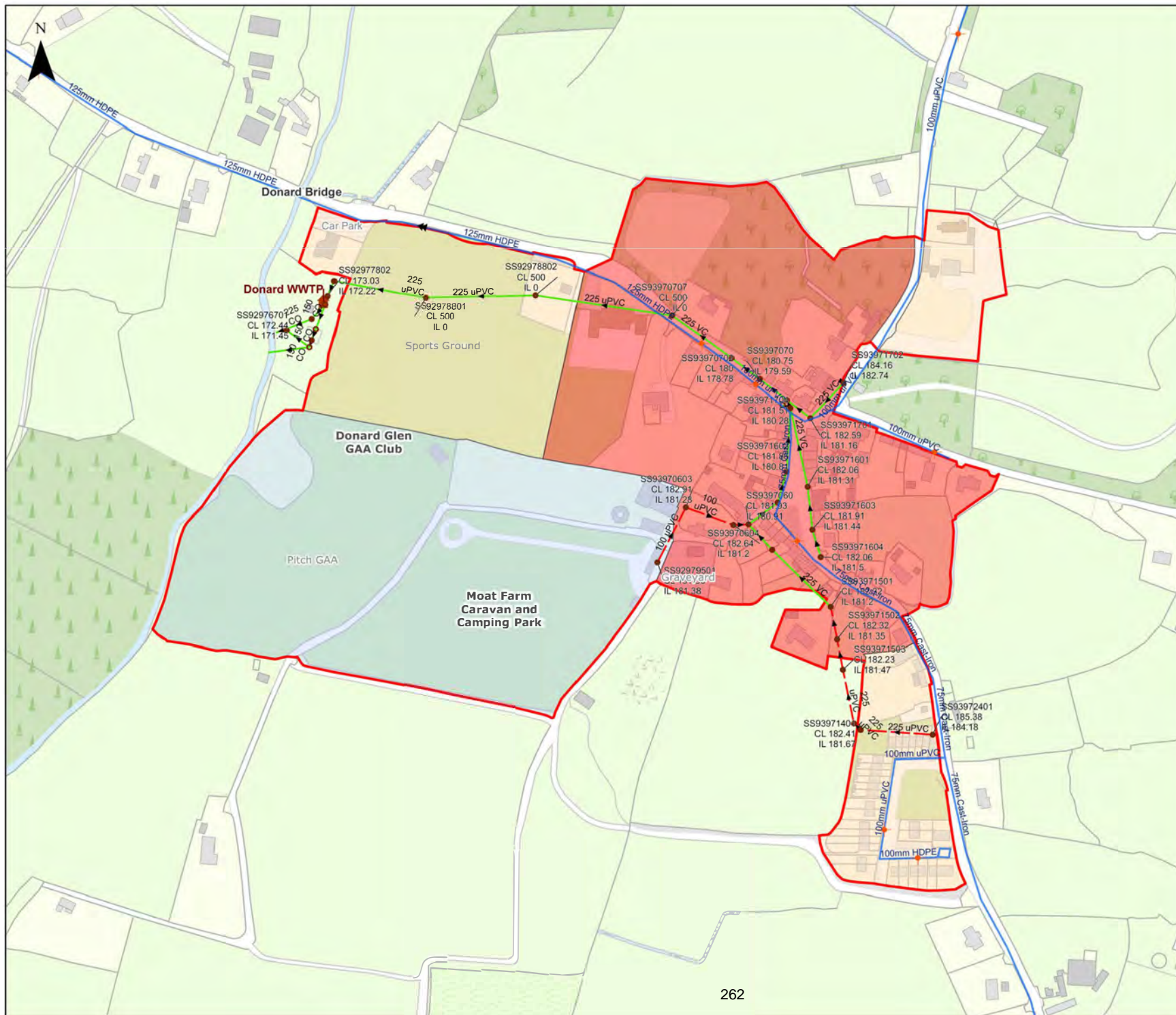
# Donard Town Plan

## Map No. 10 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- Primary Development Area
- Secondary Development Area
- Tertiary Development Area
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant



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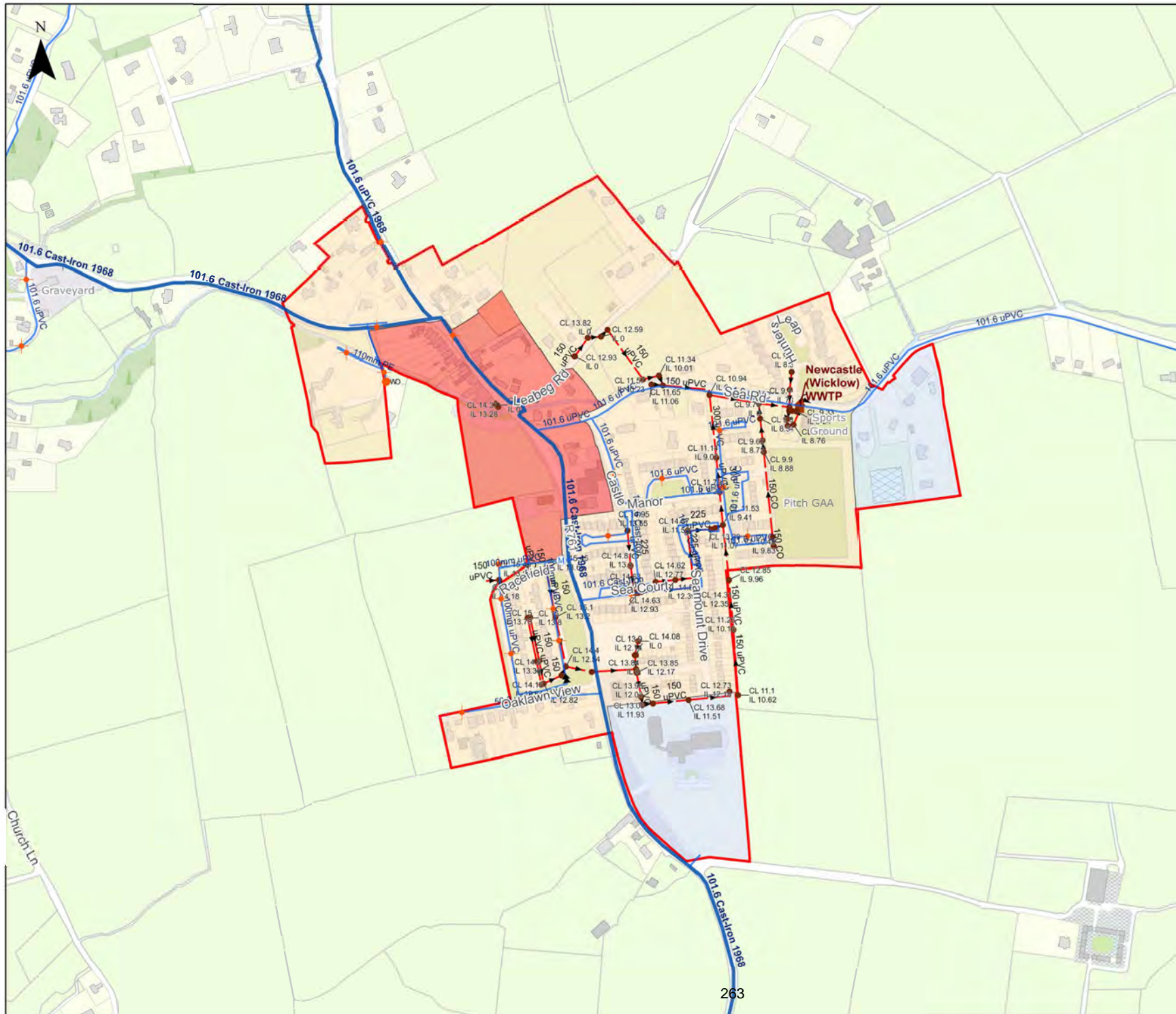
# Newcastle Town Plan

## Map No. 11 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- Primary Development Area
- Secondary Development Area
- Tertiary Development Area
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant



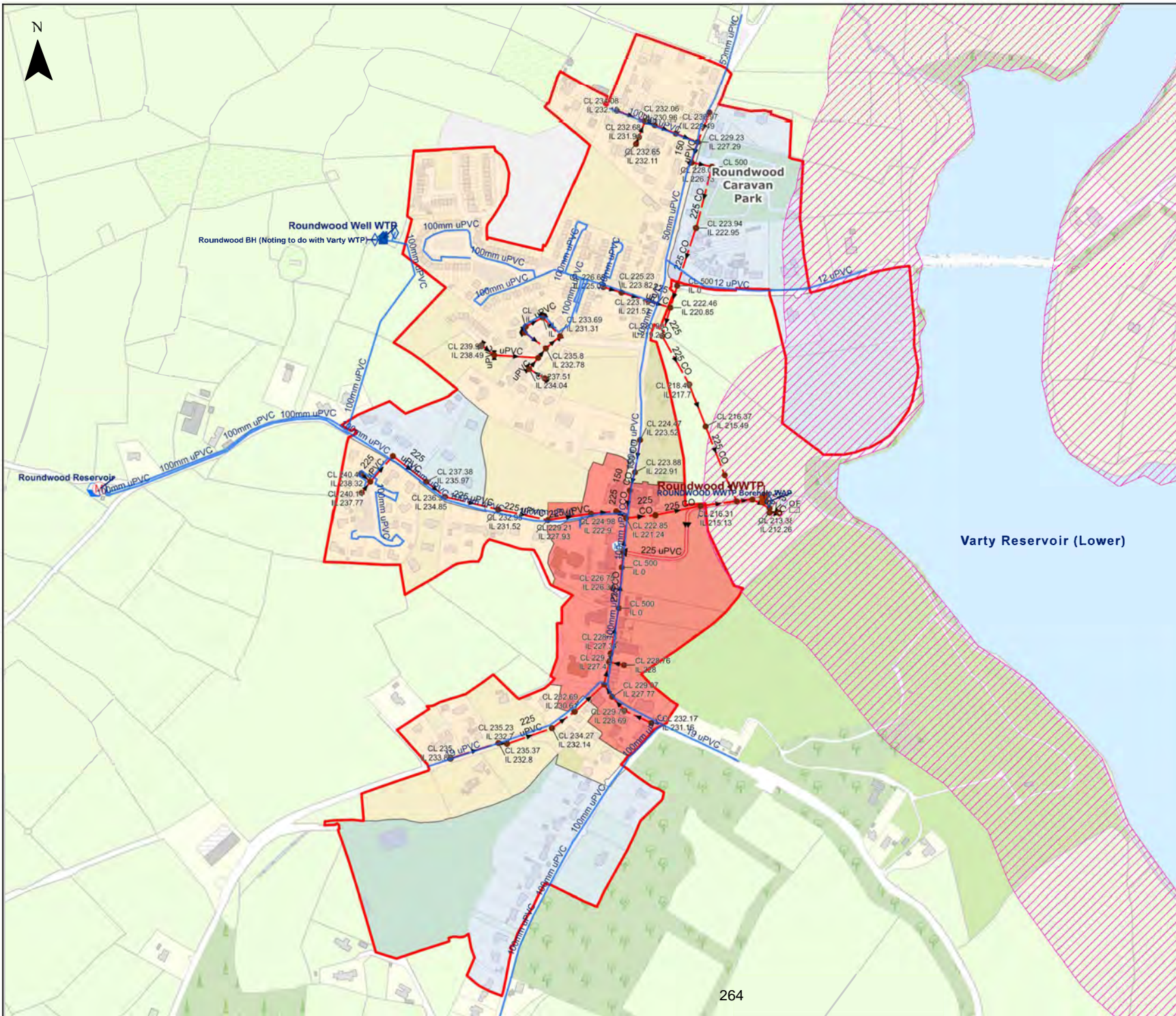
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# Roundwood Town Plan

## Map No. 12 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- Primary Development Area
- Secondary Development Area
- Tertiary Development Area
- 200m Buffer from Reservoir
- Water Supply Network
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Network
- Waste Water Treatment Plant

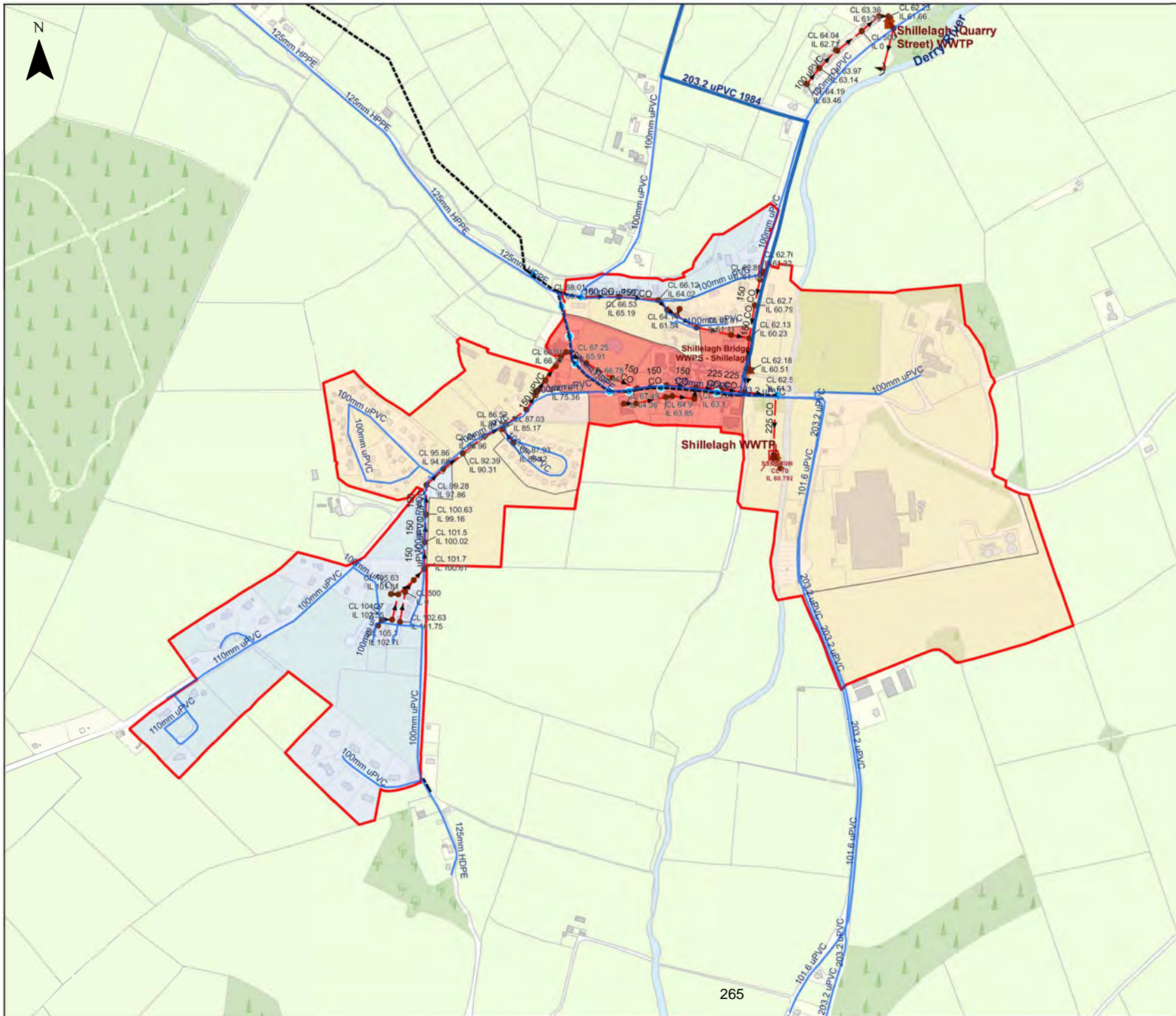
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# Shillelagh Town Plan

## Map No. 13 Services Infrastructure



### Legend

- Settlement Boundary
- Primary Development Area
- Secondary Development Area
- Tertiary Development Area
- Water Supply Network
- Sewer Network
- ♻️ Water Treatment Plant
- ♻️ Waste Water Treatment Plant

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**APPENDIX NUMBER 11 AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL AREA PLANS**

**AMENDMENT V3 – 133**

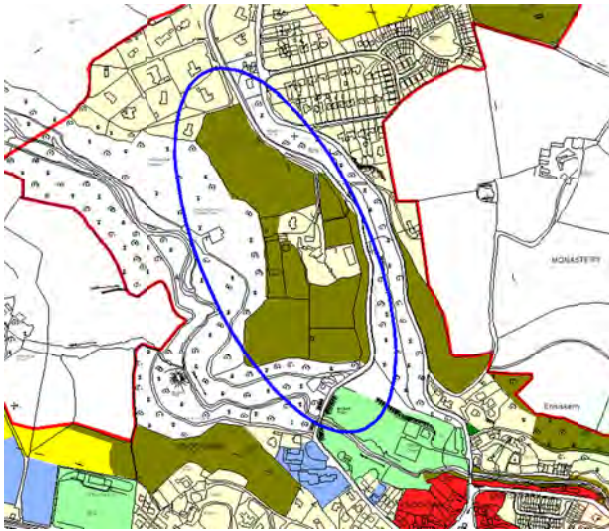
**Amend Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018 as follows:**

**Land Use Map**

**Change from:** OS2 - Passive Open Space (c. 8.5ha / 21 acres)

**Change to** AG – Agriculture

**Area shown within blue circle**



**SECTION 3 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

---

FOR  
**PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**  
TO THE  
**DRAFT WICKLOW  
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028**

**for: Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

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



**APRIL 2022**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028, hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan".

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or alterations to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or alteration to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Wicklow CDP. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations to CDPs are provided under Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

This report should be read in conjunction with the CDP and all other associated documents including the:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow CDP 2022-2028;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow CDP 2022-2028;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Wicklow CDP; and
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Wicklow CDP.

## 1.2 Process so far

The CDP has been progressed to date in compliance with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

SEA<sup>2</sup> was undertaken on and informed the CDP in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the CDP on public display contains the findings of the assessment.

AA<sup>3</sup> was also undertaken on the CDP (informing both the CDP and the SEA) in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations. An AA Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment.

The CDP associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Material Alterations to the CDP and these are the subject of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Environmental Assessment is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning European Sites designated on foot of habitats and species.

### 1.3 SEA Environmental Report (May 2021)

The SEA Environmental Report for the CDP contains the information specified in Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 201 of 2011). The relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report that address these information requirements are detailed on Table 1.1 below.

The assessment undertaken on relevant Proposed Material Alterations (the findings of which are presented later in this document) has used the information contained in the SEA Environmental Report.

**Table 1.1 Information contained within the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the County Development Plan**

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

## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether each Proposed Material Alteration to the CDP would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A *'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment'* of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

### 2.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is being undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan and the Proposed Material Alterations. The SFRA process, the findings of which include an SFRA report that accompanies the amendments, has informed this report.

### 2.3 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive<sup>4</sup>, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The County Development Plan is being subject to Stage 2 AA and a Draft Natura Impact Report was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan. At adoption of the Plan, the Natura Impact Report will be finalised and an AA determination made by the Council.

An AA screening process has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations. This process has determined that Stage 2 AA for certain Alterations is necessary. An AA Natura Impact Report contains the findings of this assessment for the Proposed Material Alterations, has informed this SEA Screening Report and accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations.

### 2.4 Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations

The analysis of Proposed Material Alterations is undertaken considering interactions Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 2.1). Table 2.2 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.2 is supplemented by Table 2.3 which provides details on:

- The likely significant effects of implementing the Draft Plan, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Draft Plan; and
- Residual non-significant adverse effects arising from the Draft Plan.

Effects encompass the full range of effects<sup>5</sup>, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

<sup>5</sup> These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

The examination of Proposed Material Alterations also takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A *'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment'* of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> <li>Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably</li> <li>Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas</li> <li>Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> <li>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 2.2 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations<sup>6</sup>

Ref	SEA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
2	A future plan/assessment/feasibility study/ investigation of potential would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Was such an assessment to be followed by recommendations, such as varying the Plan, such recommendations would have to be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
3	The update to terminology/language/wording/numbering/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. Where the change relates to mapping, the implications of the change may have been considered under other related Alterations. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
4	This alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
5	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
6	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
7	Removal of this provision would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision would not be likely to result in any environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
8	These alterations relate to supporting documents but would not change Plan provisions. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
9	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan, further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Table 2.3), with the objective of protecting the integrity of European Sites brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. <b>Consequently, SEA is advised as prudent.</b>
10	As this alteration could potentially impact upon the protection of a European site(s), Stage 2 AA is required. <b>Consequently, SEA is advised as prudent.</b>
11	This alteration would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components. <b>Taking this into account, SEA is required.</b>
12	This alteration would potentially conflict with proper flood risk management as it has been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines. This alteration and applicable mitigation therefore needs to be examined beyond screening. <b>Taking this into account, SEA is required.</b>

No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above	No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
V1-1	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-68	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-2	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-69	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-3	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-70	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-4	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-71	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-5	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-72	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-6	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-73	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-7	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-74	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-8	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-75	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-9	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-76	10
V1-10	11	V1-77	10
V1-11	11	V1-78	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-12	11	V1-79	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-13	11	V1-80	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-14	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-81	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-15	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-82	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-16	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-83	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-17	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-84	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-18	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-85	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-19	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-86	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-20	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-87	9+10+11+12
V1-21	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-88	11
V1-22	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-89	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-23	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-90	11
V1-24	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-91	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-25	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-92	11
V1-26	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-93	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-27	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-94	11
V1-28	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-95	11
V1-29	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-96	11
V1-30	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-97	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-31	11	V2-98	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-32	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-99	11+12
V1-33	11	V2-100	11+12
V1-34	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-101	11
V1-35	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-102	11
V1-36	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-103	11
V1-37	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-104	11
V1-38	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-105	11
V1-39	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-106	11

<sup>6</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above	No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
V1-40	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-107	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-41	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-108	11
V1-42	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-109	11
V1-43	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-110	11
V1-44	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-111	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-45	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-112	12
V1-46	10	V2-113	11+12
V1-47	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-114	11
V1-48	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-115	11
V1-49	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-116	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-50	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-117	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-51	11	V3-118	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-52	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-119	9
V1-53	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-120	9
V1-54	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-121	9
V1-55	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-122	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-56	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-123	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-57	10	V3-124	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-58	10	V3-125	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-59	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-126	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-60	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-127	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-61	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-128	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-62	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-129	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-63	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-130	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-64	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-131	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-65	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-132	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-66	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-133	10+11
V1-67	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required		

**Table 2.3 Detail of effects<sup>7</sup>, if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans			Mitigation Measures from the Draft Plan, including:
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> <li>Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b> Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CP04.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p><b>Tourism and Recreation</b></p> <p>CP011.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p><b>Environmental Protection</b></p> <p>CP0 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CP0 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CP0 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Corridor and Route Selection</b></p> <p>CP0 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CP0 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity Objectives</b></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>CP0 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CP0 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CP0 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Protected sites and species</b></p> <p>CP0 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019)</li> <li>National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Southern RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same), Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state: to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p><b>Sites &amp; Corridors of ecological &amp; biodiversity value</b></p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p><b>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</b></p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B &amp; C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high value, where it appears that they are in danger of being felled.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths/strategic walkways/cycleways, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets.</p> <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p>
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				<p><b>Recreation and Tourism</b></p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes ;</li> <li>Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Light Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development &amp; Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p><b>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>8</sup>.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Various measures within the mapped Cells provided for under Chapter 19.</b></p> <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Seveso Sites</b></p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the "COMAH Regulations", (S.I. No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents;</li> <li>where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances,</li> <li>public health and safeguarding of public health, and</li> <li>protection of the environment;</li> </ol> </li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2.</p>
<p><b>Population and Human Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p>

<sup>8</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

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	<p>adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Soil</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Soils &amp; Geology</b></p> <p>CPO 17.27 Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>CPO 17.29 To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail 'significant' ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.</p> <p>CPO 17.30 To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of "agreed access" subject to appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.31 To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a "Wicklow Rock Trail", Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 17.32 To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design &amp; Development standards of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>CPO 17.34 Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peatland stability;</li> <li>Carbon emissions balance; and</li> <li>Hydrology and ecology.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk</p>

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			<p>of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newtownmountkennedy</li> <li>- Rathdrum</li> <li>- Dunlavin</li> <li>- The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p><b>Water Demand Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of water efficient equipment;</li> <li>- Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies;</li> <li>- Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines;</li> <li>- Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment;</li> <li>- The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;</li> <li>- In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow</li> <li>- Blessington</li> <li>- Aughrim</li> <li>- Tinahely</li> <li>- Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> <li>- Lakes area around Blessington</li> <li>- Large and Small Villages</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:</p> <p>Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p>
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			<p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; <b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Flood Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures , and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme;</li> <li>- Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme;</li> <li>- Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme;</li> <li>- Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).</p> <p>CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary.</p> <p>CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines).</p> <p>CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</li> <li>• An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding.</li> <li>• Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed.</li> <li>• Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines.</li> <li>• Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA.</li> </ul> <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>CPO 14.10 To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.</p> <p>CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving.</p> <p>CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; <b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p><b>Water Systems</b></p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being</p>
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<p><b>Material Assets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> <li>Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate - however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.                  Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.                  CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG);</li> <li>'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)'; EPA 2006;</li> <li>'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009;</li> <li>'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and</li> <li>'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009.</li> </ul> <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.  <b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b>  <b>Water Supply Objectives</b>                  CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newtownmountkennedy</li> <li>Rathdrum</li> <li>Dunlavin</li> <li>The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.                  CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.                  CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.                  CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.  <b>Water Demand Objectives</b>                  CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of water efficient equipment;</li> <li>Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies;</li> <li>Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines;</li> <li>Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment;</li> <li>The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;</li> <li>In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b>                  CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.                  In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arklow</li> <li>Blessington</li> <li>Aughrim</li> <li>Tinahely</li> <li>Avoca</li> <li>Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.                  CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:                  Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p>

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				<p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p><b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Solid Waste Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.1 To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site.</p> <p>CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development &amp; Design Standards of this plan).</p> <p>CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.</p> <p>CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste.</p> <p>CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area.</p> <p>CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Hazardous Waste Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of open space amenities,</li> <li>• sustainable management of water,</li> <li>• protection and management of biodiversity,</li> <li>• protection of cultural heritage, and</li> <li>• protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and</li> <li>• the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment)</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption),</li> <li>• the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority,</li> <li>• the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow,</li> <li>• the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area,</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrrough Coastal Protection Study, the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible</p>
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>• In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p>

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	<p>towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>o Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>o Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>o Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and</li> <li>o Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>including those from cars, and air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>compact growth and sustainable mobility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</li> </ul>	<p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p><b>Climatic Factors</b> Refer to Section 8.6 of the main SEA Environmental Report "Integration of Climate Action into the Plan".</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p> <p><b>Archaeology Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments &amp; Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules X.01 &amp; X.02 and Maps X.01 &amp; X.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care, as identified in Schedule X.02 and Map X.02 of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p><b>Architectural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p><b>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such</p>

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				<p>cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p><b>Other Structures &amp; Vernacular Architecture Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stone walls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA.</li> <li>The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line.</li> <li>The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings.</li> <li>Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible.</li> <li>A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required.</li> <li>The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used.</li> <li>Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p><b>Historical &amp; Cultural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p> <p>CPO 8.28 Any road or bridge improvement works along the Military Road shall be designed and constructed with due regard to the history and notable features of the road (in particular its original support structures, route and alignment), insofar as is possible and reasonable given the existing transport function of the road.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape, Views &amp; Prospects</b></p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> <p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>CPO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>



## 2.5 Schedule 2A

### PART 1

**1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources**

The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

**Table 2.4 Proposed Material Alterations Requiring SEA<sup>9</sup>**

No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see Table 2.2	No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see Table 2.2
V1-10	11	V2-99	11+12
V1-11	11	V2-100	11+12
V1-12	11	V2-101	11
V1-13	11	V2-102	11
V1-31	11	V2-103	11
V1-33	11	V2-104	11
V1-46	10	V2-105	11
V1-51	11	V2-106	11
V1-57	10	V2-108	11
V1-58	10	V2-109	11
V1-76	10	V2-110	11
V1-77	10	V2-112	12
V2-87	9+10+11+12	V2-113	11+12
V2-88	11	V2-114	11
V2-90	11	V2-115	11
V2-92	11	V3-119	9
V2-94	11	V3-120	9
V2-95	11	V3-121	9
V2-96	11	V3-133	10+11

Taking the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**2. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy**

The Material Alterations are being proposed to the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan relates to the proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed

<sup>9</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document. For detail on SEA Screening Ref please refer to Table 2.2.

Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan influence other plans, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development***

The Draft Plan - to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate - has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Plan and found that the Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**4. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan***

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets.

Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Draft Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, they contribute towards its amelioration.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**5. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection)***

The Draft County Development Plan relates to the land use and town planning sector and have fulfilled requirements in relation to SEA. These processes integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

## **PART 2**

### **1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**

#### **a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**c) intensive land-use.**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

## Section 3 Conclusion

Most Proposed Material Alterations are determined not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from most Proposed Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 are advised as requiring SEA and consideration in an SEA Environmental Report.

The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan. An SEA Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations on the SEA and associated Plan-preparation process were taken into account. The Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report will be finalised in a similar manner at adoption, taking into account how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations were taken into account.



**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination under:  
The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)  
for:  
Proposed Material Alterations to the  
Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028**

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination is being made by Wicklow County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of SEA.

Such a determination takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the SEA Regulations, as amended. These criteria are considered in an SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations that has been prepared to inform this determination.

The SEA Screening Report concludes that most Proposed Material Alterations are determined not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, the SEA Screening Report identifies that all potential effects arising from most Proposed Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified below<sup>1</sup> are advised as requiring SEA and consideration in an SEA Environmental Report:

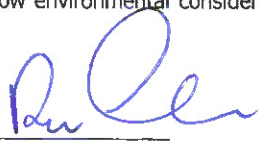
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V1-10	V1-57	V2-94	V2-104	V2-114
V1-11	V1-58	V2-95	V2-105	V2-115
V1-12	V1-76	V2-96	V2-106	V3-119
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V1-33	V2-88	V2-101	V2-110	V3-133
V1-46	V2-90	V2-102	V2-112	
V1-51	V2-92	V2-103	V2-113	

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that SEA is required for the Proposed Material Alterations listed above and that other Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA. The SEA will be completed before 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

This determination has been informed by:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028;
- Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan; and
- Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report for the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan.

The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan. An SEA Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations on the SEA and associated Plan-preparation process were taken into account. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment reports will be finalised in a similar manner at adoption, taking into account how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations were taken into account.

Signed:   
Chief Executive Wicklow County Council  
12 April 2022

<sup>1</sup> For detail please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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FOR

**RELEVANT PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**

TO THE

**DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2022-2028**

**for: Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

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



**APRIL 2022**

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## List of Abbreviations

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

# Glossary

## Appropriate Assessment

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

## Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

## Environmental Problems

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

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

## Environmental Vectors

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

## Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

## Mitigation Measures

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

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

## **Natural Heritage**

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

## **Protected Structure**

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

## **Recorded Monument**

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

## **Scoping**

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

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

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

## **Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)**

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

# Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

## 1.1 Introduction

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

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

The SEA is being undertaken in order to comply with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.

## 1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

The Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake SEA. Certain Proposed Material Alterations were determined as requiring full SEA. The SEA Screening Determination accompanies this SEA Environmental Report and the Proposed Material Alterations document. Appendix III to this SEA Environmental Report comprises the SEA Screening Report that was prepared to inform the SEA Screening Determination.

This SEA Environmental Report provides the findings of the assessment and will be placed on public display alongside the Proposed Material Alterations. The Elected Members will be required to take account of this document, the Proposed Material Alterations and any submissions received on these after public display.

## 1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland and foothill areas of the County, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and High Amenity Area landscape designations, European Site ecological designations, archaeological heritage sensitives and areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability;
- Parts of the coastline and adjacent coastal areas, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscape designations, European Site and proposed Natural Heritage Area ecological

designations, areas of extreme groundwater vulnerability and coastal flood risk;

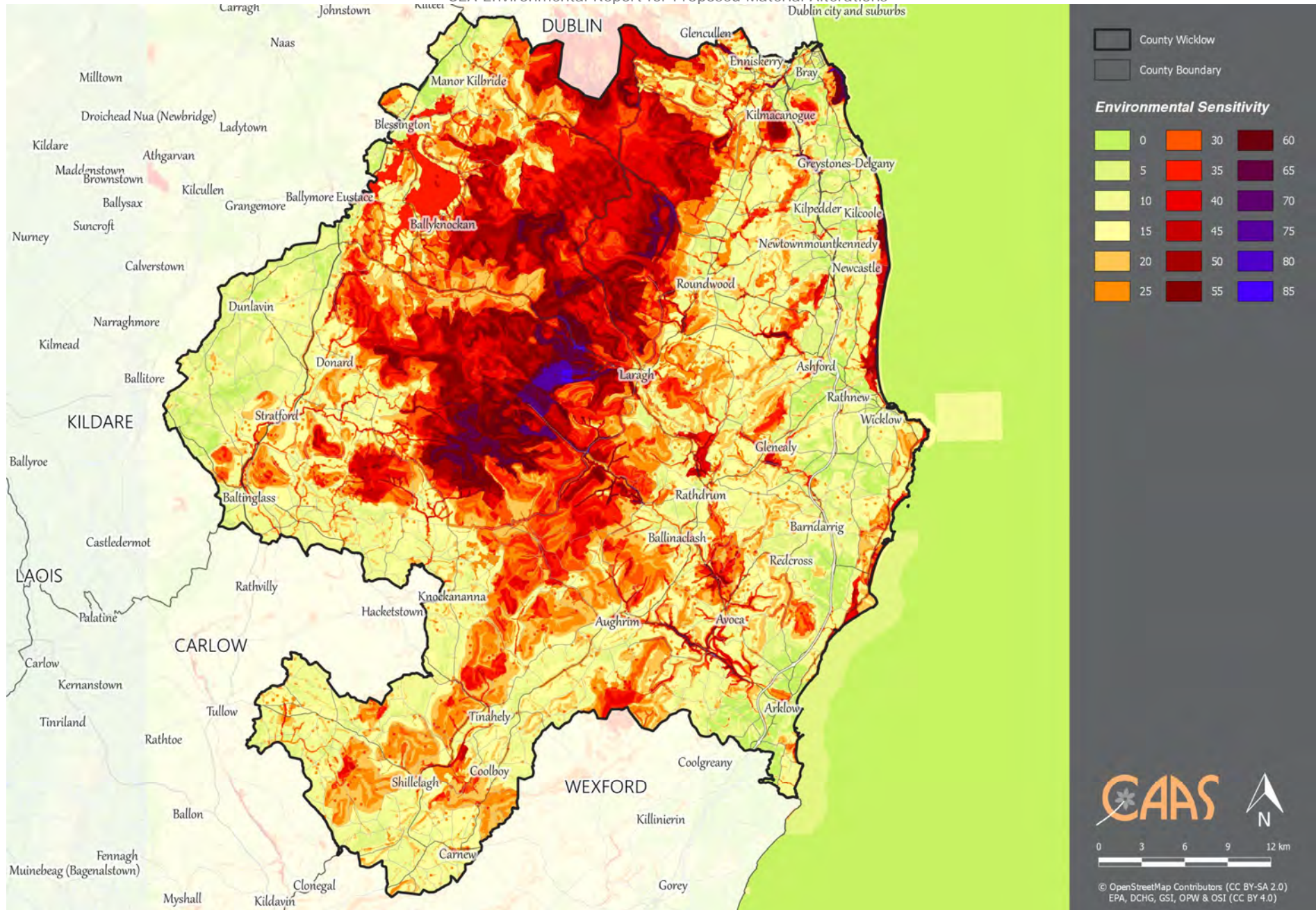
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas; and
- Certain areas that are adjacent to streams and rivers, on account of flood risk.

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

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

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





**Figure 1.1 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Wicklow**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

## Section 2 The Draft Plan and associated Proposed Material Alterations

### 2.1 Introduction

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

### 2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan consists of three Volumes as follow:

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

### 2.3 Plan Vision and Strategic Principles

The Vision of the Plan is:

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

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

### 2.4 Strategic County Outcomes

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

#### **SCO1 Sustainable Settlement Patterns & Compact Growth**

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

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

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

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

**SCO3 Strong Rural Communities and Sustainable Rural Development**

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

**SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities**

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

**SCO5 Sustainable Mobility**

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

**SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

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

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

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

**SCO8 A Strong Economy**

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

and in turn make settlements more attractive to employers and a skilled workforce.

**SCO9 Tourism**

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

**SCO10 Education & Skills**

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

## 2.5 Proposed Material Alterations

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document. The Alteration Numbers provided in this report can be used to locate this detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document.

Alterations proposed include those relating to text and maps, including land use zoning.

The Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake SEA and the alterations below were determined as requiring full SEA. The SEA Screening Determination accompanies this SEA Environmental Report and the Proposed Material Alterations document. Appendix III to this SEA Environmental Report comprises the SEA Screening Report that was prepared to inform the Determination. Proposed Material Alterations requiring SEA and consideration in this SEA Environmental Report are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
V1-10	V1-57	V2-94	V2-104	V2-114
V1-11	V1-58	V2-95	V2-105	V2-115
V1-12	V1-76	V2-96	V2-106	V3-119
V1-13	V1-77	V2-99	V2-108	V3-120
V1-31	V2-87	V2-100	V2-109	V3-121
V1-33	V2-88	V2-101	V2-110	V3-133
V1-46	V2-90	V2-102	V2-112	
V1-51	V2-92	V2-103	V2-113	

<sup>1</sup> For detail, please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2.7 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

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

The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I<sup>2</sup> (see also, Section 4 "Environmental Baseline", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives" and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

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

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSEs for the Eastern and Midland Region. The County Development Plan will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions, such as

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

Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

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

## Section 3 SEA Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

The preparation of the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Alterations, SEA, AA and SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the Plan.

### 3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

#### 3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA are being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, including the Proposed Material Alterations. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The emerging conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>3</sup>. The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA. The Proposed Material Alterations are accompanied by an AA Natura Impact Report, which has informed this SEA Environmental Report.

#### 3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

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

##### Scoping

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

##### Baseline

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

##### Alternatives

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

##### Impact assessment

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

##### Mitigation and monitoring

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

##### Reporting

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

##### Communication and consultation

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

### 3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

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

<sup>3</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative

reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

process, the findings of which include an SFRA report that accompanies the amendments, has informed this report.

### 3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA of the Plan together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive<sup>4</sup>.

All relevant environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council (as part of the SEA scoping process at pre-Draft Plan stage) indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council<sup>5</sup>.

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

### 3.5 Alternatives

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

## 3.6 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely significant effects of the Proposed Material Alterations.

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

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

This Environmental Report has been informed by recommendations contained in submissions to date. The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan taking into account, among other things, the content of this SEA Environmental Report.

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> The following authorities were notified: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the

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

### **3.7 SEA Statement**

On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement will be prepared that will include information on:

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



**Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report**

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

## Section 4 Environmental Baseline

### 4.1 Introduction

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

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making<sup>6</sup>.

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

### 4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

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

#### Environmental Policy Position

A national policy position for Ireland's Environment.

#### Full implementation

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

#### Health and Wellbeing

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

#### Climate

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

#### Air Quality

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

#### Nature

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

#### Water Quality

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

#### Marine

Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.

#### Clean Energy

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

#### Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

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

#### Water Services

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

#### Circular Economy

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

#### Land Use

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required

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

### 4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

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

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

### 4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan and associated Material Alterations

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

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

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

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

- sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
- Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.
  - Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
  - Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
  - Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
  - Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
  - Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
  - Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.
  - Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
  - Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.
  - Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.
  - In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:
    - Sustainable compact growth;
    - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
    - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
    - Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and
- Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
  - Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.
  - Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
  - Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.

As a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on all environmental components occurring, including:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
  - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
  - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
  - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions

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

## 4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services<sup>7</sup>

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

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

hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values<sup>8</sup>.

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

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

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate:

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

<sup>7</sup> This section includes content taken from the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly, 2019)

<sup>8</sup> <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

## 4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

### 4.6.1 Introduction

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

### 4.6.2 Overview of High Value Biodiversity and Designations

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

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

Ecological designations in County Wicklow include:

- Special Protection Areas<sup>9</sup>;
- Special Areas of Conservation<sup>10</sup>;
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas<sup>11</sup>;
- Nature Reserves<sup>12</sup>;
- National Park<sup>13</sup>;
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas<sup>14</sup>;
- Salmonid Rivers identified by Regulations (S.I. 293 only)<sup>15</sup>;
- Wildfowl Sanctuaries<sup>16</sup>;
- Flora Protection Order sites<sup>17</sup>;
- Tree Preservation Orders and Trees, group of trees and woodlands<sup>18</sup>;
- Tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site<sup>19</sup>; and
- Special Amenity Area Order area<sup>20</sup>.

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

### 4.6.3 European Sites

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

- Special Areas of Conservation<sup>21</sup> (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas<sup>22</sup> (SPAs).

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

<sup>9</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

<sup>10</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

<sup>11</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.4.

<sup>12</sup> For more details refer to Section 4.6.8.

<sup>13</sup> For more details refer to Section 4.6.8.

<sup>14</sup> For more detail refer to Sections 4.6.6 and 4.9.7.

<sup>15</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.7.

<sup>16</sup> Areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are two Wildfowl Sanctuaries within or partially within the Plan area: Broad Lough (WFS-58) and Poulaphouca (WFS-59).

<sup>17</sup> The Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). There are 19 locations within the Plan area with a number of species protected by the Order, including: north-west of Sally Gap (*Brachydontium trichodes*); Lough Bray (*Pallavicinia lyellii*); Enniskerry (*Fissidens rufulus*); Glendasan (*Cephaloziella nicholsonii*); and Tigroney West (*Cephaloziella nicholsonii*).

<sup>18</sup> Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) have been made for certain trees, groups of trees and woodlands (shown on Figure 4.23) and are identified in the County Development Plan. For more detail refer to Section **Error! Reference source not found.**

<sup>19</sup> For more details refer to Section 4.12.1.

<sup>20</sup> A Special Amenity Area Order (SAAO) is designed to protect areas that are of particularly high amenity value, which are sensitive to

intense development pressure and which cannot be adequately protected by existing planning controls. For more details refer to 4.13.

<sup>21</sup> SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

<sup>22</sup> SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

designated within the County and these include:

- Ballyman Glen SAC<sup>23</sup> (000713);
- Bray Head SAC<sup>24</sup> (000714);
- Glen of the Downs SAC<sup>25</sup> (000719);
- Knocksink Wood SAC<sup>26</sup> (000725);
- Wicklow Mountains SAC<sup>27</sup> (002122);
- Buckroney-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC<sup>28</sup> (000729);
- Carriggower Bog SAC<sup>29</sup> (000716);
- Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC<sup>30</sup> (000717);
- Holdenstown Bog SAC<sup>31</sup> (001757);
- Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC<sup>32</sup> (001742);
- Magherabeg Dunes SAC<sup>33</sup> (001766);
- Slaney River Valley SAC<sup>34</sup> (000781);
- The Murrrough Wetlands SAC<sup>35</sup> (002249);
- Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC<sup>36</sup> (000733);
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA<sup>37</sup> (004063);
- Wicklow Head SPA<sup>38</sup> (004127);
- The Murrrough SPA<sup>39</sup> (004186); and
- Wicklow Mountains SPA<sup>40</sup> (004040).

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

- Wicklow Reef SAC<sup>41</sup> (002274);
- Glenasmole Valley SAC<sup>42</sup> (001209);
- Red Bog, Kildare SAC<sup>43</sup> (000397);
- South Dublin Bay SAC<sup>44</sup> (000210);

- Pollardstown Fen SAC<sup>45</sup> (000396);
- Blackstairs Mountains SAC<sup>46</sup> (000770);
- Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC<sup>47</sup> (001398);
- River Barrow And River Nore SAC<sup>48</sup> (002162);
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC<sup>49</sup> (003000);
- North Dublin Bay SAC<sup>50</sup> (000206);
- North Bull Island SPA<sup>51</sup> (004006)
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA<sup>52</sup> (004040); and
- Dalkey Islands SPA<sup>53</sup> (004172).

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

- The Raven SPA<sup>54</sup> (004019);
- Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA<sup>55</sup> (004076); and
- Lower River Suir SAC<sup>56</sup> (002137).

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

<sup>23</sup> Sensitive features include: petrifying springs and alkaline fens.

<sup>24</sup> Sensitive features include: vegetated sea cliffs; and dry heath.

<sup>25</sup> Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

<sup>26</sup> Sensitive features include: petrifying springs; old oak woodlands; and alluvial forests.

<sup>27</sup> Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals; dystrophic lakes; wet heath; dry heath; alpine and subalpine heaths; calamarian grassland; species-rich nardus grassland; blanket bogs; siliceous scree; calcareous rocky slopes; siliceous rocky slopes; old oak woodlands; and otter.

<sup>28</sup> Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Mediterranean salt meadows; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; decalcified dune heath; dunes with creeping willow; humid dune slacks; and alkaline fens.

<sup>29</sup> Sensitive features include: transition mires.

<sup>30</sup> Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

<sup>31</sup> Sensitive features include: transition mires.

<sup>32</sup> Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; and decalcified dune heath.

<sup>33</sup> Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; and petrifying springs.

<sup>34</sup> Sensitive features include: estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; freshwater pearl mussel; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; twaite shad; Atlantic salmon; otter; and common seal.

<sup>35</sup> Sensitive features include: annual vegetation of drift lines; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; cladium fens; and alkaline fens.

<sup>36</sup> Sensitive features include: old oak woodlands.

<sup>37</sup> Sensitive features include: greylag goose; and lesser black-backed gull.

<sup>38</sup> Sensitive features include: Black-legged Kittiwake; Common guillemot; Peregrine falcon; and Razorbill.

<sup>39</sup> Sensitive features include: red-throated diver; greylag goose; light-bellied brent goose; wigeon; teal; black-headed gull; herring gull; little tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>40</sup> Sensitive features include: merlin; and peregrine.

<sup>41</sup> Sensitive feature comprises reefs.

<sup>42</sup> Sensitive features include: semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; and petrifying springs with tufa formation.

<sup>43</sup> Sensitive features include: transition mires; and quaking bogs.

<sup>44</sup> Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; annual vegetation of drift lines; salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; and embryonic shifting dunes.

<sup>45</sup> Sensitive features include: fens; petrifying springs; alkaline fens; Geyer's whorl snail; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; and Desmoulin's whorl snail.

<sup>46</sup> Sensitive features include: wet heath; and dry heath.

<sup>47</sup> Sensitive features include petrifying springs; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; and Desmoulin's whorl snail.

<sup>48</sup> Sensitive features include: estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; reefs; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; dry heath; hydrophilous tall herb communities; petrifying springs; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; Desmoulin's whorl snail; freshwater pearl mussel; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; twaite shad; Atlantic salmon; otter; Killarney fern; and Nore freshwater pearl mussel.

<sup>49</sup> Sensitive features include: reefs and harbour porpoise.

<sup>50</sup> Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; annual vegetation of drift lines; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; humid dune slacks; and petalwort.

<sup>51</sup> Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; shelduck; teal; pintail; shoveler; oystercatcher; golden plover; grey plover; knot; sanderling; dunlin; black-tailed godwit; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; turnstone; black-headed gull; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>52</sup> Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; oystercatcher; ringed plover; grey plover; knot; sanderling; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; redshank; black-headed gull; roseate tern; common tern; Arctic tern; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>53</sup> Sensitive features include: roseate tern; common tern; and Arctic tern.

<sup>54</sup> Sensitive features include: red-throated diver; cormorant; common scoter; grey plover; sanderling; Greenland white-fronted goose; and wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>55</sup> Sensitive features include: little grebe; grey heron; whooper swan; wigeon; teal; mallard; scaup; grey plover; knot; dunlin; little tern; wetland and waterbirds.

<sup>56</sup> Sensitive features include: Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; hydrophilous tall herb communities; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; yew woodlands; freshwater pearl mussel; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; twaite shad; Atlantic salmon and otter.

#### 4.6.4 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

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

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

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

#### 4.6.5 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE<sup>57</sup> land cover mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.4. The most dominant land cover types are pastures throughout the County and peat bogs in the centre of the County.

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

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

#### 4.6.6 Register of Protected Areas

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

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

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

There are also a number of water dependent habitats in the County which have been listed

<sup>57</sup> The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including

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



on RPAs – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3).

#### 4.6.7 Salmonid Waters

The Salmonid Regulations (S.I. 293/1988) designate the waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected. 34 (no.) rivers, tributaries and lakes are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Sections of the Rivers Slaney, Dargle and Vartry are listed under the Regulations.

#### 4.6.8 Other Designations

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

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

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

- Slaney – Bann (catchments of other extant populations) and
- Slaney Lower (catchments of other extant populations).

Twenty-seven Management Plans for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel have been published, the objective of which is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation. The Derreen Sub-Basin Management Plan relates to part of County Wicklow, the Derreen being a tributary of the River Slaney.<sup>58</sup>

'National Parks' have the following characteristics:

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

There are six National Parks in Ireland including the Wicklow Mountains National Park located within the central parts of the County. The Wicklow Mountains National Park covers part of a mountain range (over 17,000 hectares) that extends over most of the County. The park contains a range of habitats including: blanket bogs, woodlands, rivers and lakes. Liffey Head bog beside Kippure in the Park is an example of a blanket bog which supports a variety protected species. The Park contains both deciduous and coniferous woodland including those located in the Derrybawn and Glendalough area which comprise of native species such as holly, rowan, ash and hazel. Many glacial formed lakes occur in the area and the River Liffey and Dodder rise in the National Park.<sup>59</sup>

**Nature Reserves** are areas of importance to wildlife, protected under Ministerial order. There are currently 78 Statutory Nature Reserves in Ireland. Most are owned by the State but some are owned by organisations or private landowners. There are six State owned

<sup>58</sup> Draft Wicklow CDP

<sup>59</sup> Source: www.npws.ie

Nature Reserves located within the County: Knocksink Wood Nature Reserve, in the north; Glen of the Downs Nature Reserve, in the north-east; Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve, in the east; Vale of Clara Nature Reserve, in the east; Glenealo Valley Nature Reserve, in the Wicklow Mountains; and Glendalough Nature Reserve, in the Wicklow Mountains.

#### 4.6.9 Other Sites of Ecological Importance

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

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

Public parks and open spaces within the County are important for biodiversity in urban settings.<sup>60</sup> These spaces provide habitat for birds, insects and small mammals. Parks also support numerous plants, hedgerows and woodlands, acting as wildlife corridors, connecting habitats in the area.

BirdWatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve at Blackditch Wood (Newcastle) includes a variety of habitats (such as a rare fen, wet grasslands and birch woodland) and provides an important refuge for many plants and birds within a larger coastal wetland complex (Murrrough Wetlands). There are also three BirdWatch Ireland Important Bird Areas (IBAs)<sup>61</sup> in County Wicklow: North Wicklow coastal marshes; Wicklow Mountains and Poulaphouca Reservoir.

Wetland areas in County Wicklow include a range of high biodiversity value habitats, such

as bogs, heaths, transition mires, springs, fens, wet woodlands, lakes and ponds. Peatlands are unique systems comprising of peat soil providing as significant carbon stores and supporting a range of unique species. Most of the peatlands found in County Wicklow are mountain blanket bogs. The best developed areas of this type of habitat occur around Kippure and Sally Gap, however there are also a number of other extensive sites such as Table Mountain and Ballynultagh. Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

The wetland survey of County Wicklow<sup>62</sup> investigated 56 freshwater wetland areas as well as sites with a significant area of wetland habitats with the potential to support breeding populations of marsh fritillary butterfly. All surveyed sites were ranked according to their conservation value/importance. Many important wetland sites were identified during the survey (of high local importance or greater), including three transition mires, three new breeding sites for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and a new area of Schoenus rich alkaline fen with tufa springs. These habitats and species are listed under the EU Habitats Directive as habitats or species of conservation importance. The results of the survey indicated that many important wetlands sites remain un-identified throughout the County and further surveys will be required to complete the inventory of wetland sites in County Wicklow.

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

#### 4.6.10 Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-

<sup>60</sup> Urban habitat mapping was carried out in Arklow, Wicklow Town and Bray as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan (2004-2009).

<sup>61</sup> The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Programme is a BirdLife International initiative aimed at identifying and protecting a network of critical sites for the conservation of the world's birds.

<sup>62</sup> *Wicklow County Council and The Heritage Council (2012) The County Wicklow Wetland Survey II..*

protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report comprise:

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

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

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

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

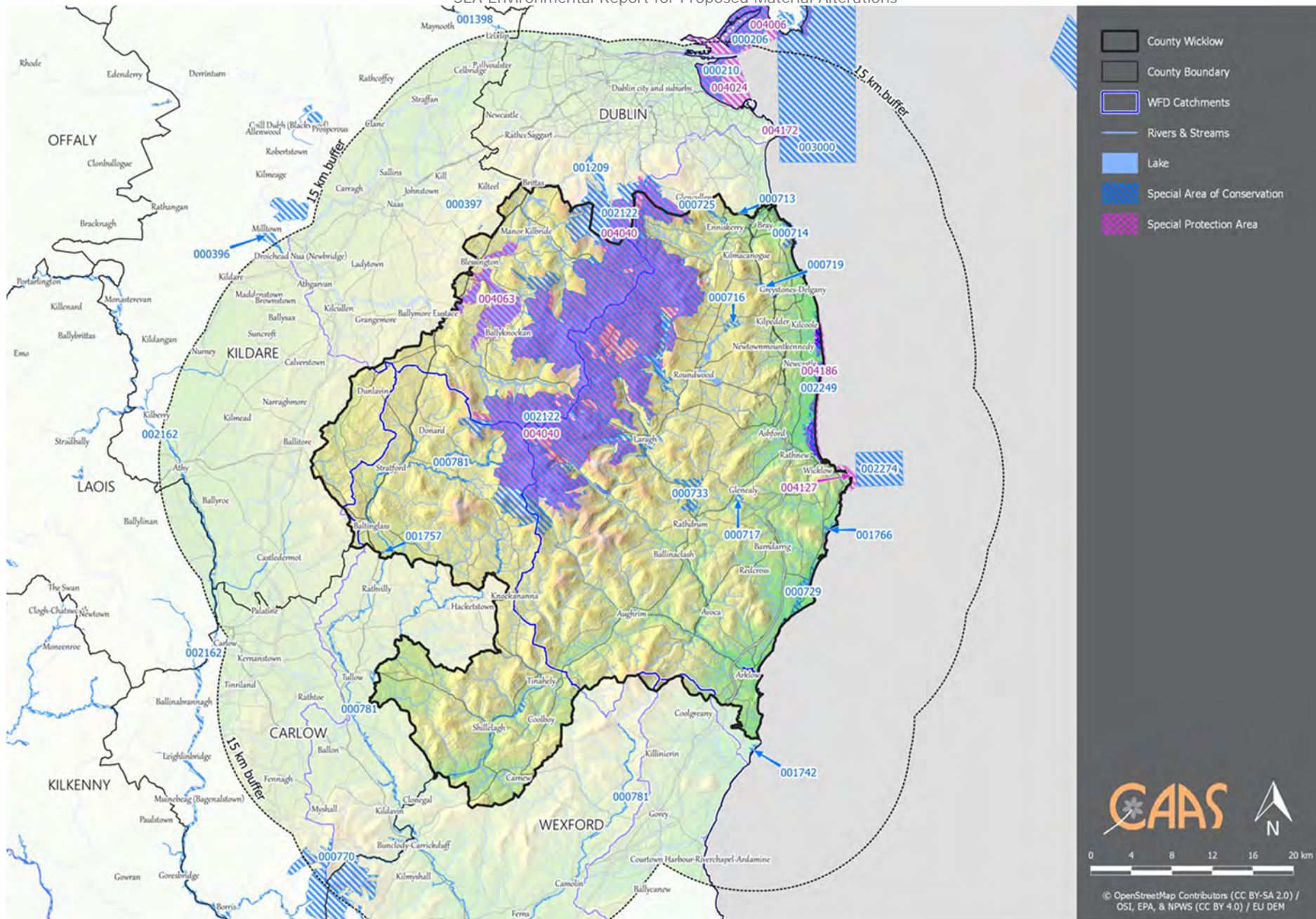
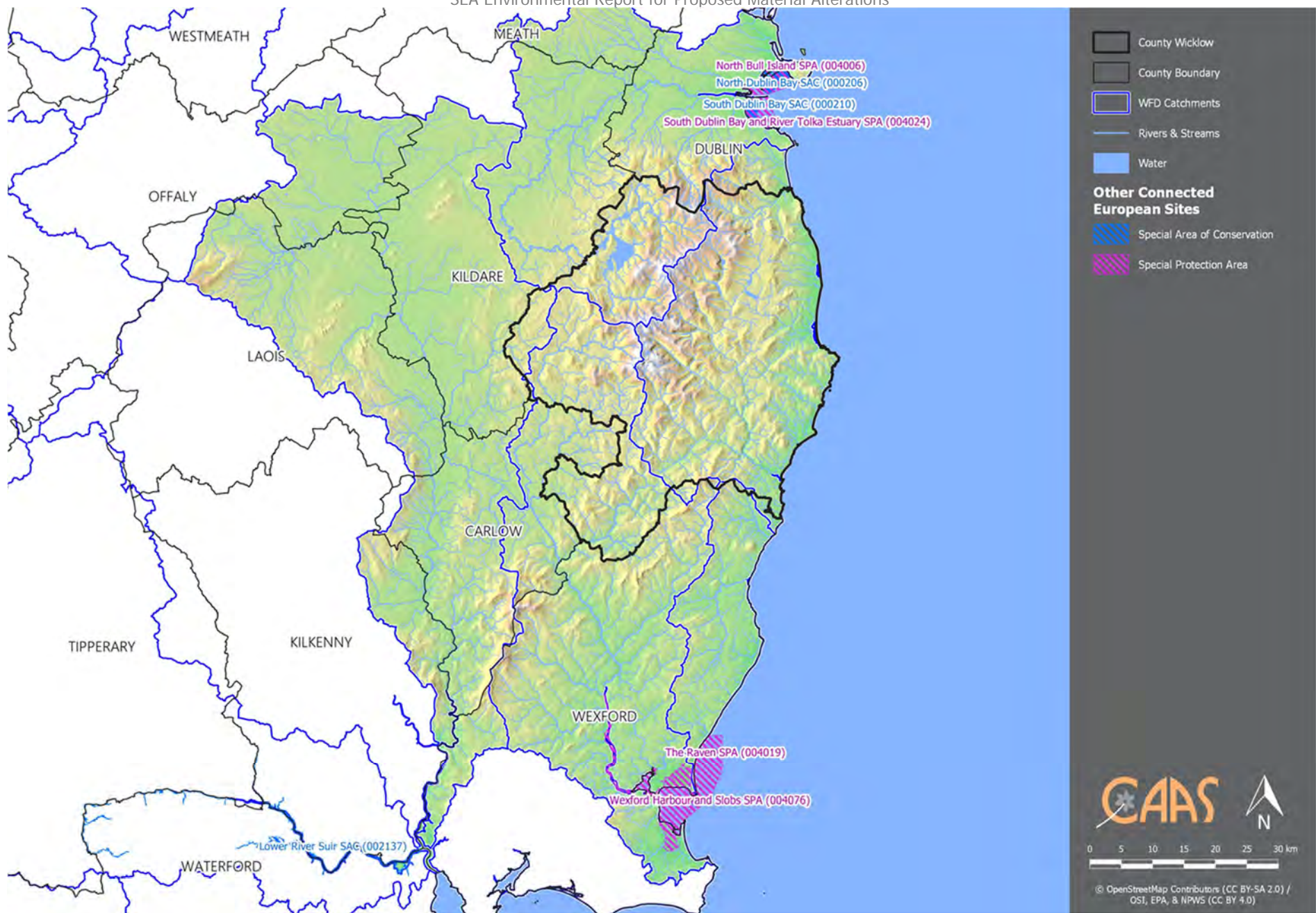


Figure 4.1 European sites within and within 15 km of the County

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



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

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

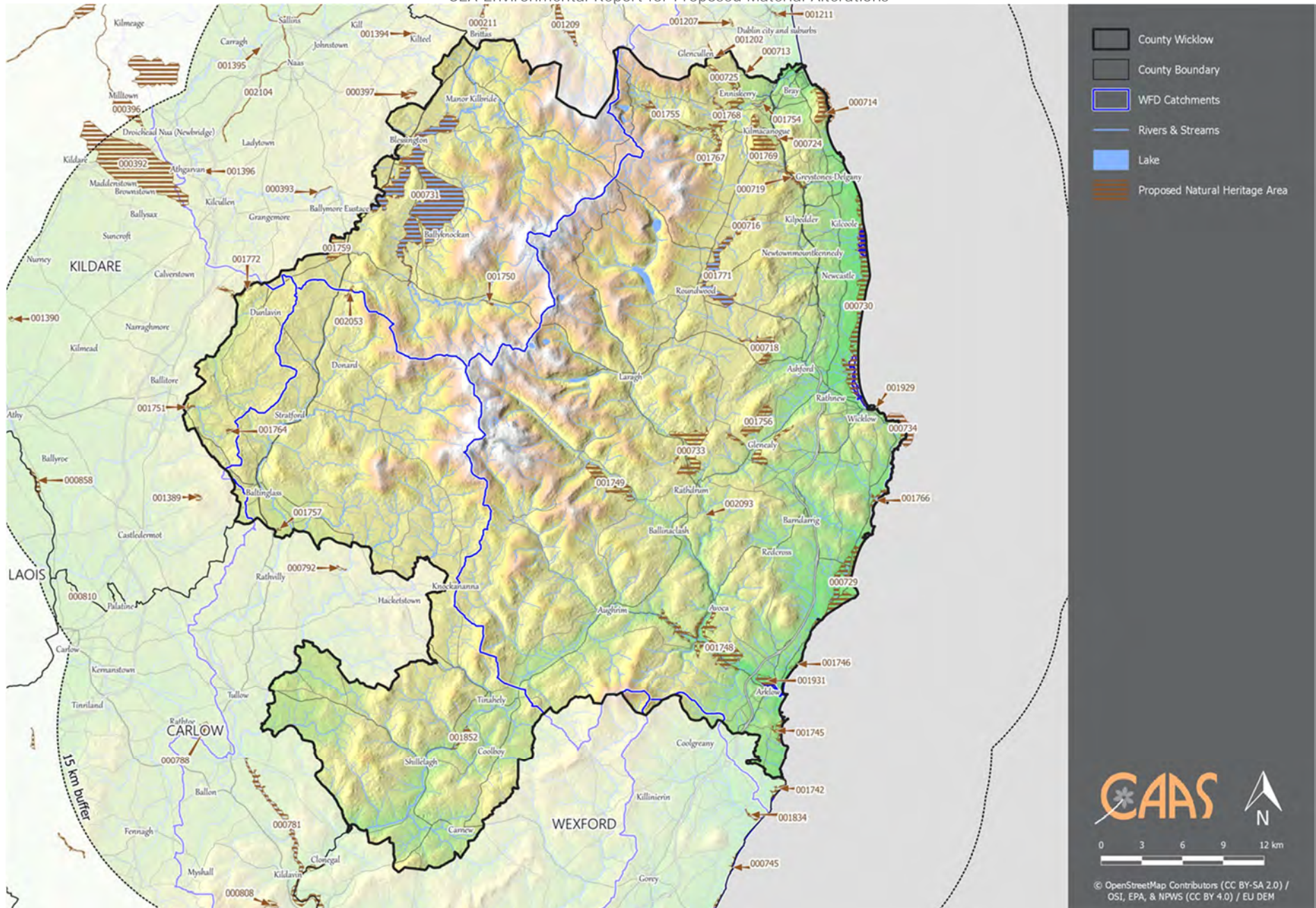


Figure 4.3 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas within and within 15 km of the County

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

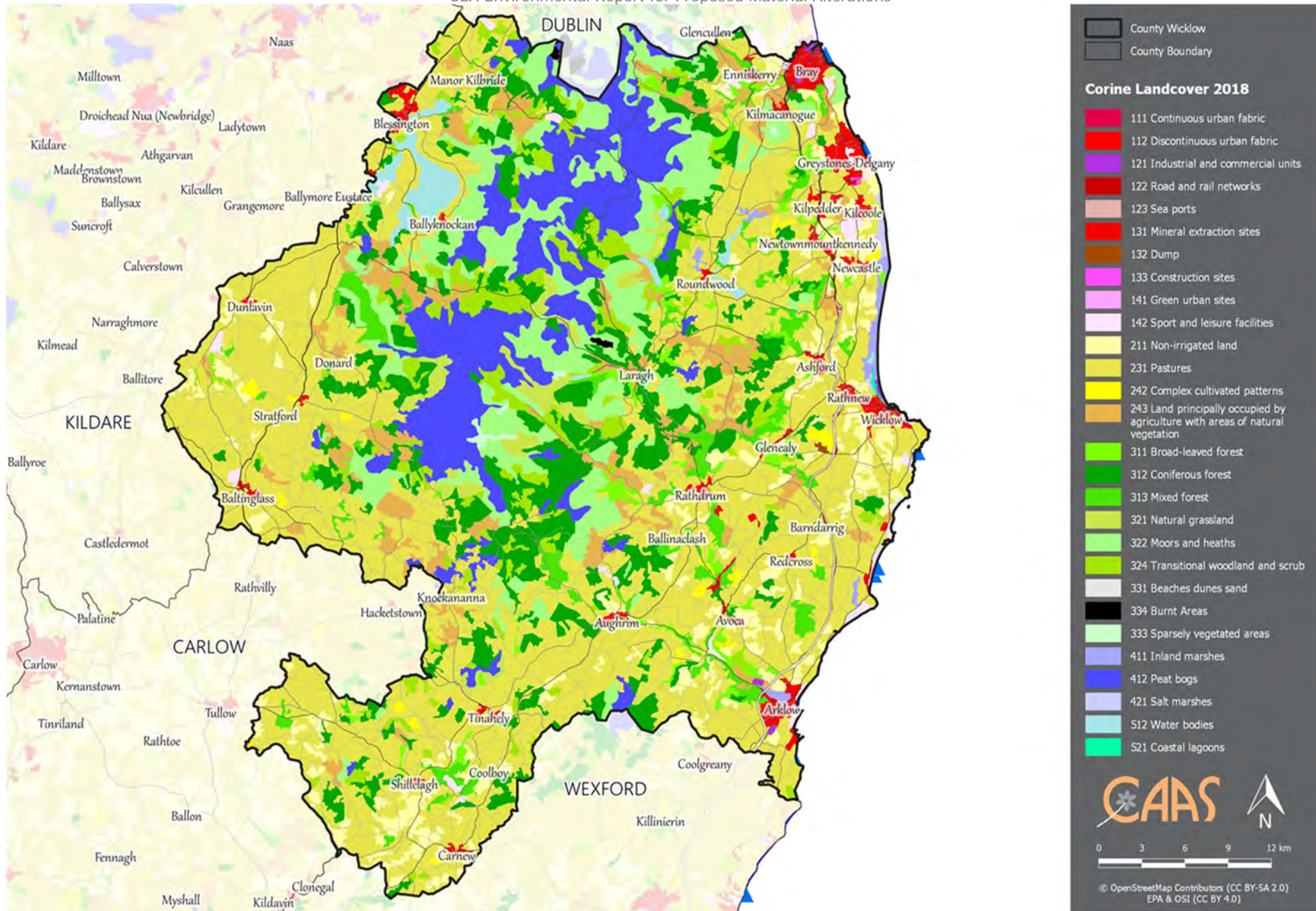


Figure 4.4 CORINE Land Cover 2018

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

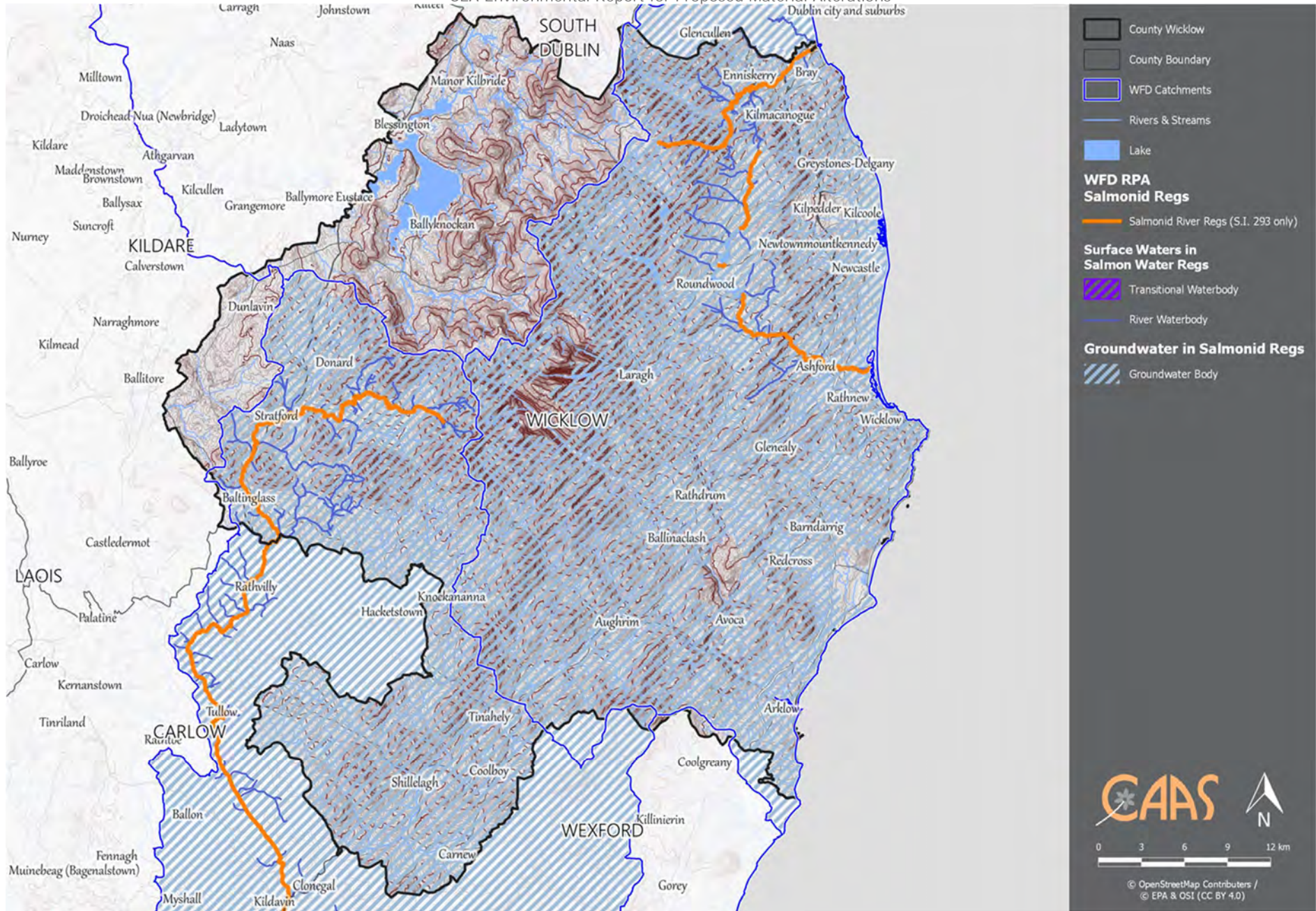


Figure 4.5 WFD Register of Protected Areas

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



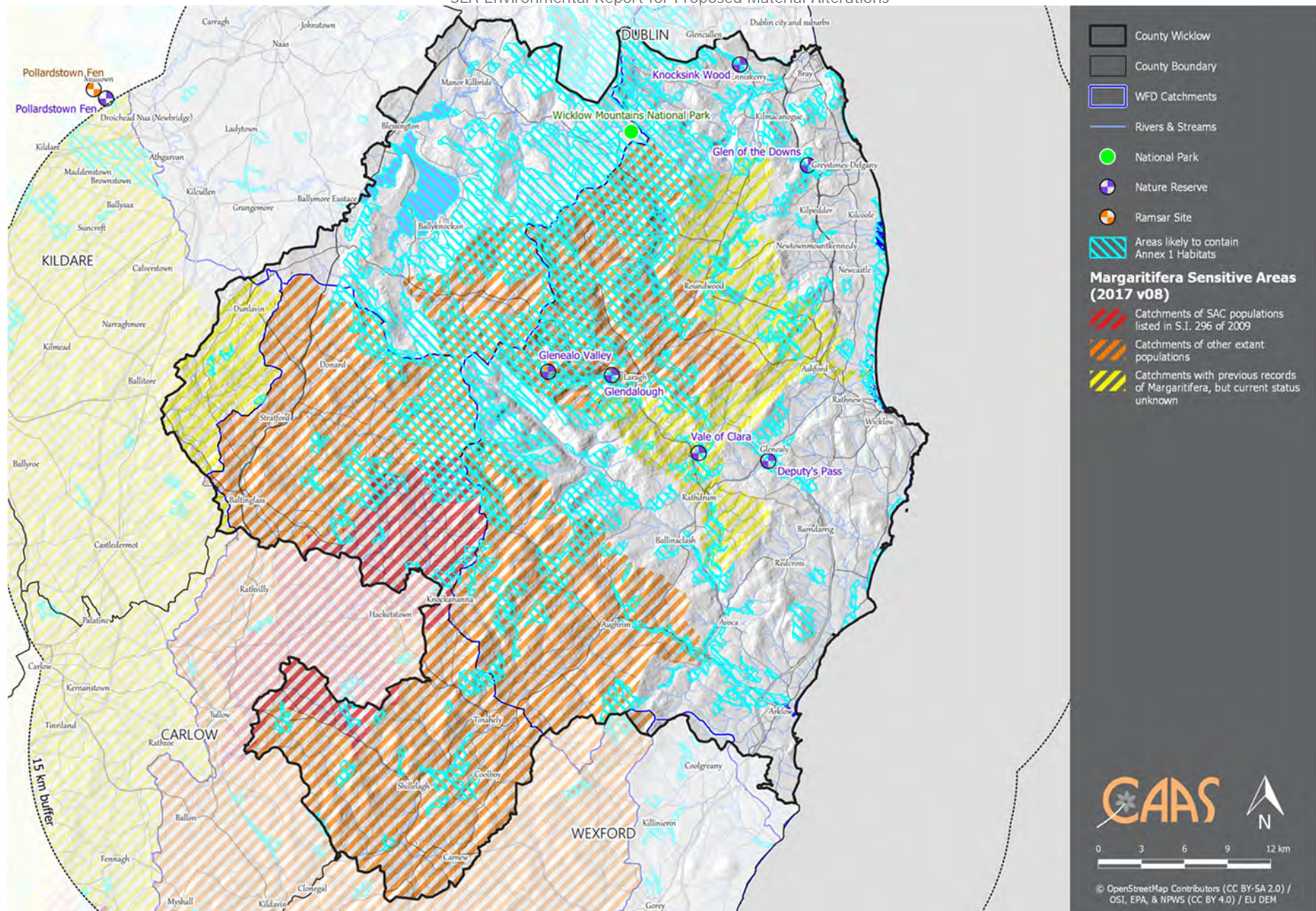


Figure 4.6 Other Ecological Designations within and within 15 km of the County

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

## 4.7 Population and Human Health

### 4.7.1 Population

In the 2016 Census the total population of Wicklow was identified as being of 142,425 persons, an increase in total population in the County by c. 4% (c. 5,785 persons) since the previous census. The population growth targets for the County for 2026 and 2031 are 155,000 - 157,500 and 160,500 – 164,000 respectively.<sup>63</sup>

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

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

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

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

The new population provided for in the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations

relate, will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

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

### 4.7.2 Human Health

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

### 4.7.3 Existing Problems

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

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country<sup>64</sup>.

<sup>63</sup> Draft Wicklow County Development Plan

<sup>64</sup> Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

Information on the status of groundwaters and surface waters is provided under Section 4.9 while compliance issues in relation to water services are detailed under Section 4.11.10.

## 4.8 Soil

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

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

Blanket peat and peaty soils (mainly in the central and north-western upland parts of the County) and brown earths<sup>65</sup> (occupying most of the southern, eastern and western parts of the County) are the two most dominant soil types in the County (shown on Figure 4.7). Other soil types identified include:

- Lithosol soils<sup>66</sup> (along the central upland and north-western areas of the County)
- Alluvial soils<sup>67</sup> (in the flood plains of rivers and streams and coastal areas);
- Groundwater gleys<sup>68</sup> (in the south-west of the County and coastal areas in the north-east);
- Surface Water Gleys (stretching along the coastline in the south-east of the County);

- Podzols<sup>69</sup> (in the central, uplands areas of the County);
- Brown podzols<sup>70</sup> (throughout the County); and
- Luvisols<sup>71</sup> (mainly along the west and north-west of the County).

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

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

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

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

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

### 4.8.1 Geological Sites

Geological Survey of Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Wicklow was completed in 2014 and identifies 62 County Geological Sites<sup>72</sup>. Concentrations of these designations can be found in the upland areas and along the coast, (mapped on Figure 4.8). County Geological Sites within the Plan area are shown on Table 4.1 below.

<sup>65</sup> Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

<sup>66</sup> Shallow soils, consisting of partially weathered rock fragments.

<sup>67</sup> These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

<sup>68</sup> Surface water gleys and groundwater gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

<sup>69</sup> Podzol soils are Infertile acidic soils with an ash-like subsurface layer associated with acid leaching typically formed under coniferous forest.

<sup>70</sup> Brown podzol soils are characterised by dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves.

<sup>71</sup> Luvisol soils are generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

<sup>72</sup> Geological Survey of Ireland (2014) *The Geological Heritage of Wicklow. An Audit of County Geological Sites in Wicklow*

**Table 4.1 County Geological Sites**

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

## 4.8.2 Potentially contaminated lands and landfill sites

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

upon human health, water quality and habitats and species.

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

## 4.8.3 Source Protection Areas

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

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

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

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

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

Public Supply Source Protection Areas (including Inner and Outer Protection Areas<sup>73</sup>) and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas<sup>74</sup> are shown on Figure 4.8.

#### 4.8.4 Landslides

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

The County has numerous locations with a history of landslide events<sup>75</sup> (shown on Figure 4.9). Many of these events are associated with the upland peatland areas in the Wicklow Mountains and coastal areas.

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

#### 4.8.5 Existing Problems

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

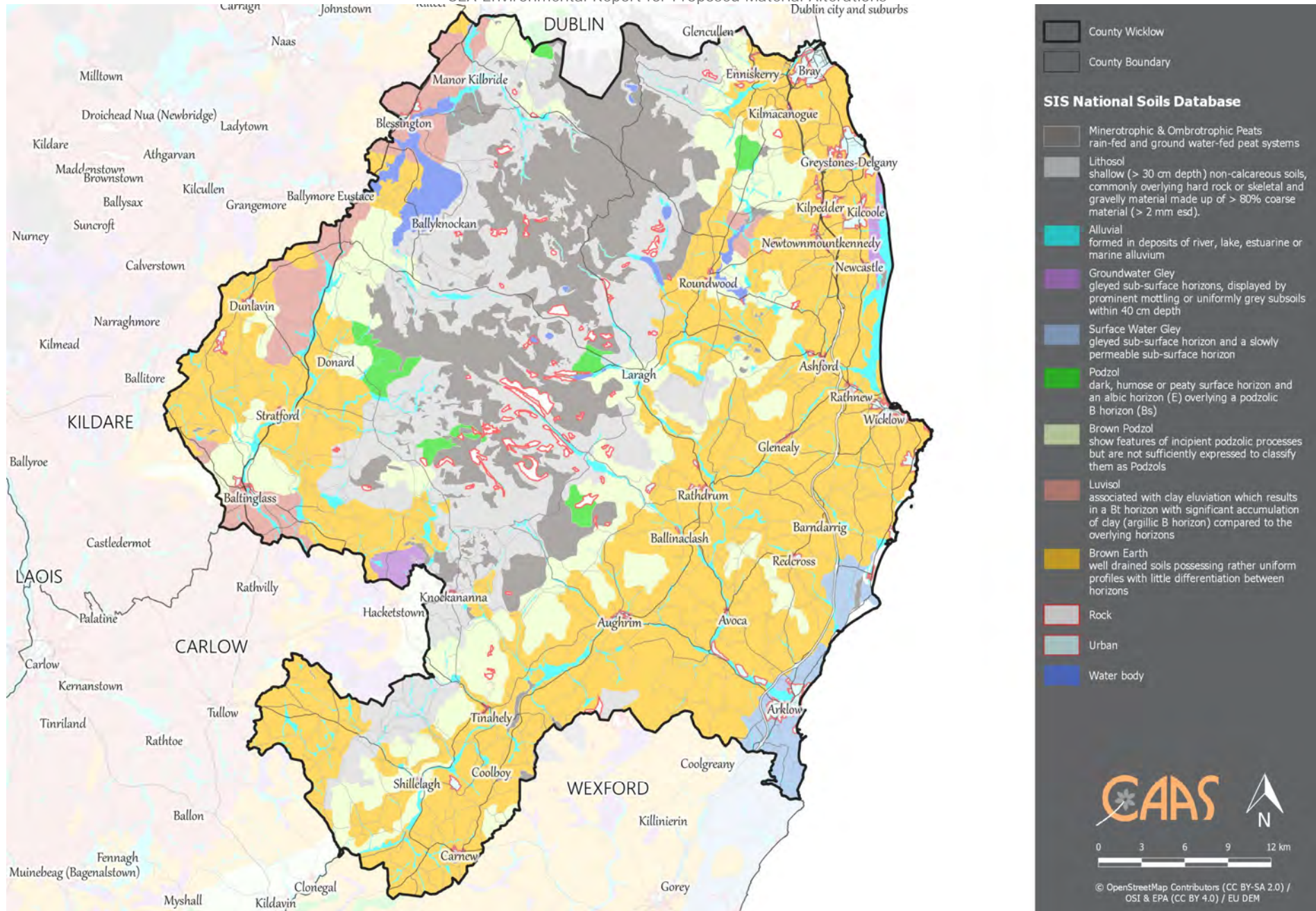
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<sup>73</sup> The Zone of Contribution is the land area that contributes water to the well or spring. The Inner Protection Area (SI) is designed to protect against the effects of human activities that might have an immediate effect on the source and, in particular, against microbial pollution. The Outer Protection Area (SO) is encompassing the remainder of the zone of contribution to the groundwater abstraction point (e.g. borehole or spring).

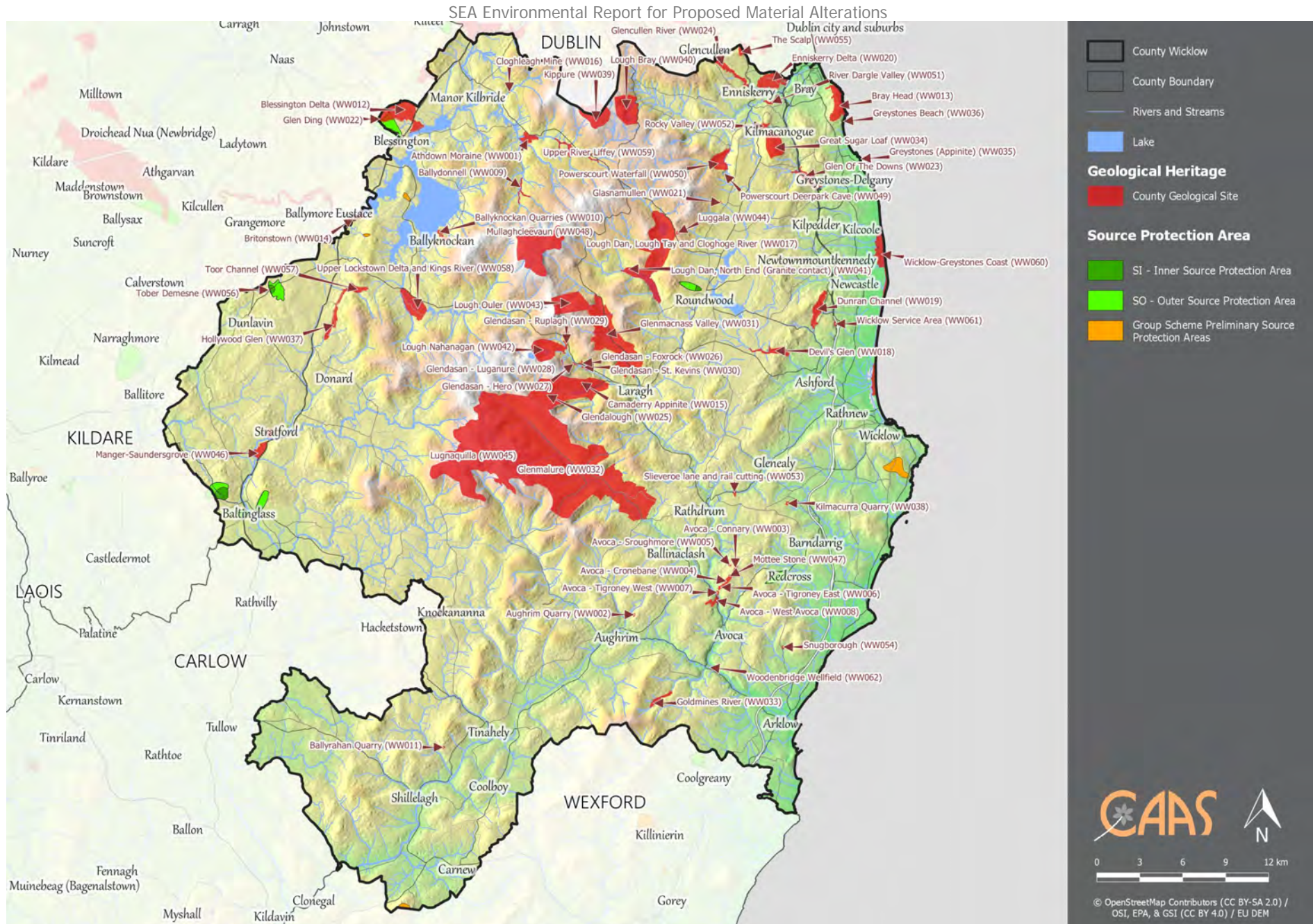
<sup>74</sup> The Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas comprises Zones of Contribution to groundwater abstraction points that supply Group Water Schemes across Ireland that are affiliated to the

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

<sup>75</sup> Over 2,500 landslide events are recorded in the National Landslides Database available from GSI ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)). This dataset also includes Landslide Susceptibility Mapping to assist in the identification of areas that are likely to experience landsliding. Recorded events in the County include: Bollarney (2009); Magheramore Beach (2016); Greystones (2002); Hazelwood Crescent landfill (2016); and Glen of the downs rockfall (2016) Date records are not available for all landslide events mapped on Figure 4.9.

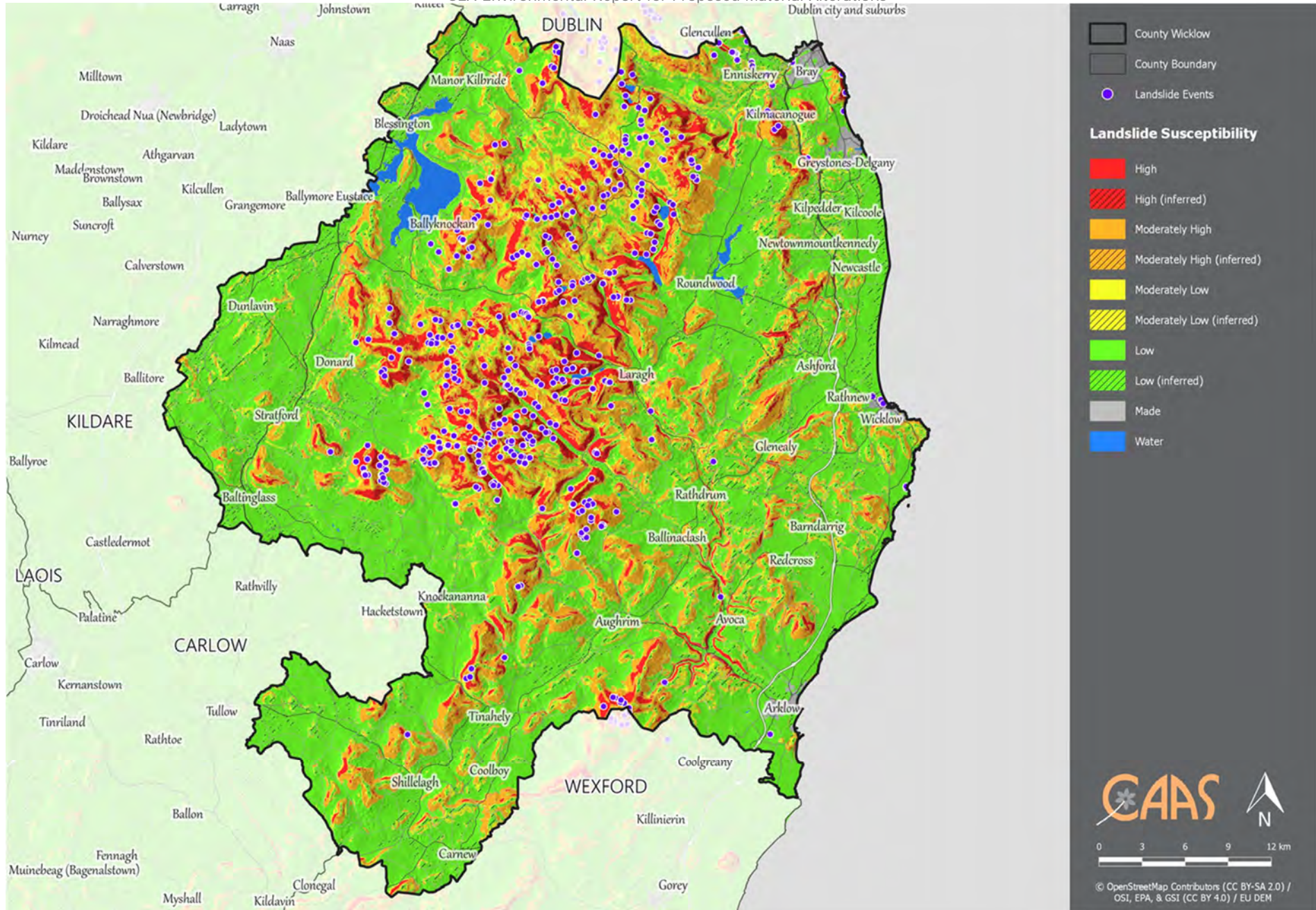


**Figure 4.7 Soil Type**  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.8 County Geological Sites and Source Protection Areas**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.9 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events**  
 CAAS for Wicklow County Council



## 4.9 Water

### 4.9.1 The Water Framework Directive

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

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

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

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

### 4.9.2 Zone of Influence

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

### 4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

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

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

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

### 4.9.4 Surface Water Status

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

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

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

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

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

*good* and *high*, however sections<sup>76</sup> of rivers (including: Newtownmountkenedy; Rathnew; Avonbeg; Brown's Beck Brook; and Ballyduff Stream) are identified as *poor* and the Avoca River is identified as *bad* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

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

Significant pressures, those pressures which need to be addressed in order to improve water quality, have been identified<sup>77</sup> for waterbodies that are 'At Risk' of not meeting their water quality objectives under the WFD. Significant pressures for surface water bodies within or adjacent to County Wicklow are identified on Table 4.2. There are various types of pressures identified, such as:

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

<sup>76</sup> As per EPA classification system ([gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps](http://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps))

<sup>77</sup> EPA (2019): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018

Table 4.2 WFD River , Lake, Transitional and Coastal Waterbodies Status<sup>78</sup>

Waterbody Name <sup>79</sup>	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) <sup>80</sup>
Avoca_020	River	<b>Bad</b> - due to bad ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being an <b>historically polluted site</b> .
Avoca_010	River	<b>Bad</b> - due to bad ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being an <b>historically polluted site</b> .
Rathnew Stream_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Newtownmountkennedy_020	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban wastewater sources</b> .
Greese_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Brown's Beck Brook_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Ballyduff Stream (Wicklow)_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and urban wastewater sources</b> .
Avonbeg_030	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Askinch Upper Stream_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources</b> .
Slaney_060	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban run-off sources</b> .
Slaney_050	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources</b> .
Rosnastraw Stream_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and forestry sources</b> .
Potter's_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural, extractive industry, forestry and hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources</b> .
Newcastle (Wicklow)_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban wastewater sources</b> .
Liffey_060	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources</b> .
Liffey_050	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic and urban wastewater sources</b> .
Liffey_040	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic and urban wastewater sources</b> .
Liffey_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources</b> .
Lask_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic</b> .
King's (Liffey)_020	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>forestry sources</b> .
King's (Liffey)_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>forestry sources</b> .
Kilmacanoge_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban run-off and urban wastewater sources</b> .
Kilcoole Stream_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban wastewater sources</b> .
Greese_020	River	<b>Moderate</b> . No pressures identified.
Graney (Lerr)_010	River	<b>Moderate</b> . No pressures identified.
Glenealo_020	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>forestry sources and is identified as an historically polluted site</b> .
Douglas (Kiltegan)_020	River	<b>Moderate</b> . This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and domestic wastewater sources</b> .

<sup>78</sup> Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

<sup>79</sup> The EPA identification code/number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the waterbody is located along the main river channel. For example, the waterbody at the source is coded '\_010', the next waterbody downstream is coded '\_020' and the final waterbody before the river becomes transitional is '\_180'.

<sup>80</sup> There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a small number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them (such as Vartry Upper Lake) and the term "*unassigned status*" applies in respect of these waterbodies. These are not included on Table 4.2.

Waterbody Name <sup>79</sup>	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) <sup>80</sup>	
Douglas (Kiltegan)_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>	
Derry_040	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>industrial sources.</b>	
Derry_030	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>	
Derry_020	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and urban wastewater sources.</b>	
Derry_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and forestry sources.</b>	
Dargle_030	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban wastewater sources.</b>	
Cloghoge Brook_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>extractive industry sources.</b>	
Brittas_020	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>	
Blacklion (Carlow)_020	Stream	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>
Blacklion (Carlow)_010	Stream	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>
Bann_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> No pressures identified.	
Ballyronan Stream_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>domestic wastewater and industrial sources.</b>	
Ballylow Brook_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>forestry sources.</b>	
Ballydonnell Brook_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>forestry sources.</b>	
Avonmore_070	River	<b>Moderate.</b> No pressures identified.	
Aughrim (Wicklow)_020	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>aquacultural sources.</b>	
Aughrim (Wicklow)_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>urban run-off sources.</b>	
Tay	Lake	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>	
Dan	Lake	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>	
Avoca Estuary	Transitional	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being an <b>historically polluted site.</b>	
Broad Lough	Transitional	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and urban wastewater sources.</b>	
Vartry_040	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Vartry_030	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified	
Vartry_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Vartry_010	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Three Mile Water_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified	
Three Mile Water_010	River	<b>Good.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agriculture sources.</b>	
Temperainy Stream_010	River	<b>Good.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>	
Slaney_070	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Slaney_030	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Shillelagh_010	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Redcross_010	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Potter's_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Ow_030	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Ow_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Ow_010	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Newtownmountkennedy_010	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Mine_020	River	<b>Good.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural and urban wastewater sources.</b>	
Little Slaney_010	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Liffey_030	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Liffey_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Lemonstown Stream_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	
Lemonstown Stream_010	River	<b>Good.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>	
Grangecon Stream_010	River	<b>Good.</b> This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from <b>agricultural sources.</b>	
Glenmacnass_020	River	<b>Good.</b> No pressures identified.	

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Waterbody Name <sup>79</sup>	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) <sup>80</sup>
Glenmacnass_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glenealo_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glendasan_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glencullen_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glencree_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Douglas (Liffey)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dodder_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dodder_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derry_050	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.
Derry Water_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derry Water_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derry Water_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_100	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_080	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_060	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_050	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derreen_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dargle_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dargle_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dargle_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Coolboy_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Coolalug Stream_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources.
Cock Brook_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Carrigower_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Carrigower_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Brittas_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bothoge_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bothoge_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballymacahara_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballycreen Brook_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballinagee_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_060	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_050	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_020	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from forestry sources.
Avonmore_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonbeg_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonbeg_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Avonbeg_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Varty Lower	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Pollaphuca	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Bray Lower	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Slaney_040	River	High. No pressures identified.
Slaney_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Slaney_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Redcross_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Knickeen_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Gold Mine_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Glencullen_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Derreen_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Coolboy_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Ballycreen Brook_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Avonmore_040	River	High. No pressures identified.
Askanagap Stream_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Upper Glendalough	Lake	High. No pressures identified.
Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay (HA10)	Coastal	High. No pressures identified.

#### 4.9.5 Ground Water

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

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

The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the County is mostly identified as being of *good* status, with areas of *poor* status in the south-east<sup>81</sup> and in the central parts of the County<sup>82</sup> (as shown on Figure 4.11).

#### 4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

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

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

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

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

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

#### 4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

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

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

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

- Surface Water and Groundwater<sup>83</sup> in Nutrient Sensitive Areas<sup>84</sup> - groundwater bodies partially underlying western fringes of the County intersect Nutrient Sensitive Areas associated with the River Barrow which flows through counties including County Carlow, as shown on Figure 4.14;
- Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies<sup>85</sup> (shown on Figure 4.15). Groundwater beneath the entire County is also included; and
- Bathing Water Areas<sup>86</sup> including surface waters and groundwater in bathing areas (shown on Figure 4.16).

<sup>81</sup> Underlying an historic mine at Avoca.

<sup>82</sup> Underlying historic mines at Glendalough and Glenmalur.

<sup>83</sup> Groundwater bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive.

<sup>84</sup> Areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and and transposing Regulations.

<sup>85</sup> Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278/2007).

<sup>86</sup> Bathing Waters are designated under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 S.I. No. 79 of 2008, as amended.

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

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

#### 4.9.8 Bathing Waters

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

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

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

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2019<sup>87</sup> shows that locations of designated bathing waters along the County's coastline are either classified as *excellent*<sup>88</sup> (at Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga) or *good*<sup>89</sup> (at Silver Strand).

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

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

#### 4.9.9 Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk of flooding from sources including groundwater, pluvial<sup>90</sup>, fluvial<sup>91</sup> and coastal<sup>92</sup>. There is historic evidence of flooding in various locations across the County, including: along the Rivers Slaney, Greese and Avonbeg; at estuarine locations on the Rivers Vartry, Avoca and Dargle; and at various locations along the coastline. Predictive OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.17<sup>93</sup>, indicating areas likely to be at most risk of flooding.

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

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

#### 4.9.10 Existing Problems

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

<sup>87</sup> EPA Report (2020) on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2019*

<sup>88</sup> The highest, cleanest class

<sup>89</sup> The second highest, second cleanest class

<sup>90</sup> Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

<sup>91</sup> Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

<sup>92</sup> Resulting from higher sea levels than normal causing the sea to overflow onto land. Such flooding is influenced by high tide level, storm surges and wave action.

<sup>93</sup> This mapping shows the likelihood of flooding from a number of sources, defined as the percentage probability of a flood occurring in any given year. For example, a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) indicates the severity of a flood that is expected to be exceeded on average once in 100 years, i.e. it has a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of occurring in any one year.

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

The most recent updates on the status of water bodies within County Wicklow show a 9% increase in waterbodies at 'Good' or 'High' status, while on average nationally there has been a 5% decline in status. In addition to Priority Areas for Action, 'Blue-Dot' catchments have been designated in the RBMP for the protection and improvement of *pristine* water quality. Wicklow has number of blue-dot catchments, but nationally there is a steady decline in the number each year. These pristine waterbodies are very sensitive to pollution or any changes in the catchment.<sup>94</sup>

The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

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

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<sup>94</sup> Draft Wicklow CDP



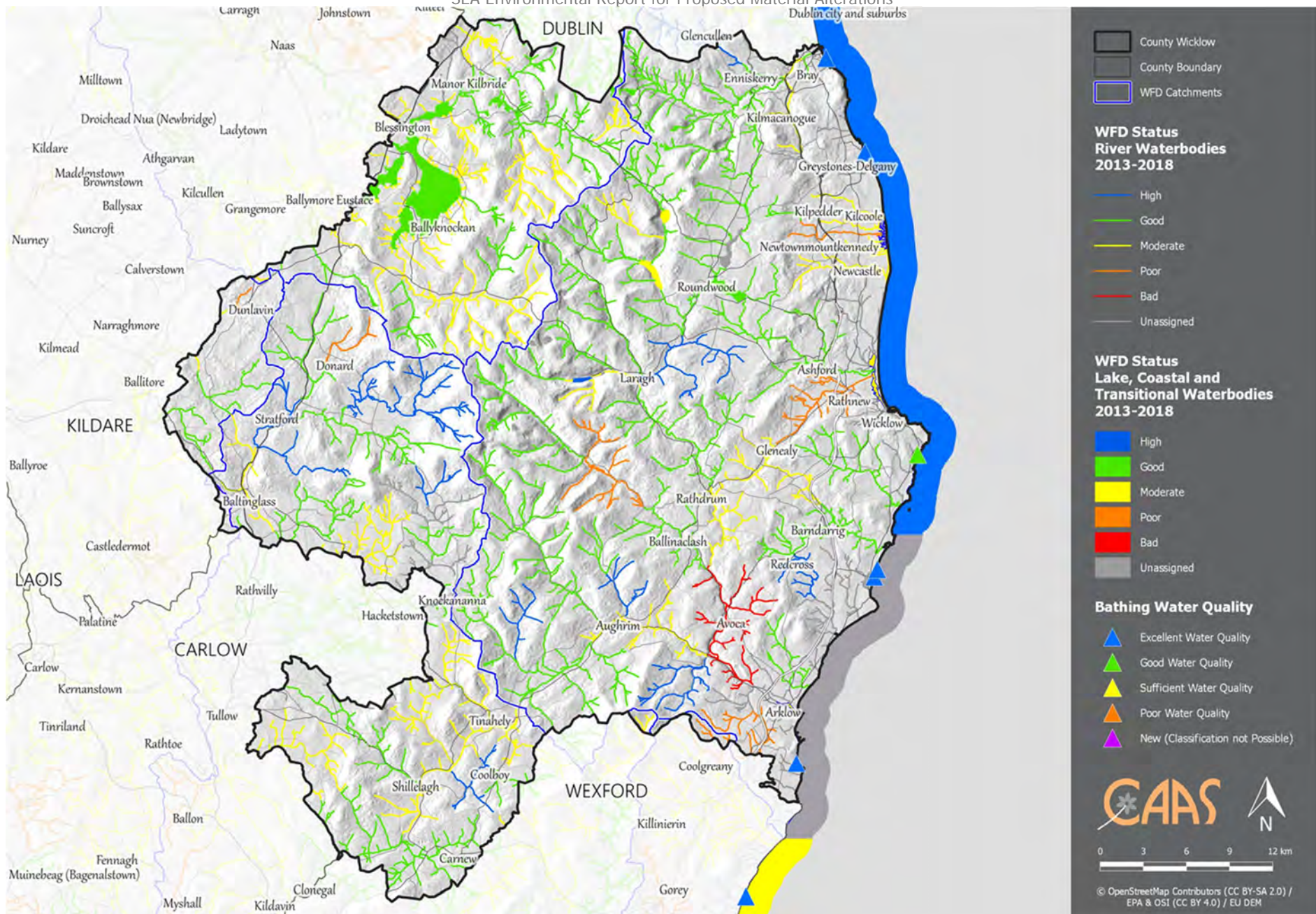


Figure 4.10 WFD Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

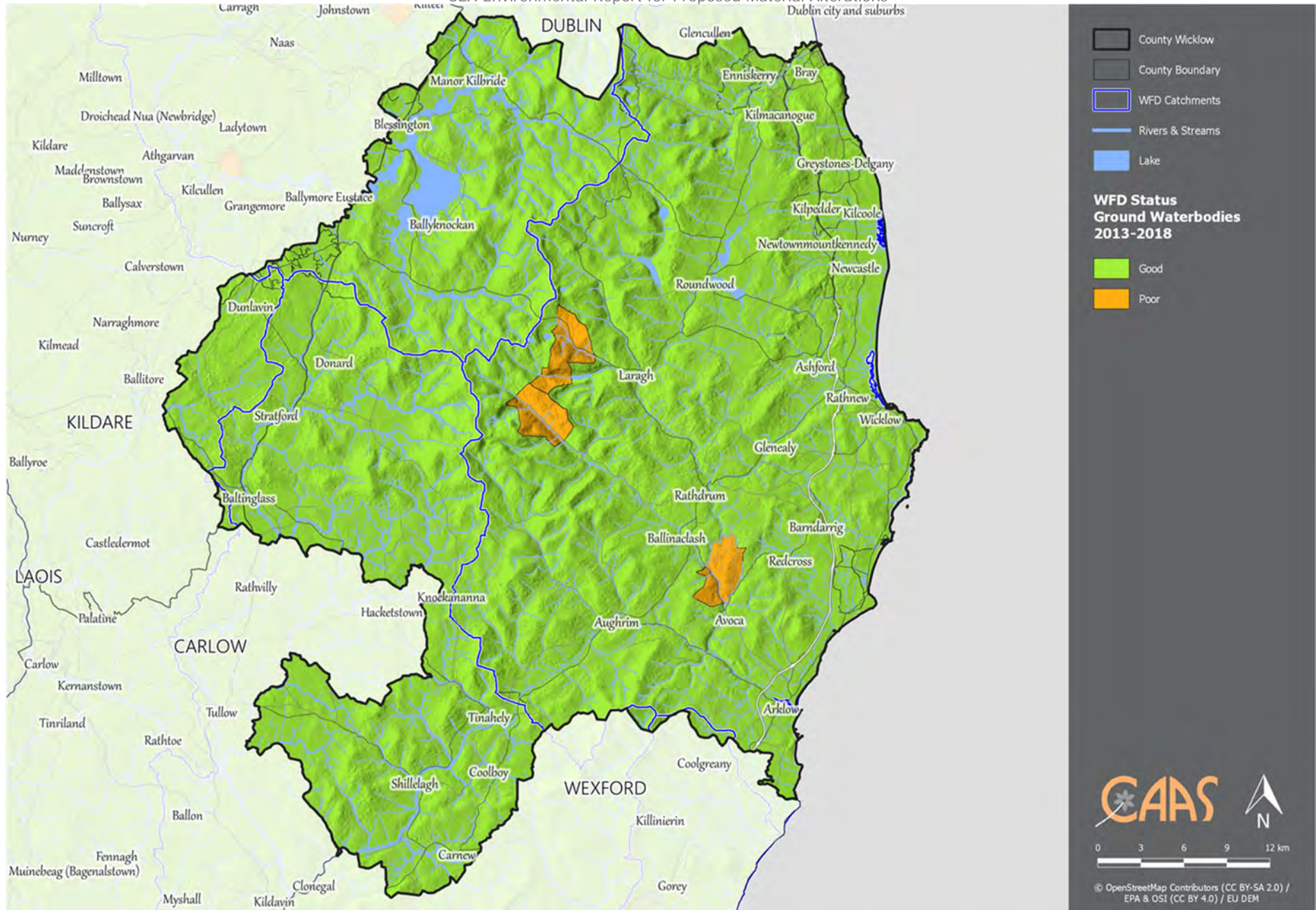


Figure 4.11 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

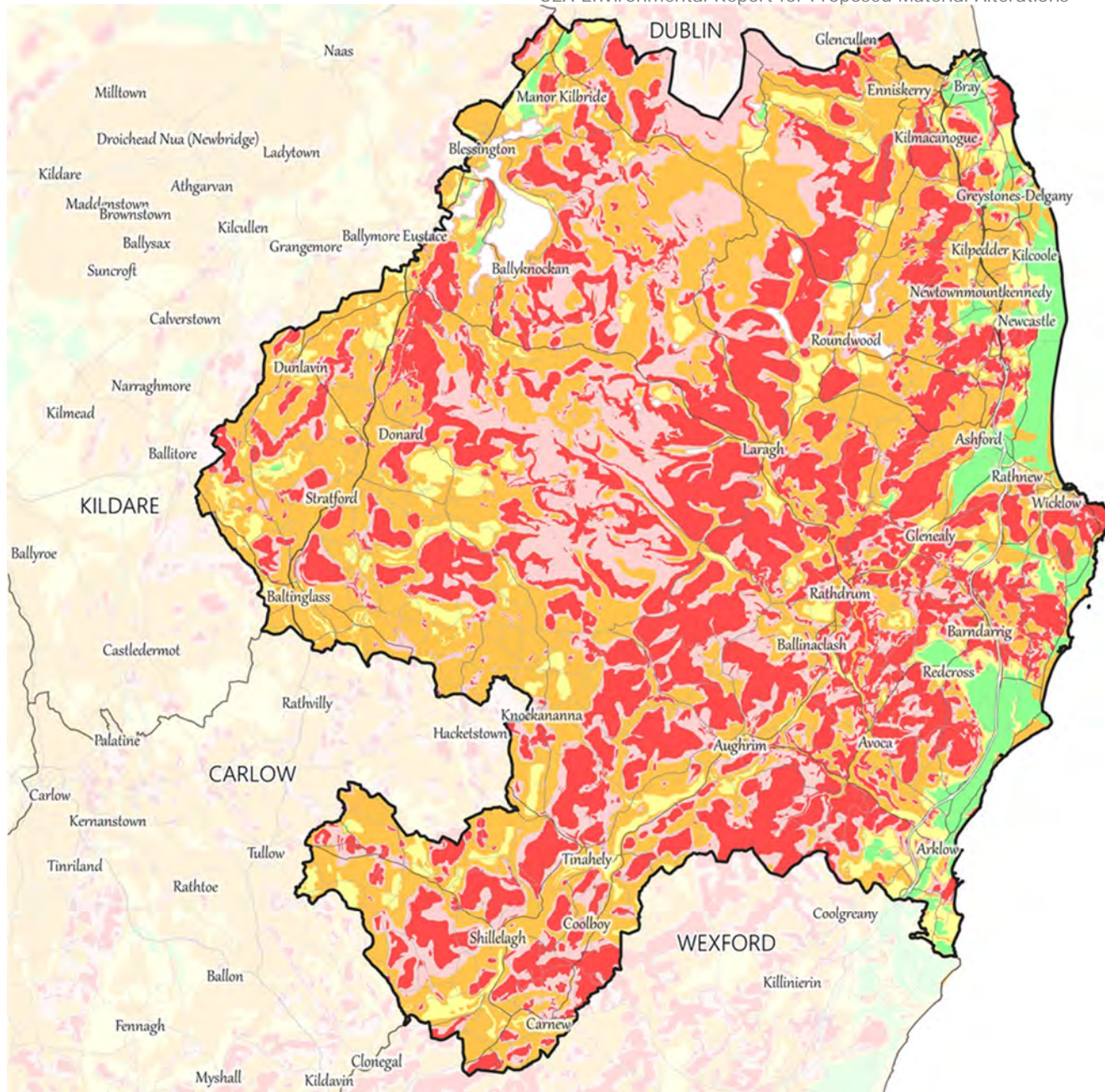
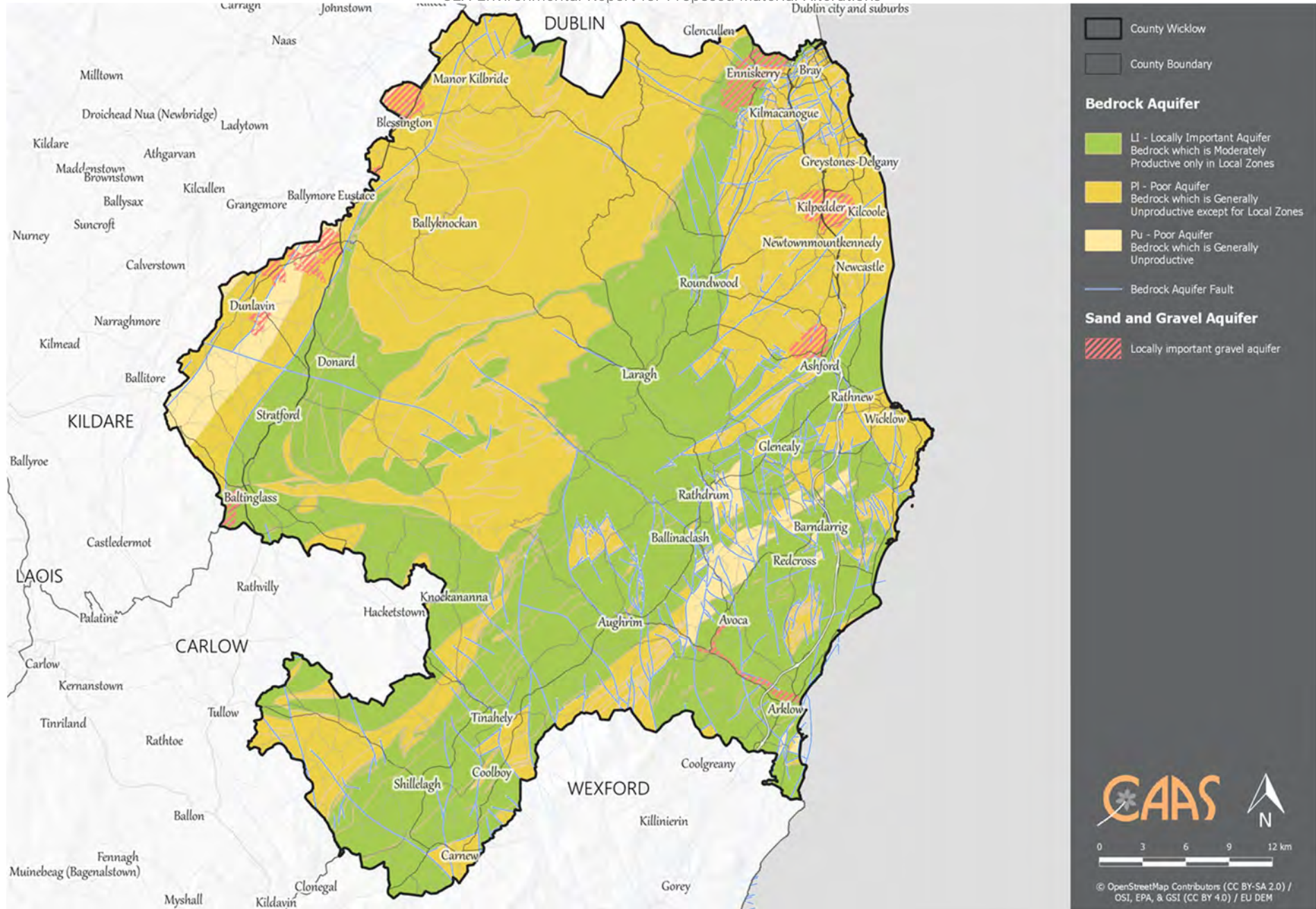


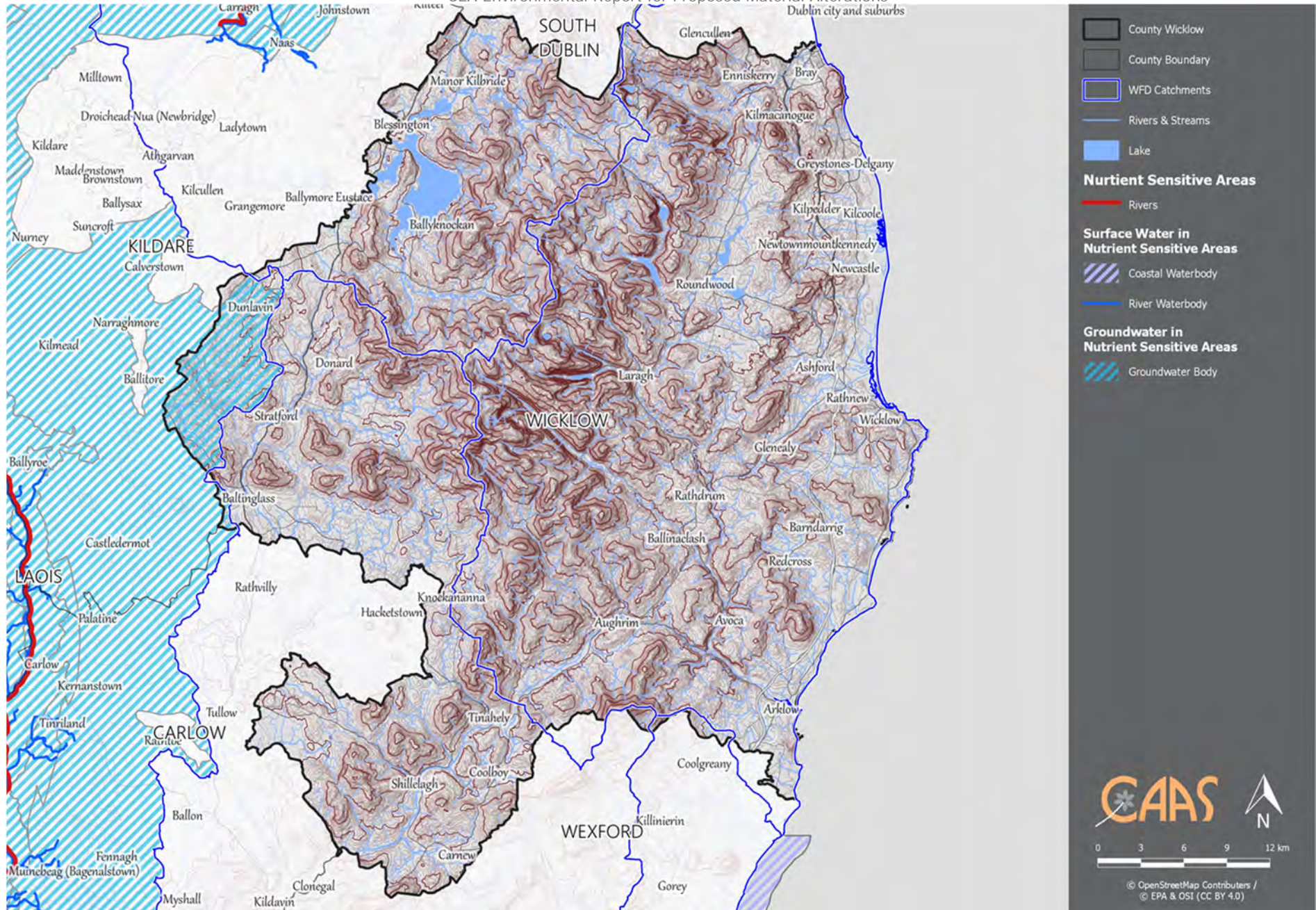
Figure 4.12 Groundwater Vulnerability

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.13 Groundwater Productivity**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.14 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

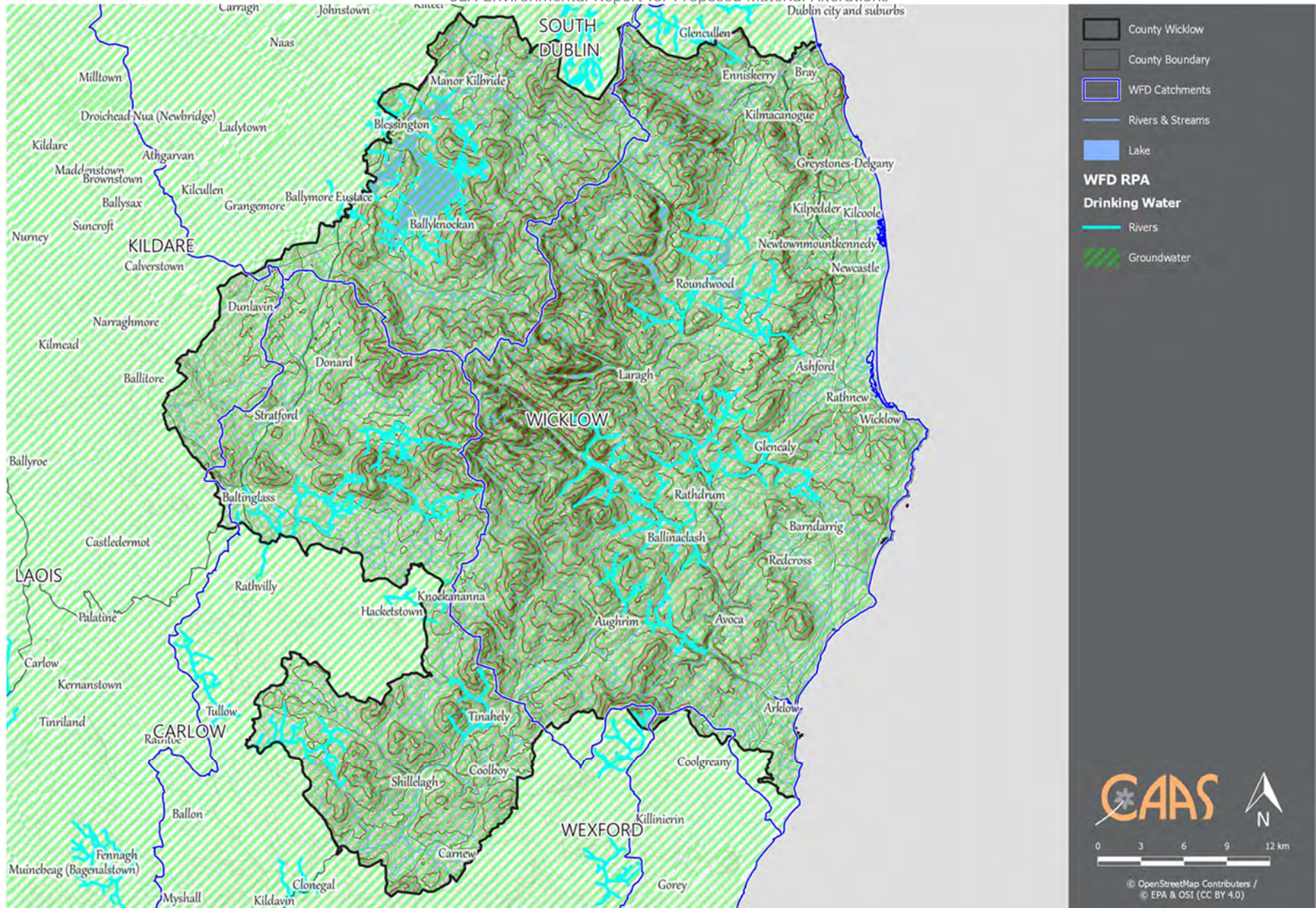
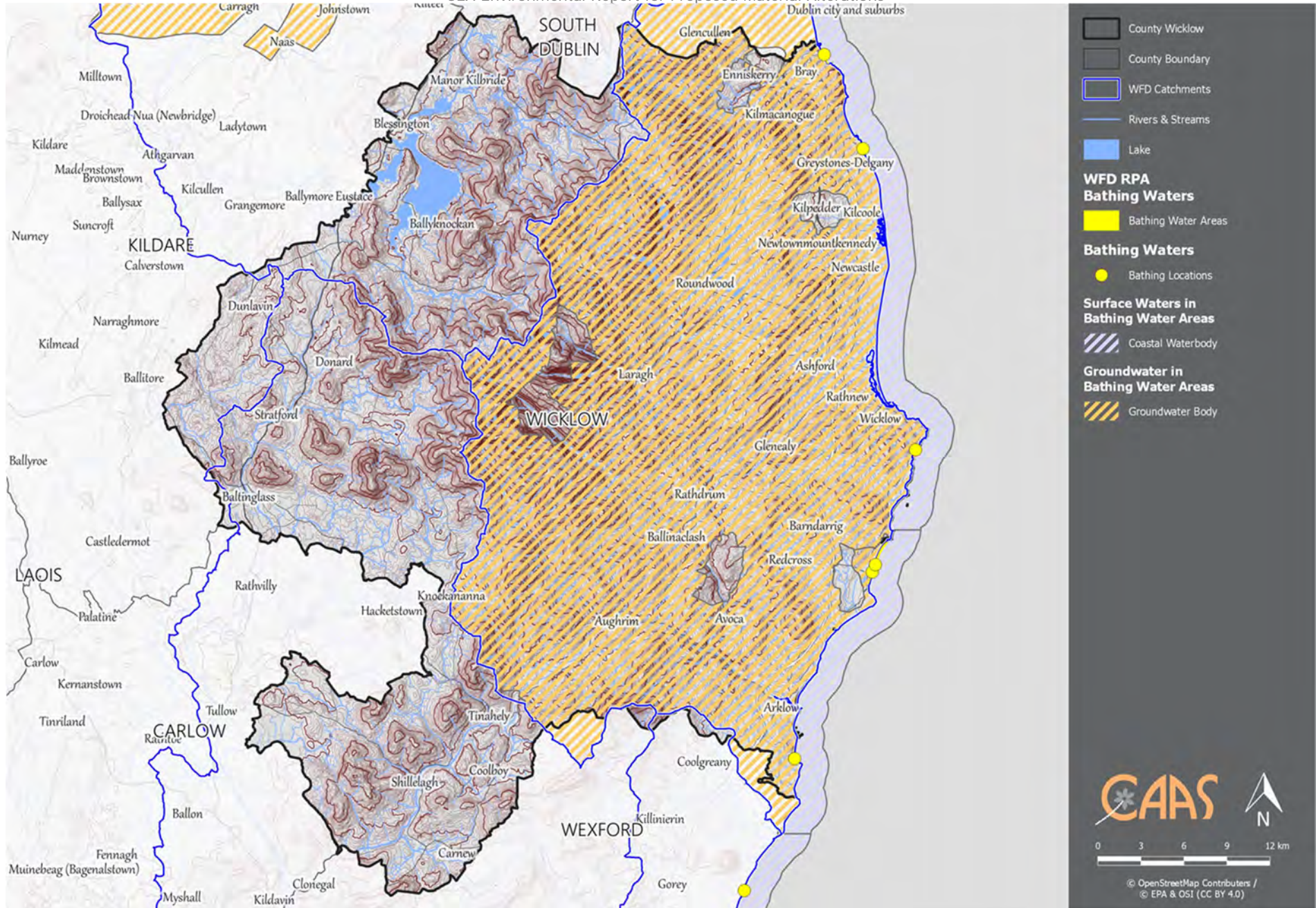
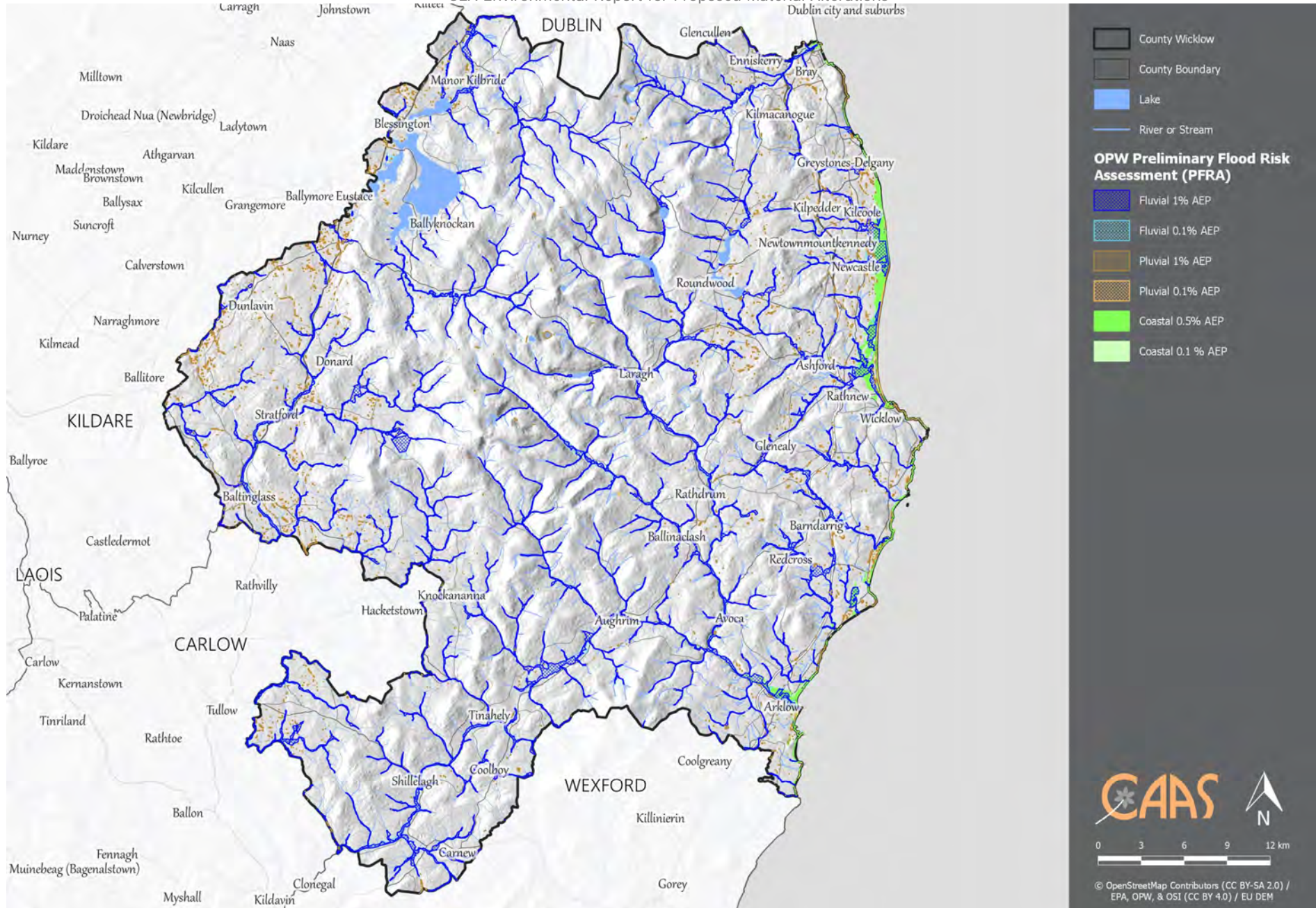


Figure 4.15 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



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



**Figure 4.17 OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Mapping**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



## 4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

### 4.10.1 Introduction

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

Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2017 (EPA, 2018) details provisional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1990-2017. For 2017, total national greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 60.75 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq). This is 0.9% lower (0.53 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq) than emissions in 2016.

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

- For 2017, the total national GHG emissions are estimated to be 60.74 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq), 0.9% lower than 2016.
- In the last 3 years, national total emissions have increased by 6.4%. In the same period, emissions in the ETS<sup>95</sup> sector have increased by 5.9%.
- Agriculture emissions increased by 2.9% in 2017 (driven by higher dairy cow numbers and increases in milk production).
- GHG emissions from the Transport sector decreased by 2.4% in 2017. This is the first year of decreased emissions after four successive years of increases in transport emissions.
- Agriculture and Transport accounted for 73.5% of total ESD emissions in 2017.
- Emissions in the Energy Industries sector show a decrease of 6.9% which is attributable to a 5.9% decrease in fossil fuel consumption and an increase of 21.1% and 1.6% in electricity generated from wind and hydro, respectively, in 2017. Renewables now account for 30.1% of electricity generated in 2017, an increase of 3.3% from 2016 figures. Ireland continued to be a net exporter of electricity in 2017. However, exported electricity saw a 4.7% reduction in 2017 to previous 2016 figures.
- Emissions from the Manufacturing Combustion<sup>96</sup> sector increased by 3.1% in 2017.

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

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

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

<sup>95</sup> The EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) was launched in 2005 as the world's first international company-level 'cap-and trade' system for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases cost-effectively. The cap makes sure that CO<sub>2</sub> becomes a product and,

thus, CO<sub>2</sub> is valued at a price, which is determined by the supply and demand at the (trading) market.

<sup>96</sup> Manufacturing Combustion; includes combustion of fuels in Industry and Construction, both in ETS and non-ETS

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

#### 4.10.2 Climate Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 4.10.3 Ambient Air Quality

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

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

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

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

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

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

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

With regards to solutions, the report identifies that:

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

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current<sup>97</sup> air quality within the County is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

#### 4.10.4 Noise

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

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<sup>97</sup> 25/02/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

### 4.10.5 Existing Problems

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

## 4.11 Material Assets

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

### 4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

### 4.11.2 Green Infrastructure

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

### 4.11.3 Land

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

#### 4.11.4 Forestry

Wicklow is the most wooded county in Ireland, with almost 20% of the county covered by woodland and forestry.<sup>98</sup> A sizeable proportion of the forestry estate in Wicklow consists of the remains of old demesne planting. The largest areas of forestry are found in the central parts of the County, as indicated on Figure 4.4, much of which is owned by Coillte<sup>99</sup>. Coillte forests within the County include Forest Park (Avondale house and Forest park, Rathdrum) and 15 recreation sites in County Wicklow. Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism, and also important as links in the county's green infrastructure network.

#### 4.11.5 Peatlands

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

#### 4.11.6 Coastline

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

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

In 2013, the OPW completed the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study which provides a strategic assessment of the extent of coastal erosion and coastal flooding along the south-east coastline. In 2019-2020 Iarnród Éireann and Wicklow County Council prepared a preliminary study on coastal erosion on the east coast. The main Dublin to Rosslare railway line runs along the coast from Bray to Wicklow Town. The aim of this study is to understand the mechanisms, and thus plan for or prevent further erosion of the coastline and its potential impact on the railway line.<sup>100</sup>

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

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

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

#### 4.11.7 Renewable Energy Potential

Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy, renewable energy sources are defined as renewable non-fossil energy sources such as, but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal<sup>101</sup>,

<sup>98</sup> Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015

<sup>99</sup> Coillte Teoranta, the State Forestry Board, was established to manage the public forest built up since the commencement of State planting and is the largest provider of forest recreation in Ireland.

<sup>100</sup> Draft Wicklow CDP

<sup>101</sup> The GSI's Geothermal mapping was cited in a submission by GSI made on the initial public consultation on the Council's Issues Paper, available to prospective developers of domestic and commercial

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

#### 4.11.8 Minerals and Aggregates

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

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

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

#### 4.11.9 Transport

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

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

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

links for those living in rural communities within the County.

#### 4.11.10 Water Services

##### 4.11.10.1 Wastewater

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned within the County to improve the existing network, to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan (shown on Table 4.3). This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth (“headroom”) in terms of population equivalent<sup>102</sup> (PE) in areas serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is identified as being available in all of these settlements except for Arklow, Aughrim, Avoca and Knockanna. The highest levels of headroom (PE) are available at Shanganagh WWTP to the north of Bray (58,382 PE), Wicklow Town WWTP (15,430 PE) and Greystones WWTP (15,091 PE).

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

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

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

#### 4.11.10.2 Water Supply

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

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

- **The Aughrim/Annacurra Water Supply** is listed on the most recent EPA RAL due to elevated levels of Trihalomethanes (THMs) above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 381 m<sup>3</sup>/day, serving a population of 1,594 people. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to abandon source and connect to Arklow Water Treatment Plant to be completed by December 2023.
- **The Enniskerry Public Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 856 m<sup>3</sup>/day, serving a population of 2,667. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.
- **The Wicklow Regional Public Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 4,495 m<sup>3</sup>/day, serving a population of 15,598. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.
- **The Bray Water Supply** is listed on the most recent RAL due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations and treatment and Management Issues. This Water Supply Scheme has a supply volume of 7,945 m<sup>3</sup>/day, serving a population of 28,934. The proposed plan of action to remedy this issue is to upgrade the Vartry Water Treatment Plant by July 2021.

<sup>102</sup> WWTPs are described in terms of their designed treatment capacity, which is generally expressed as population equivalent (PE). This is a measurement of total organic biodegradable load, including industrial, institutional, commercial and domestic organic

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

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

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

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

#### 4.11.10.3 Surface Water Drainage

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

### 4.11.11 Waste Management

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

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

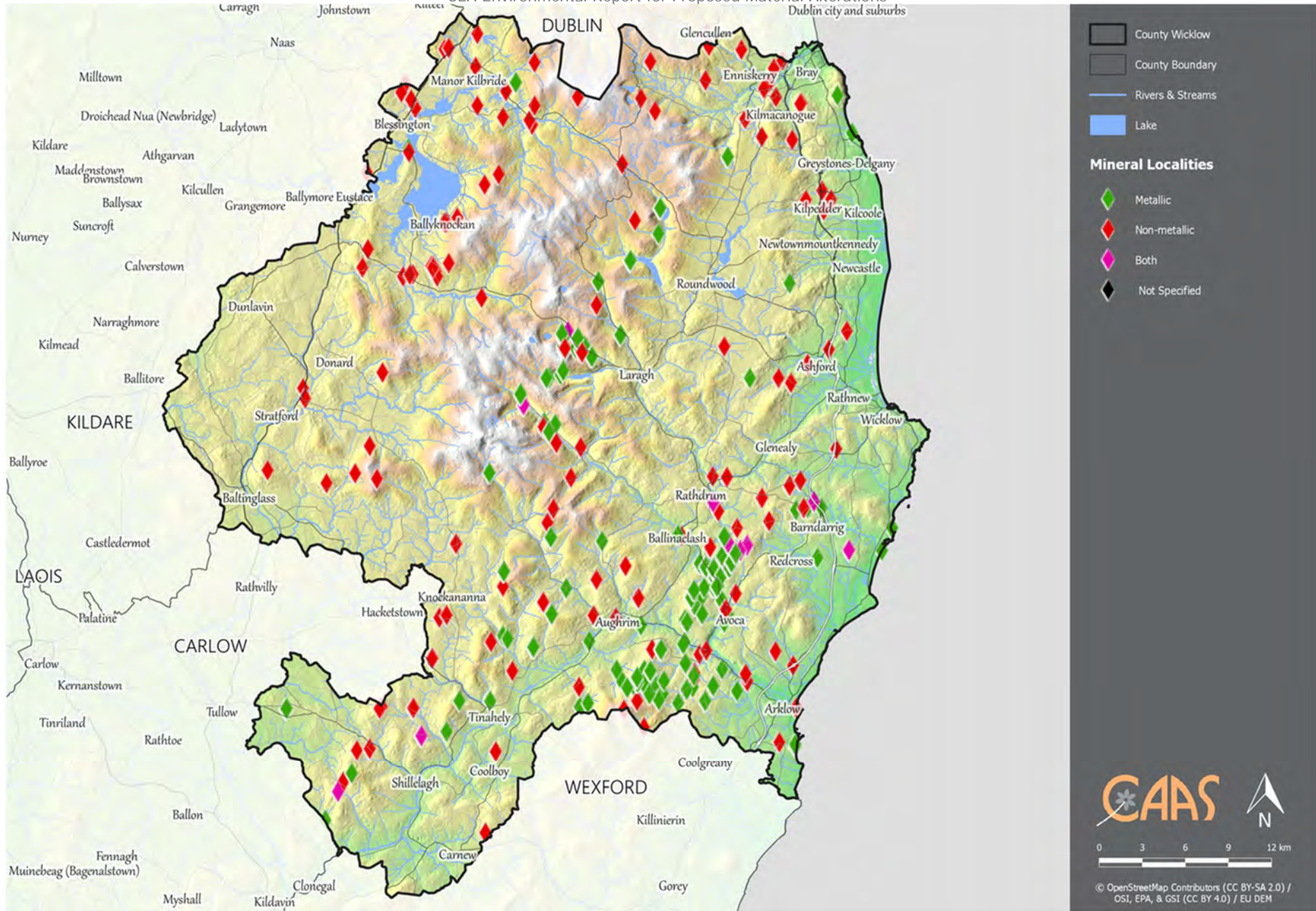
The Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan states that the future role of local authorities in waste management will be focused on education, prevention, and resource efficiency activities as well as regulating householders, businesses and waste operators and enforcing waste legislation. Waste infrastructure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

### 4.11.12 Existing Problems

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

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

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



**Figure 4.18 Minerals Localities**  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council



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

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

Notes: 103,104,105,106,107,108,109

<sup>103</sup> Wastewater Discharge Licences (WWDL) and Certificates of Authorisation (CoA)

<sup>104</sup> WWTP Capacity (PE) Today = Overall design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in population equivalents (PE) today (the date at the top of this table).

<sup>105</sup> WWTP Capacity (PE) Upon works completion = Overall design capacity of the WWTP in population equivalents (PE) upon completion of a relevant project delivering additional capacity. Note that 'WWDL' or 'UWW' following the capacity value indicates that the upgraded WWTP will have capability to achieve the full Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL) emission limit values (ELVs) in the former case, or at least the Urban Wastewater (UWW) Treatment Directive parametric values in the latter case.

<sup>106</sup> Load (PE) 2019 = Wastewater load arising from the settlement(s) being served entering the WWTP in 2019.

<sup>107</sup> Headroom (PE) = Headroom available at the WWTP in 2019 in terms of population equivalents based on available capacity now or by completion of a project by 2022 (where relevant). Green = spare capacity available. Amber = potential spare capacity. WWTP currently not compliant with Wastewater Discharge Licence emission limit values but is capable of achieving at least UWW standards. Potential availability of capacity in this case would be dependent on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach as set out in Regulation 43 of the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. Red = no spare capacity available

<sup>108</sup> Current project completion year = This is the current forecasted completion year as of date of this table and is subject to change. 'Post 2024' indicates that the project is proposed to be completed within the next investment period (2025-2029), subject to the planning and approval of the next capital investment plan. Note, there is no guarantee that this capacity will be delivered if the current Investment Plan is amended due to emerging needs or changes due to exchequer funding.

<sup>109</sup> General notes (i) The headroom figure stated is based on available information on the date of issue of this table and is subject to change. (ii) The indication of spare treatment capacity has been determined based on a standardised national review of the available information. (iii) A Pre-Connection Enquiry should be submitted to Irish Water to determine the feasibility of connecting any particular site to the Irish Water network, feasibility should not be inferred from this register

## 4.12 Cultural Heritage

### 4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)<sup>110</sup> is a manual containing a numbered list of all certain and possible monuments accompanied. An Urban Archaeology Survey was completed in 1995 and contained reports on historic towns dating to before 1700 A.D. with a view to delineating zones of archaeological potential (SMR Zones of Notification). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the RMP.

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

<sup>110</sup> The RMP was issued for each county between 1995 and 1998 in a similar format to the existing SMR. However, the RMP differs from the earlier lists in that, as defined in the Act, only monuments with known locations or places where there are believed to be monuments are included. The large archive and supporting

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

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

There are 24 Monuments in State Care (15 in State Ownership and nine in State Guardianship)<sup>111</sup> within the County, including:

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

Other archaeological designations shown on Figure 4.19 include Major Sites of Archaeological Importance designated within the County<sup>112</sup>.

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

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

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

#### 4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

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

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

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

<sup>111</sup> This list of National Monuments in State care includes those which are in the ownership and guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

<sup>112</sup> Aghowle Church Cross; Piper's Stone; Baltinglass Abbey; Crossoon Ringfort and Ogham Stone; St. Mark's Cross; Castleruddery Lower Motte; Castleruddery Lower Stone Circle;

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

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

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage<sup>113</sup> of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

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

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

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

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

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

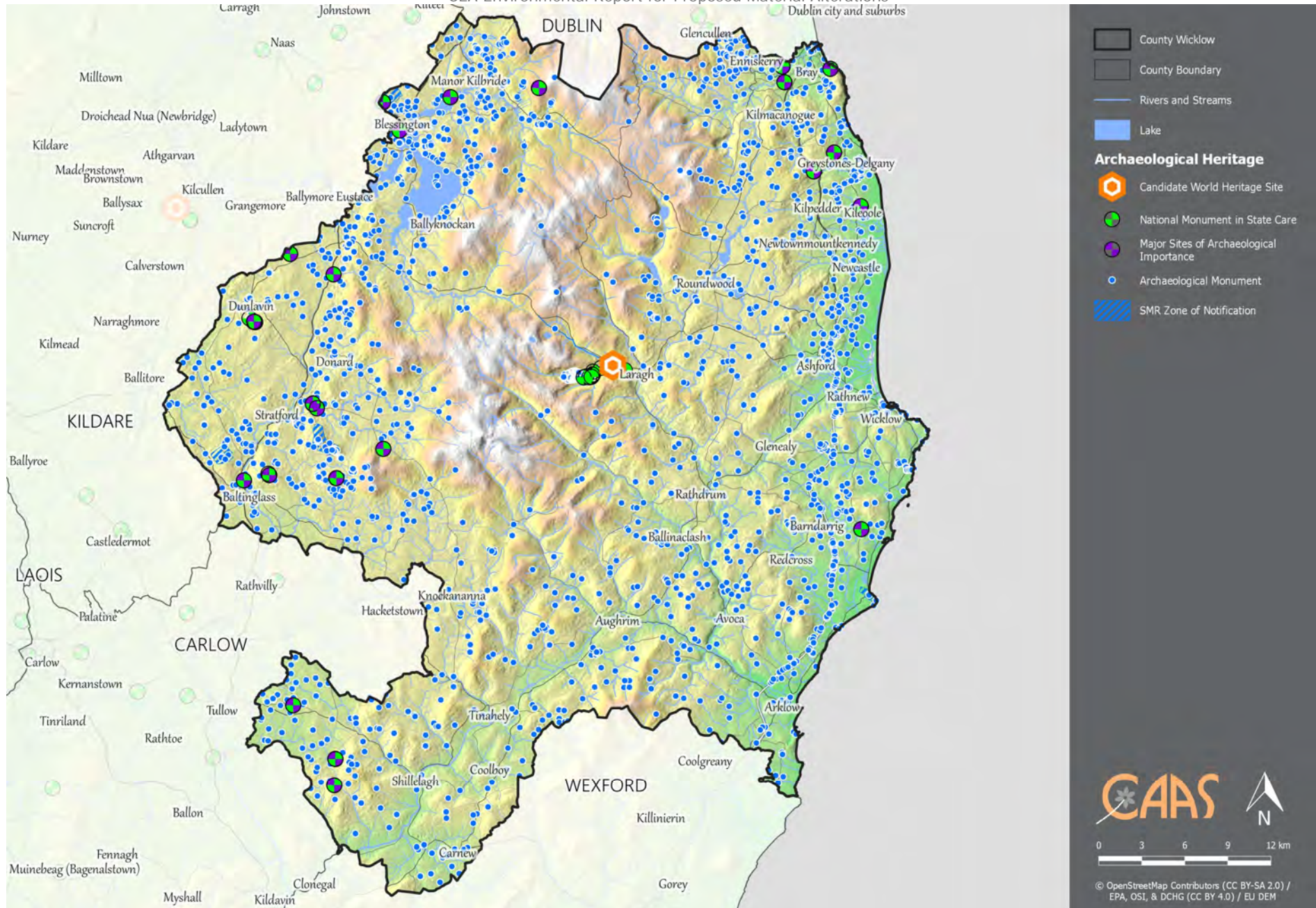
The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous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

### 4.12.3 Existing Problems

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

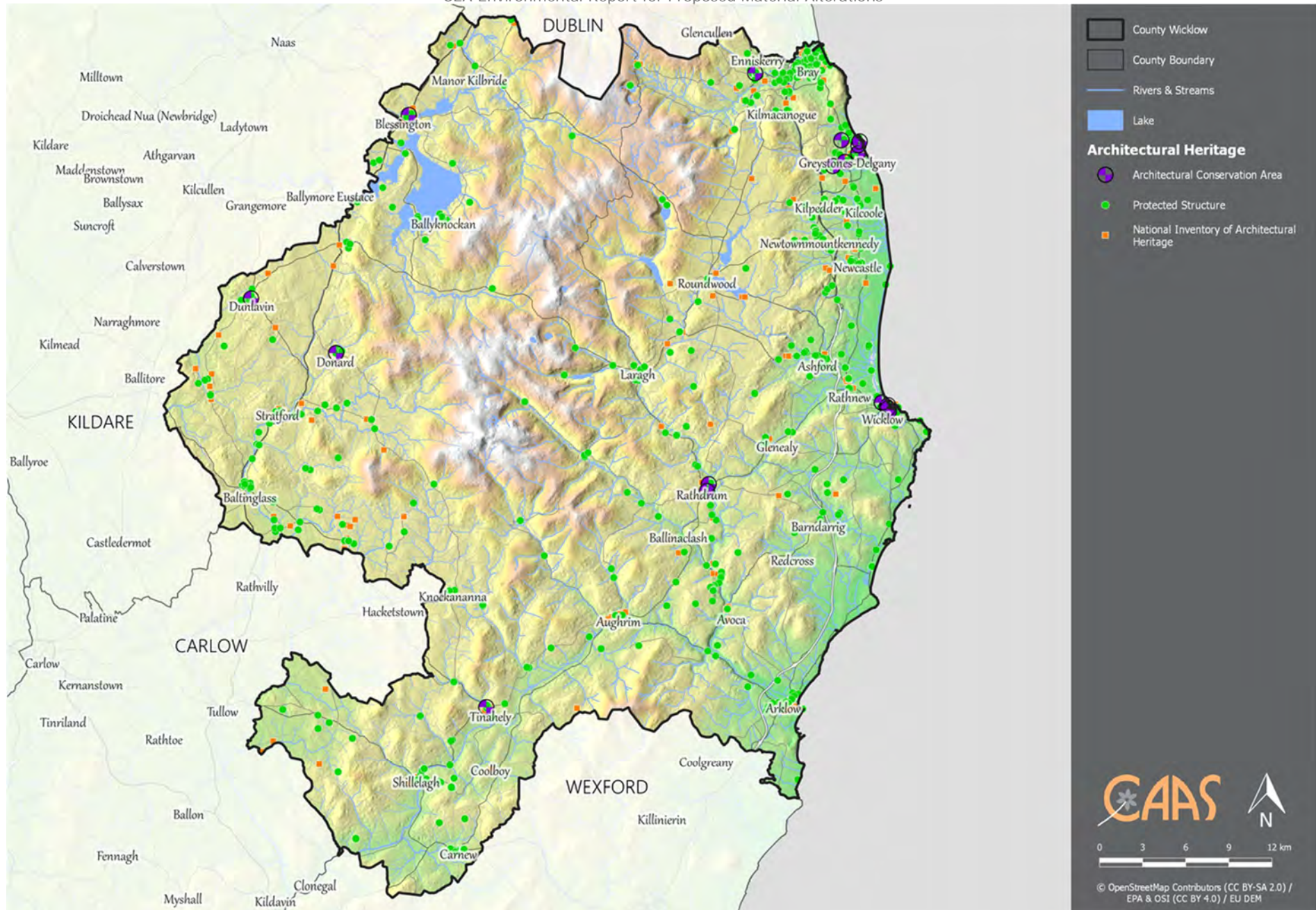
<sup>113</sup> Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate

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



**Figure 4.19 Archaeological Heritage**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.20 Architectural Heritage**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

## 4.13 Landscape

### 4.13.1 Introduction

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

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

### 4.13.2 Landscape Character Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. **Area of High Amenity**

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

4. **Corridor Area**

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

5. **Rolling Lowlands**

Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6

6. **Urban Areas**

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

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

### 4.13.3 Special Amenity Area Order

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

### 4.13.4 Protected Views and Prospects

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

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

#### **4.13.5 TPOs, Trees, Group of Trees and Woodlands**

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

#### **4.13.6 Landscape Designations in Adjacent Counties**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **4.13.7 Existing Environmental Problems**

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



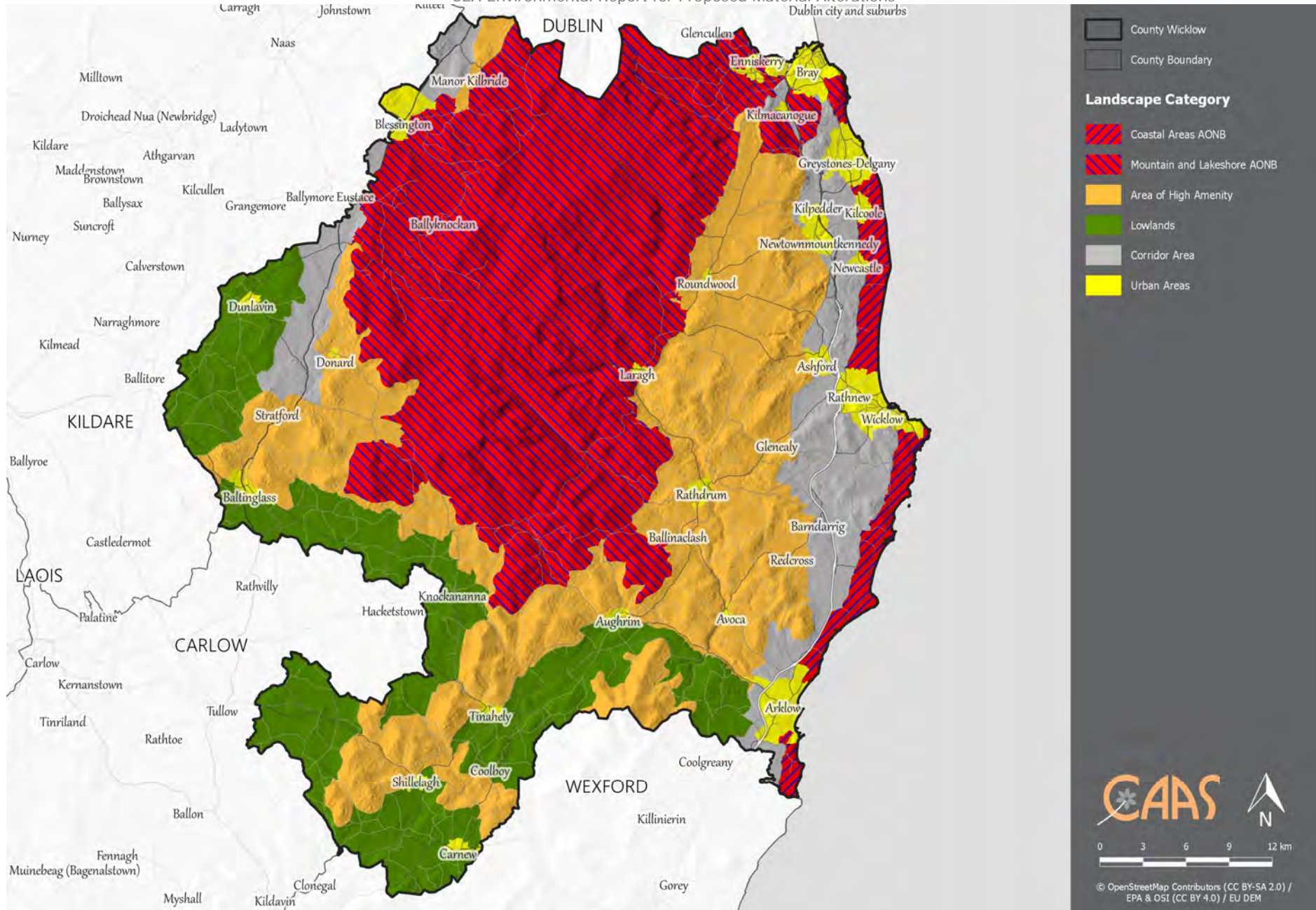
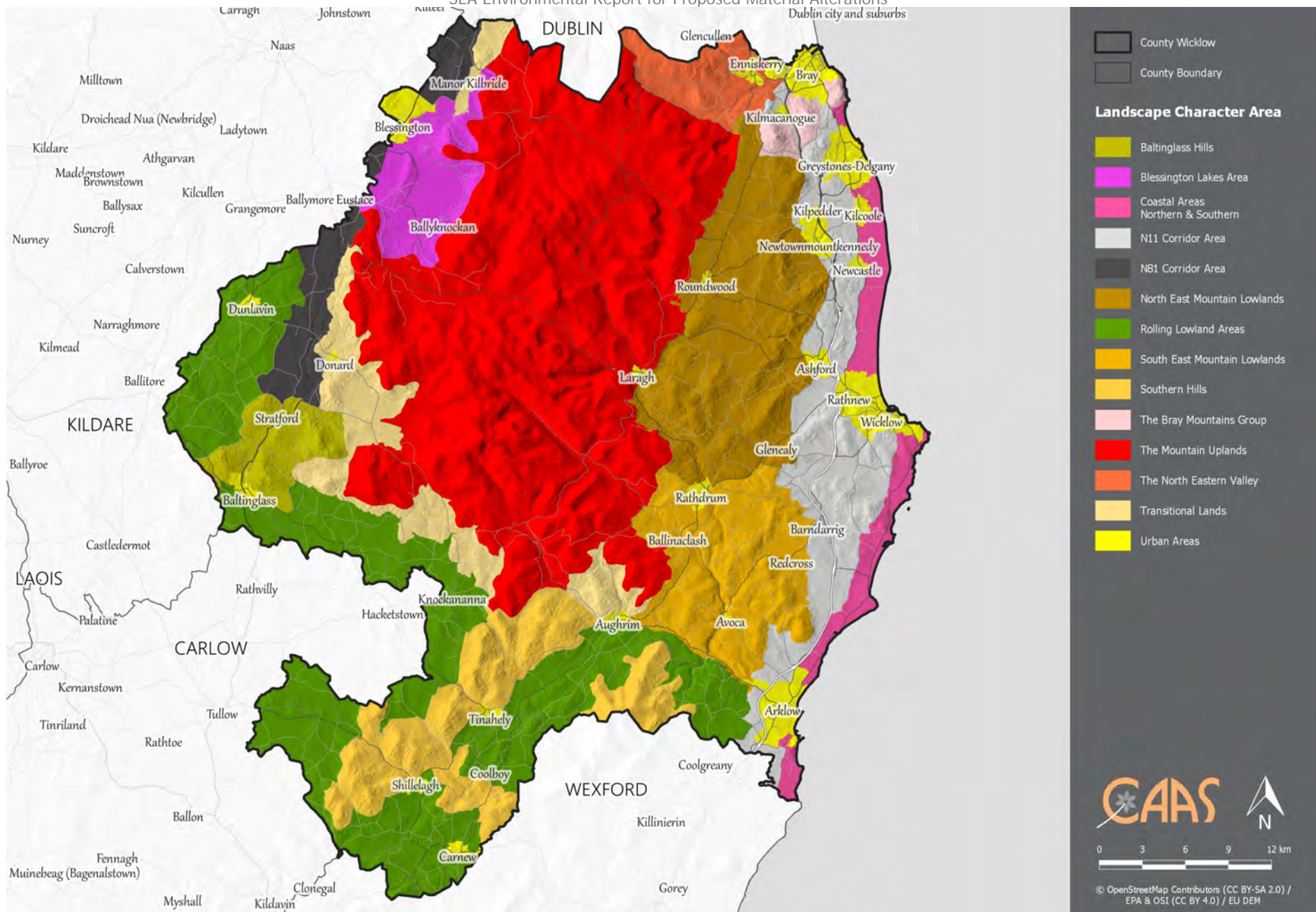
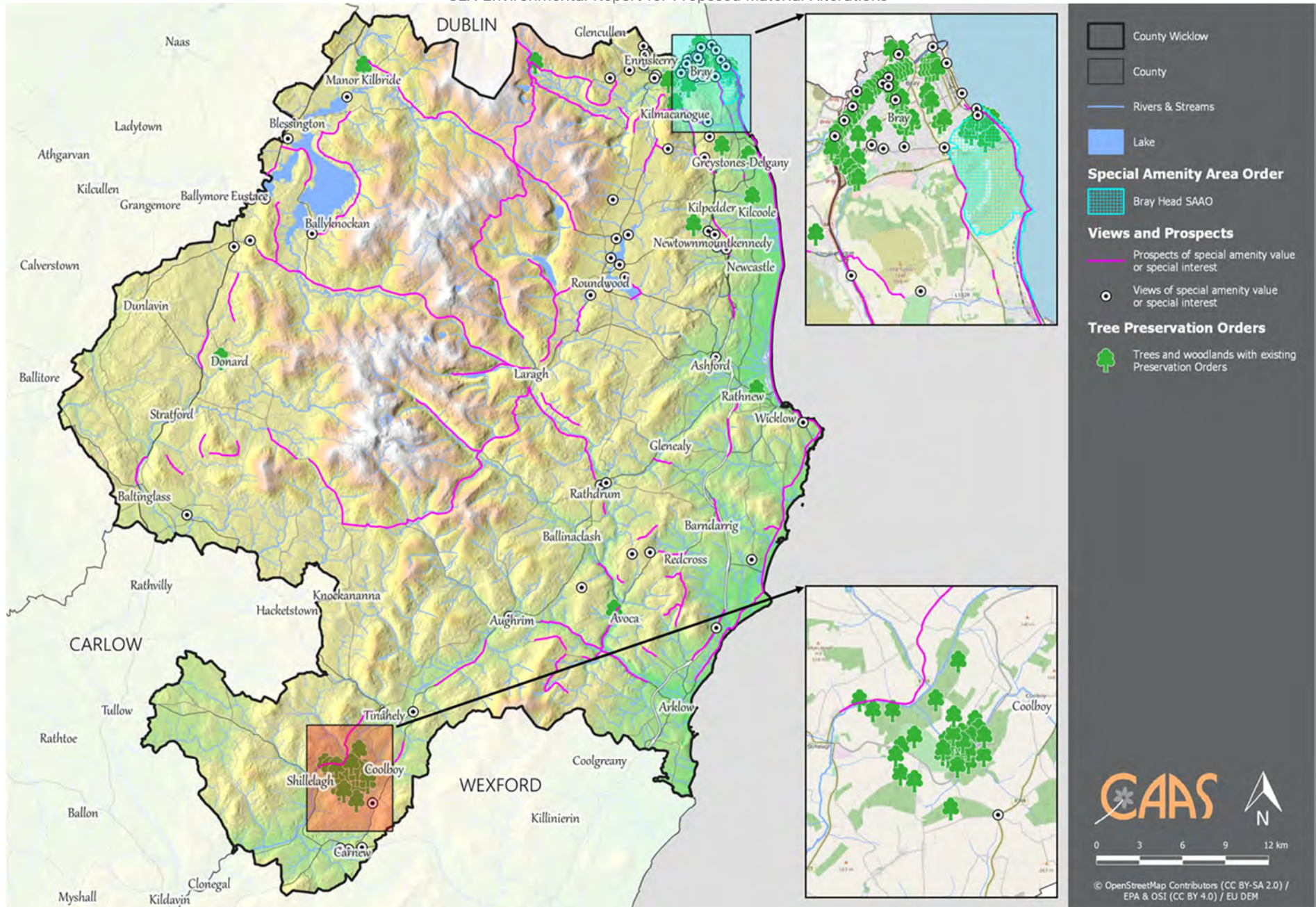


Figure 4.21 Landscape Categories

CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.22 Landscape Areas**  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council



**Figure 4.23 Other landscape designations**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

## 4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

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

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

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

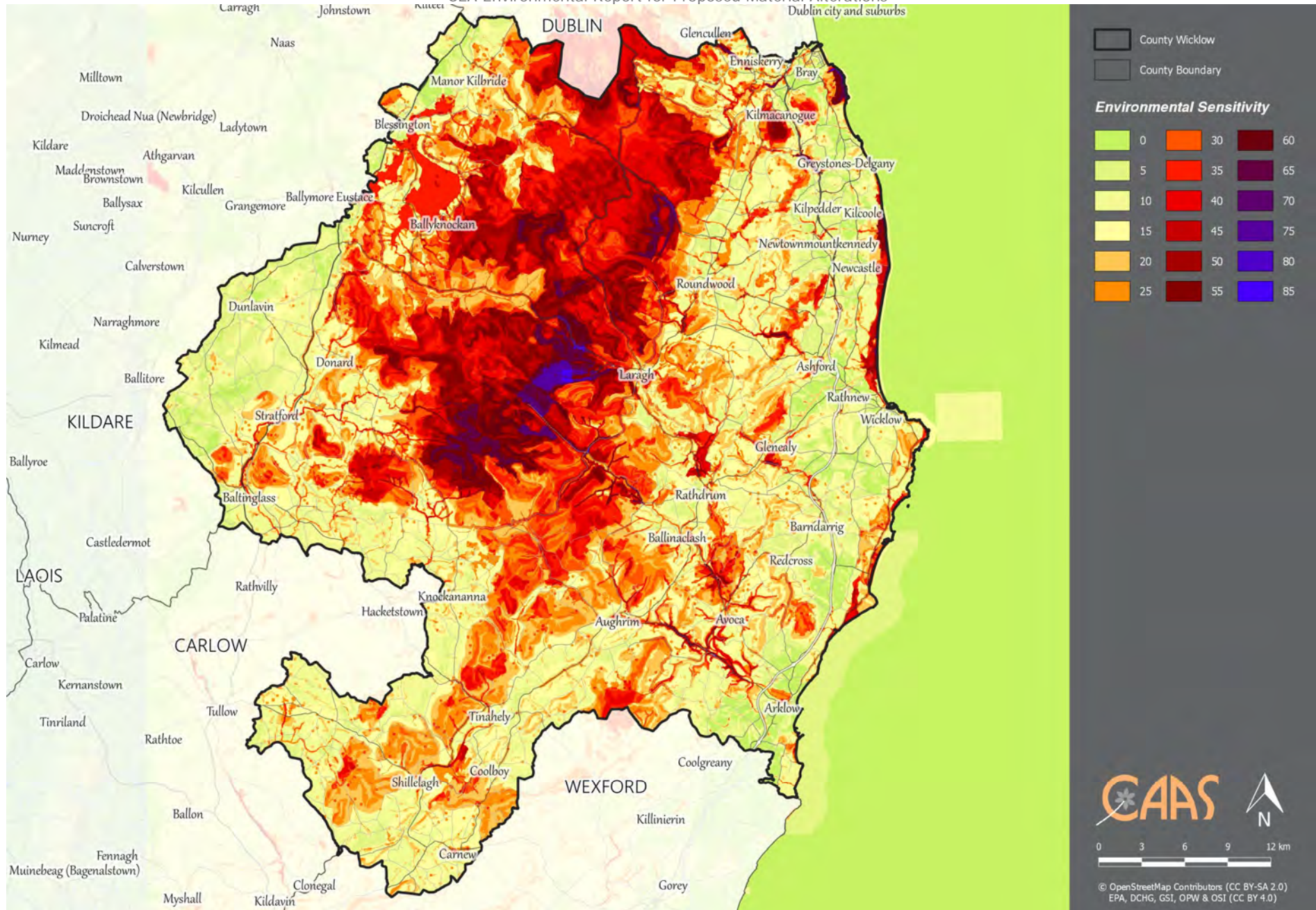
Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental

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

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

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

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



**Figure 4.24 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Wicklow**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

## Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

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



SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>• Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>• Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health</li> <li>• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74%</li> <li>• NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>• Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan</li> </ul>

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>

## Section 6 Description of Alternatives

### 6.1 Introduction

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

The Alternatives described for the Plan below are not affected by the Proposed Material Alterations.

### 6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

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

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

### 6.3 Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

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

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

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

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

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

## 6.4 Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

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

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

## 6.5 Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 6.6 Tier 4: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

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

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

**Table 6.1 Screening for Available Reasonable Alternatives**

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

## Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

### 7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects<sup>114</sup> of implementing available alternatives that are described in Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

### 7.2 Methodology

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

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

**Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>115</sup>**

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

<sup>114</sup> These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

<sup>115</sup> See also Section 5

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

## 7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

### 7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

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

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

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



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

### 7.3.1 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Table 7.3 Assessment<sup>116</sup> of Tier 1 (i) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

<sup>116</sup> The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 7.3.2 Assessment of Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Table 7.5 Assessment of Tier 2 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

### 7.3.3 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in

increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Alternative B** was originally chosen for the Chief Executive's Draft Plan but **Alternative A** has been chosen by the Members for the Draft Plan for public display.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Table 7.10 Assessment of Tier 3 (v) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tier 3 (vi) alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.11.

**Table 7.11 Assessment of Tier 3 (vi) Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

### 7.3.4 Assessment of Tier 4: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

The consideration of reasonable alternatives for relevant land use zonings that was undertaken as part of the iterative Plan-preparation/SEA process is provided on Table 7.12. Maps for each of the areas identified are provided in Appendix II "General Location of Land Use Zoning Alternatives".

**Table 7.12 Assessment of Tier 4 Alternatives**

Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
Baltinglass	Area 1: Bawnogues (N81) – former Action Area 3	New residential	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Baltinglass are described under Section 4.  Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	1. Maintain residential zoning on part – reduce extent of zoning 2. Rezone part as Active Open Space 3. Rezone part as 'E-employment'	1. Part already granted permission for residential development 2. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to SAC / river; need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation 3. Map fix to align with field boundaries
		Strategic Land Bank	Maintain designation Remove designation Reduce / expand designation Alternative uses	potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.  By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	1. Rezone for 'open space' (3 grades – AOS, OS1 and OS2) 2. Rezone part 'E-employment'	1. Enhanced options of outdoor recreation; enhanced protection in proximity to SAC / river; 2. Map fix to align with field boundaries
		Employment	Maintain employment zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand employment zoning Alternative uses	potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.  By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	1. Maintain zoning but size reduced; layout reconfigured 2. Rezone part open space (2 grades OS1 and OS2)	1. Need to meet new employment objectives; services land in close proximity to residential and town centres areas; on transport corridor (N81); reconfigured to expand distance from SAC / river; 2. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to SAC / river; need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line
		Open Space	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses	potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.  By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	Expand open space zone (OS1 and OS2)	1. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to SAC / river; 2. Need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line
		New Road and Bridge	Maintain objective Remove objective Alter objective (route / location)	potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.  By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	Remove objective	No justification of traffic or planning ground identified. Potential significant environmental impacts on SAC / river
	Area 2: Baltinglass East - Sruhaun	Existing residential (with number of infill gaps sites)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.  Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; lack of planning needs for potential	Remove zoning (unzone); remove from plan boundary	1. Deficiencies in road network severely limit possibilities for new development 2. Elevated lands; reduce impact on landscape 3. Reduce potential for impact on archaeology and archaeological landscape 4. Ribbon development undesirable; alternative more suitable lands for new residential development in closer proximity to town centre (compact growth)
	Area 3: Bawnogue – Baltinglass west (former SLO1, SLO2)	New residential SLO1 (low density)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone)	Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.  Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; lack of planning needs for potential	Alternative use - OS	1. Less intensive use in environmentally sensitive location – proximate to River Slaney and European Site 2. Enhanced possibility for green corridor along full length of river

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
			Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects; ecological (SAC) designation; cultural heritage; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; and fluvial flood risk.		
		Open Space SLO1	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Expand OS zone from road to river	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Less intensive use in environmentally sensitive location – proximate to River Slaney and European Site</li> <li>2. Enhanced possibility for green corridor along full length of river</li> <li>3. Maintain options for possible future greenway along former rail line</li> </ol>
		New residential SLO2	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Alternative designation – strategic land bank	Having regard to population and housing targets for Baltinglass in accordance with parameter set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.
	Area 4: Newtownsaunders	Existing residential	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zoning reflected existing land use and provided limited opportunities for new development – considered unnecessary</li> <li>2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</li> </ol>
		Active Open Space	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zoning reflected existing land use but no extension to same – considered unnecessary. Any extension could be considered without zoning (CDP objectives refer)</li> <li>2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.</li> </ol>
		Community – Educational	Maintain CE zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand CE zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zoning reflected existing land use and provided for significant extension of same; may result in development excessively distant from town services;</li> <li>2. Undeveloped rural area, potential for damage to landscape and natural environment</li> <li>3. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.</li> </ol>
Rathdrum	Area 1: Lands to W / NW of town centre	New residential (R20) Numerous	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	<p>Environmental sensitivities for Rathdrum are described under Section 4.</p> <p>Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend R20 zoned lands to RE (existing residential)</li> <li>2. Maintain New Residential zoning on parcels (2 No.)</li> <li>3. Change zoning of one parcel of R20 to AOS (see below)</li> <li>4. Remove R20 zoning from remainder (unzone)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Part already developed or under construction (RE)</li> <li>2. Part already permitted for residential development (RN)</li> <li>3. Having regard to population and housing targets for Rathdrum in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</li> <li>4. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to watercourse;</li> <li>5. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.</li> </ol>
		Active Open Space (AOS)	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning		1. Remove AOS zoning from Action Area block	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivery of AOS coupled with R20 zoning in Action Area - removal of residential zoning as above removes delivery possibility for AOS</li> <li>2. Alternative AOS zoned (change R20 to AOS) to provide for sports / activity needs of targeted population growth.</li> </ol>

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
			Alternative uses	into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	2. Change zoning of one parcel of R20 to AOS	3. Less environmental impact predicted compared to previous AOS zone to south due to expanded distance to watercourse.
	Area 2: North of town centre	New residential (R10)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.	1. Amend R10 zoned lands to RE (existing residential) 2. Remove R10 zoning from remainder (unzone)	1. Part already developed or under construction (RE) 2. Having regard to population and housing targets for Rathdrum in accordance with parameter set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 3. Less intensive use, less environmental impact in proximity to Avonmore River and European Site 4. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area.
		Tourism (T)	Maintain T zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand T zoning Alternative uses		Expand T zoning	Reflect permitted development and existing land use
	Area 3: Riverine	Passive Open Space (OS2)	Maintain OS2 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand OS2 zoning Alternative uses	Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.  Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; proximity to European site; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; and fluvial flood risk.	Maintain and expand OS2 zoning	Enhanced and expanded protection zone along Avonmore River
Newtown-mountkennedy	Area 1: North of settlement	AG - agriculture	Maintain AG zoning Remove AG zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AG zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Newtownmountkennedy are described under Section 4.  Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	Remove AG zoning (unzone)	1. Zoning unnecessary – all lands outside plan boundaries are 'agricultural / rural' by default. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction environmental footprint.
		AG* - agriculture	Maintain designation Remove designation Reduce / expand designation Alternative designation		Remove AG* designation	Lands zoned for employment use in CDP therefore zoning within NMKY plan redundant
	Area 2: Action Area 1	New residential (R1)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or	1. Maintain R1 zoning on part – reduce extent of zoning to northern part 2. Rezone part as RE – existing residential 3. <b>An extent of Residential zoning on lands to the west of new distributor road was removed for the Chief Executive's Draft however the Members chose to add this back into the Draft Plan for public display – the environmental implications of this</b>	1. Maintain R1 zone to allow for completion of northern end of new distributor road 2. Part already developed or granted permission for residential development (RE) 3. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 4. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
				can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.  Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.	<b>change are explored in more detail under Section Error! Reference source not found..</b>	
		New residential (R2) (west of new distributor road)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Rezone OS1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</li> <li>2. Expand park area along river; provide for enhanced green corridor</li> </ol>
		Active Open Space (AOS)	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses	Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: unnecessary zoning; the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; fluvial flood risk; location of waste water treatment plant; and protection of rocky outcrop.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rezone part OS1</li> <li>Rezone part CE</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land steeply sloping towards river and not suitable for playing pitch / sport use. Retain OS1 zoning and integrate into riverine park instead</li> <li>2. Part of former AOS zone actually part of primary school site – zoning correction</li> </ol>
		Open Space (OS)	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove zoning from part</li> <li>2. Re-align boundaries</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Part of former OS zone now occupied by part built or permitted distributor road.</li> <li>2. Align more correctly with built /permitted road and existing field boundaries</li> </ol>
		Community – Education (CE)	Maintain CE zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand CE zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand zoning</li> <li>Re align boundaries</li> </ol>	Align more correctly with existing land uses / land ownership, with as built /permitted road and existing field boundaries
		Agriculture (AG)	Maintain AG zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AG zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove zoning from part</li> <li>Rezone part OS1 and AOS</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zoning unnecessary – all lands outside plan boundaries are 'agricultural / rural' by default.</li> <li>2. Expand opportunities for sports and recreation, and for biodiversity enhancement by expanding areas available for sports development (AOS) and expansion of riverine corridor (OS1)</li> </ol>
	Area 3: Ballyronan – Action Area 2	Mixed Use (MU)	Maintain MU zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand MU zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain MU on part – reduce extent of zoning</li> <li>2. Rezone part as Open Space 1</li> </ol>	Remove MU zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (water compatible)
		Employment (E)	Maintain employment zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand employment zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain zoning but size reduced; layout reconfigured at northern boundary</li> <li>2. Rezone part as Open Space 1</li> </ol>	Remove E zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (water compatible)
		Active Open Space (AOS)	Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain zoning but size reduced; layout reconfigured at northern / north-eastern boundary</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove AOS zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (less vulnerable)</li> <li>2. Maintain possibility of less developed ecological corridor along water course</li> <li>3. Reflect existing wastewater treatment plant</li> </ol>

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
					2. Rezone part as Open Space 1 3. Rezone part PU (public utility)	
	Area 4: Former Action Area 5, land to east and south	New residential (R2) AA5	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
Active Open Space (AOS) AA5		Maintain AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand AOS zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	1. Delivery of AOS coupled with R2 zoning in AA5 - removal of R2 zoning as above removes delivery possibility for AOS 2. Alternative AOS zoned elsewhere in closer proximity to built up area	
Open Space (OS) AA5		Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	Delivery of OS coupled with R2 zoning in AA5 to provide buffer and protect natural rocky outcrop - removal of R2 zoning as above removes need for zoning	
New residential (R1) & AOS		Maintain R1 and AOS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R1 and / or AOS zoning Alternative uses		1. Maintain R1 zoning on northern part – reduce extent of zoning to southern part 2. Rezone part as AOS – active open space	1. Maintain R1 on lands granted permission for residential development (under construction) 2. Having regard to population and housing targets for NMKY in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, remainder of R1 lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 3. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 4. Expansion of AOS having regard to sports / activity needs of targeted population growth.	
ITLR Integrated Tourism & Leisure Recreation		Maintain ITLR zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand ITLR zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning	1. Zoned as part of the larger ITLR block in CDP extending beyond plan boundary. ITLR zoning omitted from draft CDP. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.	
Ashford	Area 1: Former AA2 & SLO 2	New residential	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Ashford are described under Section 4.  Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid	Maintain residential zoning	Site has granted permission for residential use.
		Employment	Maintain employment zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand employment zoning		Maintain employment zoning	Need to meet new employment objectives; serviced land in close proximity to residential and town centres areas. (Some of the zoned lands are in ownership of the Local Authority the maintaining of such lands provides the best opportunity for new employment developments).



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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment			
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan	
			Alternative uses	<p>potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.</p> <p>Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.</p> <p>Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; and serviced land.</p>	Maintain Open Space zoning	Need for enhanced options for outdoor recreation; lands to be developed as part of the overall objectives for the Action Area 1	
		Open Space	Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce/expand open space zoning Alternative uses				
		Community & education	Maintain Community & education zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses				
	Areas 2A, 2B, 2C	New residential (Former SLO 1)	Maintain residential zoning Maintain SLO Zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Ashford in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan</li> <li>2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</li> </ol>	
		New residential (Former SLO 4)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses				
		New residential (Former Action Area 1)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses				
	Aughrim	Area 1: Area south of Aughrim River	Employment (E)		Maintain E zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand E zoning Alternative uses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain E zoning (part)</li> <li>2. Replace E zoning with OS1 (part)</li> <li>3. Replace E zoning with PU (part) see below</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain E zoning on already developed employment lands</li> <li>2. Remove E zoning from lands in Flood Zone A/B and replace with OS designation (water compatible)</li> <li>3. Less intensive use in environmentally sensitive location – proximate to river</li> </ol> <p>Enhance options for possible future greenway along former rail line</p>
			Open Space (POS)		Maintain open space zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand open space zoning Alternative uses		

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
	Area 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D	Public utility (PU)	Maintain PU zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand PU zoning Alternative uses	protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.  By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.  Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.  Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; water services and need to protect the environment; lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects; riverine ecology and status of water body; landscape/views along the river; and fluvial flood risk.	Expand PU zoning	Having regard to the need for increased capacity in WWTP, additional lands may be required for plant expansion; necessary to ensure ongoing effective management of wastewater from the settlement, to ensure environment protected to utmost degree.
		2A: Residential R15 (SLO2 & SLO3)	Maintain R15 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R15 zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Aughrim in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
		2B: Residential R10	Maintain R10 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R10 zoning Alternative uses		Provide New Residential Zoning	<b>An extent of New Residential zoning on these lands was removed for the Chief Executive's Draft however the Members chose to add this back into the Draft Plan for public display – the environmental implications of this change are explored in more detail under Section Error! Reference source not found..</b>
		2C, 2D: Residential Special (AUG1, AUG2, AUG3)	Maintain R-S zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R-S zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Aughrim in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
Carnew	Area 1: Former SLO 3	Residential (R20)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Carnew are described under Section 4.  Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	Alternative use (AOS)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Carnew in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Expand opportunities for sports and recreation
		Community & Education (CE)	Maintain CE zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand CE zoning Alternative uses		Alternative use (AOS)	Delivery of CE was coupled with R20 to achieve planning gain and potential for alternative school access / car park - removal of R20 zoning as above removes delivery possibility for CE infrastructure as part of a future housing development; however AOS zoning could allow for such facilities if planning case shown.
	Area 2: North of town centre	New residential R20 (Former SLO 2)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	Remove zoning (unzone)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Carnew in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.	
		New residential R20	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone)	1. Remove zoning (part)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Carnew in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands	

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
		(east of Malton Park)	Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.  Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.  Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; the need to provide for compact growth; lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects; riverine ecology and status of water body; and landscape/views along the river.	2. Change zoning to SLB (strategic land bank)(part)	are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 3. Expand separation between development zones and watercourse
		New residential R20 (north of Tomacork View)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses		Maintain residential zoning	Permitted residential development under construction
		Former Strategic Land Bank	Maintain SLB designation Remove designation Reduce / expand SLB designation Alternative uses		Reduce extent of designation	1. Majority of lands do not fulfil criteria for SLB designation – <i>'potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure'</i> and considered excessive in scale having regard to the likely long term development needs of Carnew. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.
		Open space (OS1)	Maintain OS zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand OS zoning Alternative uses		Remove zoning (unzone)	These OS lands acted as buffer to future development on lands adjoining to south; as these development lands have been un-zoned and are no longer required for delivering development this area zoned open space is no longer required.
		New Road (linking Tomacork and Coolattin roads)	Maintain objective Remove objective Alter objective (route / location)		Remove objective	No justification of traffic or planning ground if the surrounding lands are not developed.
Dunlavin	Area 1: Former AA1	New residential (R20)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	Environmental sensitivities for Dunlavin are described under Section 4.  Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.	Alternative designation (SLB)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Lands however considered to fulfil criteria to be designated SLB - <i>potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure</i>
		New residential R20 (Former AA2)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses			1. Remove zoning (unzone)(part) 2. Change to open space (AOS) (part)
	Area 2: Former AA2 & SLO 1	New residential R15 (former AA2)	Maintain R15 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R15 zoning Alternative uses	Change to open space (AOS)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Reconfiguration of AOS area to align with sports grounds adjacent	
		New residential R20	Maintain R20 zoning	Alternative designation (SLB)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands	

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
		(former SLO1)	Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.		are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Lands however considered to fulfil criteria to be designated SLB - <i>potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure</i>
	<b>Area 3: Former SLO 2</b>	New residential (R20)	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses	Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.  Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: the need to facilitate services at this settlement centre; population and housing targets; and the need to provide for compact growth.	1. Remove zoning (unzone)(part) 2. Change to open space (AOS) (part)	1. Having regard to population and housing targets for Dunlavin in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan. 2. Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl. 3. Expansion and reconfiguration of AOS area to provide for enhanced sporting/recreation needs of target population growth
	<b>Area 4: Former AA3</b>	Residential R20	Maintain R20 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand R20 zoning Alternative uses		Provide New Residential Zoning	1. <b>An extent of New Residential zoning on these lands was removed for the Chief Executive's Draft however the Members chose to add this back into the Draft Plan for public display – the environmental implications of this change are explored in more detail under Section Error!</b> Reference source not found..

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Town	Area	Current plan zones	Alternatives considered	Environmental Assessment		
				Assessment of Considerations	Outcome selected for the Draft Plan	Reasons for choosing selected outcome for the Draft Plan
Tinahely	Area 1: Former SLO4	Employment E – SLO4	Maintain E zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand E zoning Alternative uses	<p>Environmental sensitivities for Tinahely are described under Section 4.</p> <p>Consolidation of land use zoning would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing greenfield development would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components. Selection of lands for zoning took into account: whether water services infrastructure was already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for; access to transport infrastructure; and proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.</p> <p>By facilitating development of lands within this settlement that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, the protection and management of various environmental components would be contributed towards.</p> <p>Development would present potential adverse effects, including those detailed on Table 7.2.</p> <p>Environmental/planning issues key to selecting the Plan outcome included: population and housing targets; and the need to provide for compact growth.</p>	Remove zoning (unzone)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No justification for large quantum of employment zoning having regard to scale and growth parameters for Tinahely; maintain SLO3 only</li> <li>Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</li> </ol>
	Area 2: Residential (various)	R15 (3 locations)	Maintain R15 zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alter one area of R15 to RE</li> <li>Remove zoning elsewhere</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alter R15 at Bramble Hill to RE to reflect development constructed / under construction</li> <li>Having regard to population and housing targets for Tinahely in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</li> <li>Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</li> </ol>
		R Special (3 locations)	Maintain residential zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand residential zoning Alternative uses		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alter one area of R-S to SLB</li> <li>Remove zoning elsewhere</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having regard to population and housing targets for Tinahely in accordance with parameters set out in the NPF and RSES, lands are not needed for residential development during the lifetime of this plan.</li> <li>Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</li> <li>One area at Churchlands however considered to fulfil criteria to be designated SLB - <i>potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure</i></li> </ol>
Area 3: Strategic Land Bank (various)	Former Strategic Land Bank	Maintain SLB zoning Remove zoning (unzone) Reduce / expand SLB designation Alternative uses	Remove designation (majority)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of lands do not fulfil criteria for SLB designation – <i>‘potentially suitable for new residential development having regard to proximity and accessibility to infrastructure’</i> and considered excessive in scale having regard to the likely long term development needs of Tinahely</li> <li>Tightening of plan and development boundary allows for focus on consolidation and densification within built up area and reduction in sprawl.</li> </ol>		

## **7.4 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered**

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

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

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

A final, consolidated SEA Environmental Report will be prepared on adoption of the Plan that will confirm which alternatives were included in the adopted Plan.

## Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

### 8.1 Introduction

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

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

**Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>117</sup>**

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

<sup>117</sup> See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels.</li> </ul>
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses.</li> <li>Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>

## 8.2 Cumulative Effects

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

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

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

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.2.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.7 (and associated Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes"), Section 4 and Section 5. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, adjoining County Development Plans and Local Area Plans);



- Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme, Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010, Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, Draft National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Climate Policy Position and Climate Action 2014, Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and White Paper Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015, Climate Action Plan 2021, the National Adaptation Framework 2018, and the Wicklow Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 and Climate Action Charter 2019);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan and Transportation Policies and Strategies); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:
  - sustainable compact growth;
  - sustainable mobility/a shift from motorised transport modes to more sustainable and non-motorised transport modes; and
  - renewable energy development.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to Green Infrastructure, including beyond the County border;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects is consistent with those described on Table 8.2. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

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

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

which will be integrated into the Plan while some will be mitigated by measures arising out of separate consent procedures.

### **8.3 Overall Evaluation of Draft Plan Provisions to which the Proposed Material Alterations Relate (from SEA Environmental Report May 2021)**

Wicklow County Council have integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes into the Draft Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate (see Section 9). Table 8.2 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan – see Section 9.

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

**Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>• Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>	<b>BFF</b>

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			SEO Codes
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under “Soil”, “Water” and “Air and Climatic Factors” below.</li> </ul>	<b>PHH</b>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.</li> </ul>	<b>S</b>

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>	<b>W</b>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> <li>Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> <li>Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>	<b>MA</b>

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Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework			SEO Codes
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and</li> <li>Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</li> <li>Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</li> </ul>	<b>AC</b>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> <li>Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<b>CH</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<b>L</b>

## 8.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA are being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, including the Proposed Material Alterations. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The emerging conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>118</sup>.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA. The Proposed Material Alterations are accompanied by an AA Natura Impact Report, which has informed this SEA Environmental Report.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is also being undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan and the Proposed Material Alterations. The SFRA process has informed this report.

## 8.5 Integration of Climate Action into the Plan<sup>119</sup>

The Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, will contribute towards climate action in combination with:

- The Climate Action Plan that identifies 493 climate mitigation and/or adaptation actions, including: Action 214 Rollout of Social Housing National Retrofitting Programme in 2021 with retrofitted properties required to reach BER B2 or equivalent; Action 190 Ensure national, regional, and local planning frameworks encourage and facilitate the development of district heating where appropriate to facilitating compact urban development; and Action 78 Implement the National Planning Framework. The Climate Action Plan also identifies local authorities as the lead stakeholder on a number of steps under certain actions.
- The National Planning Framework, which has identified National Strategic Outcome Objectives 8 "Build Climate Resilience" and 9 "Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy" under National Strategic Outcome 8 "Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society".
- The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that has identified various Regional Policy Objectives relating to climate action, including RPO 7.32 "With the assistance and support of the Climate Action Regional Offices, local authorities shall develop, adopt and implement local climate adaptation and mitigation strategies which shall address issues including local vulnerability to climate risks and identify and prioritise actions, in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework, National Mitigation Plan.", RPO 7.22 "Local authority development plan and local area plans, shall identify, protect, enhance, provide and manage Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner and should also have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species", RPO 7.23 "Support the further development of Green Infrastructure policies and coordinate the mapping of strategic Green Infrastructure in the Region", RPO 7.35 "EMRA shall, in conjunction with local authorities in the Region, identify Strategic Energy Zones as areas suitable for larger energy generating projects, the role of community and micro energy production in urban and rural settings and the potential for renewable energy within industrial areas. The Strategic Energy Zones for the Region will ensure all environmental constraints are addressed in the analysis. A regional landscape strategy should be developed to support delivery of projects within the Strategic Energy Zones." and RPO 7.40 "Local authorities shall include policies in statutory land use plans to promote high levels of energy conservation, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in existing buildings, including retro fitting of energy efficiency measures in the existing building stock and energy efficiency in traditional buildings. All new buildings within the Region will be required to achieve the Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) standard in line with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)."

Climate change action is one of three cross-cutting key principles of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, and has been integrated into the Plan in a proactive way with the inclusion of relevant policies and objectives; strategic policy outcomes incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation into land-use planning, supported by land-use policies and objectives that where relevant incorporate objectives that both mitigate against the source of the causes of climate change

<sup>118</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>119</sup> This section is informed by content from Section 2.2.2 of the Draft Plan

and adapt to reduce the impacts of climate change. Climate change action informs objectives in relation to all chapters of the Plan, including the town and settlement plans and the Plan appendices.

Given the Plan's remit as a land use framework not all sources and impacts are addressed in the Plan objectives (e.g. impact on insurance costs). The Plan's role in addressing climate change is part of a combined overall effort by Wicklow County Council to fulfil its role in addressing the climate change challenge. Climate change poses a real threat to ecosystems, however these ecosystems including wetlands and woodlands, are important for their role as carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection. As it noted in the RSES, careful land management is needed to ensure that land use changes do not impact on the ability of the natural environment to absorb climate impacts. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment also have a key role to play in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The approach taken in crafting the Plan is to identify what are the impacts and sources of climate change, identify the key sectors of the sources of impacts that are relevant to the County Plan as a land use plan and to ensure that these are considered in the crafting of all policies and objectives.

Under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Local Authorities are required to prepare local Climate Action Plans outlining how they are implementing their adopted Climate Action Adaptation and Mitigation strategies.

Building on existing climate action policies, the RSES identifies the following five areas where Climate Change Action should be targeted in the region namely Built Environment, Sustainable Transport, Energy and Waste, Flood Resilience and Water, and Green Infrastructure and Eco-system services. How these are dealt with under the Plan is detailed on Table 8.3 below.

**Table 8.3 How Climate Action has been integrated into the Draft Plan**

Sector	Summary of how Plan contributes towards Climate Action
<b>Built Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of sustainable settlement patterns, with a focus in compact growth</li> <li>• Regeneration of town and village centres, with the prioritising of the development of underutilised and brownfield sites</li> <li>• Promotion of environmentally sustainable development in terms of location, layout, design and energy and water usage.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide policy, objectives and standards that promote and facilitate a sustainable approach to transportation with strategies and objectives in place to facilitate the necessary actions, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduction in the need to use motorised vehicles, increased opportunities for walking and cycling;</li> <li>- reduction in journey length and times, reduction in congestion;</li> <li>- higher intensity of use of public transport;</li> <li>- development and increased usage of alternative vehicle fuel sources, such as electricity, hydrogen and biofuels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Energy &amp; Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide policy, objectives and standards that promote and facilitate the development of alternative and renewable sources of electricity to meet the electricity demand with policy and objectives for reduction in electricity use, wind energy, solar energy, hydro energy, bio-energy and small scale renewable electricity generation.</li> <li>• Support the development of enabling infrastructure, especially at the ports/harbours, for the off-shore wind energy sector.</li> <li>• Support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling</li> <li>• Promote the circular economy and the 'just transition' to clean energy.</li> </ul>
<b>Flood resilience &amp; water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure</li> <li>• Conservation and enhancement of water resources including sea, rivers, lakes and groundwater.</li> <li>• Effective and environmentally sound management of waste water.</li> <li>• Reduction and management of flood risk.</li> <li>• To build resilience to increased risks of extreme weather events, changes in sea level and patterns of coastal erosion to protect property, critical infrastructure and food security.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Heritage &amp; Green Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conserve and enhance biodiversity, protected habitats and species.</li> <li>• To identify, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services and promote the sustainable management of strategic natural assets such as coastlines, farmlands, peatlands, uplands woodlands and wetlands.</li> <li>• Promote and facilitate an environmentally sustainable approach to practicing agriculture and forestry.</li> </ul>



## 8.6 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; neither implementation of the Plan, nor the Proposed Material Alterations, will affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.

**Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components**

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

## 8.7 Detailed Evaluation<sup>120</sup>

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 105.

The Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the National Adaptation Framework, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.7 *“Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes”* in this report).

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

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

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<sup>120</sup> The Proposed Material Alterations are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the Proposed Material Alterations are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

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

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

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Proposed Material Alterations No's, <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	<b>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121	These alterations could be considered mitigation in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan, further to that already included in the Draft Plan. Therefore it was deemed prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Consequently, SEA was advised as prudent. The changes arising from the alterations would also benefit the protection and management of various environmental components, in addition to European sites, including water, landscape, human health, soil, cultural heritage, air and climatic factors and the adequate provision of water services.	BFF PHH W MA L A C S CH		
V1-46, V1-76, V1-77 and V3-133	These alterations further provide support for the development of walking routes and/or tourism in potentially sensitive locations (including for particular routes), in addition to that already provided for by the Draft Plan. The development of walking routes and visitor/destination management initiatives has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects, including on designated European sites, that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas. All effects would be consistent with those identified in the SEA overall assessment of the Plan (see Section 8.3) and would be mitigated by measures including those that have been integrated into the Draft Plan - see Section 9.	BFF PHH MA A C	BFF PHH S W MA CH L	
V1-57 and V1-58	These alterations further support rail transport, which is already supported by the Draft Plan. V1-57 supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. V1-58 further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These amendments would further help to maximise sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health. Supporting rail transport, including the construction, operation and protection of infrastructure, could potentially impact upon various environmental components, including material assets, ecology (including European sites), water and noise emissions. The existing rail network passes through and nearby to various protected ecological sites including the Bray Head Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Murrrough Wetlands SAC, Wicklow Reef SAC and the Murrrough Special Protection Area (SPA). All effects would be consistent with those identified in the SEA overall assessment of the Plan (see Section 8.3) and would be mitigated by measures including those that have been integrated into the Draft Plan - see Section 9.	PHH MA A C	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-87, V2-99, V2-100, V2-112 and V2-113	Proposed Amendments V2-87, V2-99, V2-100, V2-112 and V2-113 relate to land use zoning and have been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines, however mitigation has been identified, including that within the Draft Plan, that applies in each of these instances. Once these measures are complied with, effects on environmental components including human health and material assets would be mitigated. <sup>122</sup>		BFF PHH W MA C	S A CH L
V1-10	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Ballinaclash) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V1-11	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilpedder - Willowgrove) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

<sup>121</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>122</sup> The assessment of additional interactions for certain amendments (V2-87, V2-99, V2-100 and V2-113) are considered elsewhere on this table.

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Proposed Material Alterations No's. <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs	<u>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</u>	<u>No Likely</u> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
	<p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V1-12	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Laragh) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V1-13	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Johnstown) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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Proposed Material Alterations No's. <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	<b>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V1-31	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilmullen, Newcastle) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V1-33	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to a Motorway Service Area at Coolbeg Cross) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V1-51	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Jack Whites) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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	<p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-87 <sup>123</sup>	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Baltinglass) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on ecologically designated sites (Slaney River Valley SAC and designated Salmonid River under SI 293 Regulations)</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including visual impacts on lands along a river corridor)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-88	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Baltinglass) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places (WI027-023) and associated landscape, including context</li> <li>• Effects on the Baltinglass Hills Area of Archaeological Potential/Significance and associated landscape, including context</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts - including as a result of developing lands that are elevated over surrounding areas</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on ecology including ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

<sup>123</sup> The assessment of additional interactions between this amendment and European sites and flood risk are further considered elsewhere on this table.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-90	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Newtownmountkennedy) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts on an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-92	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Newtownmountkennedy) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts on an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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	<p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-94	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Rathdrum) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-95	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Rathdrum) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-96	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Rathdrum) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	



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Proposed Material Alterations No's. <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	<b>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-99 <sup>124</sup>	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Ballinalea), including for New Residential zoning, is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-100 <sup>125</sup>	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Inchanappa) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and associated landscapes, including context</li> <li>Effects on entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and associated landscapes, including context</li> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

<sup>124</sup> The assessment of additional interactions between this amendment and flood risk are further considered elsewhere on this table.

<sup>125</sup> The assessment of additional interactions between this amendment and flood risk are further considered elsewhere on this table.

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Proposed Material Alterations No's. <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	<b>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
	<p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-101	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Aughrim) This Proposed Amendment (relating to land use zoning in ) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-102	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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V2-103	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland and the Croneyhorn Upper watercourse</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-104	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places (Ringfort), including context</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site, including impacts on a View of Special Amenity Value/Interest</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-105	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places, including context</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site, including impacts on a View of Special Amenity Value/Interest</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-106	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Dunlavin) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-108	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Tinahely) would, if development was to occur, present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. Development of these lands would be likely to be considered to be premature in the context of the development of Tinahely.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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Proposed Material Alterations No's, <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	<b>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
V2-109	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Tinahely) would, if development was to occur, present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. Development of these lands would be likely to be considered to be premature in the context of the development of Tinahely.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-110	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Tinahely) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-113 <sup>126</sup>	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Roundwood) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The residential uses proposed are considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on the designated sites Vartry Reservoir NHA</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

<sup>126</sup> The assessment of additional interactions between this amendment and flood risk are further considered elsewhere on this table.

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Proposed Material Alterations No's. <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	<b>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including mature trees and ecological connectivity</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V2-114	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Roundwood) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including mature trees and ecological connectivity</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> <li>• Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including context of Bullaun stone WI018-034)</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
V2-115	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Roundwood) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity and impacts on a View of Special Amenity Value/Interest)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including mature trees and ecological connectivity</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> </ul>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

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Proposed Material Alterations No's, <sup>121</sup>	Commentary	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs	<u>Additional Conflicts that would need to be mitigated</u>	<u>No Likely</u> interaction with status of SEOs above those already identified for the original Draft Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>			
V3-133 <sup>127</sup>	<p>The Enniskerry site that is the subject of this proposal is currently zoned in a separately adopted Local Area Plan for the town. The proposal seeks to change the zoning of this site from Passive Open Space and Agriculture.</p> <p>This proposal is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>This site is adjacent to the Knocksink Wood SAC and developments under this land use zoning objective could potentially impact upon this European site and all other environmental components.</p> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

<sup>127</sup> The assessment of additional interactions between this amendment and European sites are further considered elsewhere on this table.

## Section 9 Mitigation Measures

### 9.1 Introduction

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

Mitigation relating to the Proposed Material Alterations is recommended under Section 9.2 below.

Mitigation as part of the Draft Plan preparation/SEA process was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate.

### 9.2 Additional Mitigation for Proposed Material Alterations

Additional mitigation relating to the Proposed Material Alterations is recommended under Table 9.1 below.

**Table 9.1 Additional Mitigation for Proposed Material Alterations**

Alteration No. <sup>128</sup>	Mitigation Description - for further information on adverse environmental effects refer to Table 8.2
V1-10, V1-11, V1-12, V1-13, V1-31, V1-33, V1-51, V2-87, V2-88, V2-90, V2-92, V2-94, V2-95, V2-96, V2-99, V2-100, V2-101, V2-102, V2-103, V2-104, V2-105, V2-106, V2-108, V2-109, V2-110, V2-113, V2-114, V2-115 and V3-133	These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.

<sup>128</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.



### **9.3 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development**

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

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

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

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

### **9.4 Consideration of Alternatives**

Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 6), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Council considered a number of alternatives for the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate.

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

### **9.5 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan**

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

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

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

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

## **9.6 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan**

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

Table 9.2 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could help to minimise flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

Table 9.2 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Draft Plan

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b> Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p><b>Tourism and Recreation</b></p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p><b>Environmental Protection</b></p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Corridor and Route Selection</b></p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity Objectives</b></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Protected sites and species</b></p> <p>CPO 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019)</li> </ul>

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Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if <b>Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:</b> (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</li> <li>• National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including ‘Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment’ (2018), ‘Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development’ (2003), ‘Tree Preservation Guidelines’, ‘Landscape and Landscape Assessment’ (draft 2000), ‘Appropriate Assessment Guidance’ (2010);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),</li> <li>• Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report’s goals and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at ‘The Rocks’, Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p><b>Sites &amp; Corridors of ecological &amp; biodiversity value</b></p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p><b>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</b></p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B &amp; C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high value, where it appears that they are in danger of being felled.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	<b>Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:</b> (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)
		<p>CPO 17.23 To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths/strategic walkways/cycleways, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets.</p> <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><b>Recreation and Tourism</b></p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes ;</li> <li>• Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Light Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development &amp; Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p>

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		<p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p><b>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>129</sup>.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Cell 2 Bray Head CPO 19.17</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To protect and enhance Bray Head, in accordance with the SAAO.</li> <li>2. To maintain and enhance amenity routes on Bray Head and in particular the cliff path from Bray to Greystones.</li> <li>3. To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps, while preserving the rugged and natural character of the area and its paths</li> <li>4. To protect all listed views and prospects to or from Bray Head as set out in the Local Area Plan for Bray MD and County Development Plan.</li> <li>5. Development, which would reduce existing areas of heathland, maritime grassland and wooded areas, will not normally be permitted except for reasons of overriding public interest.</li> <li>6. To facilitate existing agricultural usage of Bray Head, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitat diversity.</li> <li>7. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its amenity and green break function between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</li> <li>b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</li> <li>c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft or hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown) CPO 19.18</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its function as a green break between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</li> <li>b) The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</li> <li>c) Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. To maintain and enhance the cliff path from Bray to Greystones, while preserving its rugged and natural character.</li> <li>3. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</li> <li>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 4 Greystones Town CPO 19.19</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To support the objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole, in particular to provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park. The development shall provide leisure, recreational, open space and marine facilities, and mixed form residential, commercial, civic and social amenities, centred around the harbour and marina. The development shall provide a link to the coastline with public access and coastal protection works provided to preserve the landscape from further erosion in the future.</li> <li>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage and changing / toilet facilities.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin) CPO 19.20</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</li> <li>2. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations.</li> <li>3. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</li> <li>4. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</li> </ol>

<sup>129</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

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			<p>5. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</p> <p>7. To facilitate and support the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities.</p> <p>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the ecological and amenity value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</b></p> <p>1. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</p> <p>3. To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>5. To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations.</p> <p>6. To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</p> <p>7. To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</p> <p>8. To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</p> <p>9. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p>10. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</b></p> <p>1. To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively.</p> <p>3. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>4. To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port.</p> <p>5. To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south.</p> <p>6. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</b></p> <p>1. To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites;</li> <li>Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</li> <li>the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and</li> <li>the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</li> <li>automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> </ol> <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p>

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		<p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 9 Brittas Bay CPO 19.24</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. To protect, conserve and encourage the recovery of the beach-dune system at Brittas Bay, in accordance with the conservation objectives for which the SAC is designated, and as per site specific conservation management prescriptions prepared in 2018. Development that results in the erosion of the beach-dune system will not be permitted. In this respect, the Council will particularly ensure protection against erosion caused by amenity and recreational use of the dunes.</p> <p>4. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>7. All services and facilities to serve the local community and tourists shall be located within the boundaries of Ballynacarrig Village. Notwithstanding this, one small-scale local service type development shall be considered in proximity to the South Beach car park. The development may comprise a shop/service garage/pub/restaurant/café development. The maximum floor area of the development shall be 200m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>8. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New tourist accommodation shall be directed into one of the three identified development clusters of Ballynacarrig Village, Brittas Bridge and Cornagower (as shown on Map XX.02), or to existing developed sites. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where the following criteria are complied with, will accommodation be considered on a greenfield site outside a cluster: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the development shall be located in close proximity to the identified clusters and shall have or be provided with direct and high quality connections to the clusters and to the coast;</li> <li>ii. the development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</li> <li>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design;</li> <li>d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</li> <li>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> </ol> <p>9. To limit the size of existing public car parks to the present levels and to support the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the road at Cornagower East.</p> <p>10. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>11. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>12. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 10 Mizen Head to Arklow (Sallymount / Johnstown) CPO 19.25</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p>



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To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New tourist accommodation shall be limited to suitable sites west of the coast road that are served by high quality road network and are or can be provided with direct and proximate access to the coast.</li> <li>Permission will only be considered for new tourist accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc).</li> <li>The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design.</li> <li>The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types.</li> <li>Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> </ol> <p>7. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>8. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the coast road, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>9. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>10. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water and energy infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p><b>Cell 11 Arklow Environs CPO 19.26</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Arklow coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the Arklow Town and Environs Local Area Plan.</li> <li>To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</li> <li>To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour / marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone Jetty.</li> <li>To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 12 Arklow Head / Clogga CPO 19.27</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</li> <li>Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</li> <li>To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</li> <li>To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</li> <li>To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</li> <li>New tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing developed cluster at Clogga or to existing developed sites; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</li> <li>the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</li> <li>the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited;</li> <li>automated gates will not be permitted on any development; and</li> <li>new development shall have or be provided with high quality direct access to the main traffic routes;</li> <li>development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</li> </ol> </li> <li>To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</li> <li>To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</li> <li>To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</li> </ol>

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<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>• Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Seveso Sites</b> CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the “COMAH Regulations”, (S.I. No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents;</li> <li>• where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances,</li> <li>b) public health and safeguarding of public health, and</li> <li>c) protection of the environment;</li> </ol> </li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>• Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Soils &amp; Geology</b> CPO 17.27 Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance ‘County Geological Sites’ (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>CPO 17.29 To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail ‘significant’ ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.</p> <p>CPO 17.30 To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of “agreed access” subject to appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.31 To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a “Wicklow Rock Trail”, Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 17.32 To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design &amp; Development standards of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>CPO 17.34 Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peatland stability;</li> <li>• Carbon emissions balance; and</li> <li>• Hydrology and ecology.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood risk and associated effects</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To promote the development of the County’s sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County’s economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Adverse Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: (this text will be updated at adoption of the Plan to take account of any Alterations/Modifications made)
	associated with flood events.	with flood	<p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newtownmountkennedy</li> <li>- Rathdrum</li> <li>- Dunlavin</li> <li>- The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p><b>Water Demand Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of water efficient equipment;</li> <li>- Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies;</li> <li>- Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines;</li> <li>- Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment;</li> <li>- The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;</li> <li>- In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers.</li> </ul>

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		<p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow</li> <li>- Blessington</li> <li>- Aughrim</li> <li>- Tinahely</li> <li>- Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> <li>- Lakes area around Blessington</li> <li>- Large and Small Villages</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p><b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Flood Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures, and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme;</li> <li>- Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme;</li> <li>- Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme;</li> <li>- Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).</p>

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		<p>CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary.</p> <p>CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines).</p> <p>CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</li> <li>• An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding.</li> <li>• Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed.</li> <li>• Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines.</li> <li>• Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA.</li> </ul> <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>CPO 14.10 To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.</p> <p>CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving.</p> <p>CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p><b>Water Systems</b></p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local,</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p>

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	<p>national and European environmental objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p><b>Climatic Factors</b></p> <p>Refer to <b>Section 8.5</b> "Integration of Climate Action into the Plan".</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> <li>• Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG);</li> <li>• 'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)', EPA 2006;</li> <li>• 'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009;</li> <li>• 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and</li> <li>• 'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009.</li> </ul> <p>Strategic Objective To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newtownmountkennedy</li> <li>- Rathdrum</li> <li>- Dunlavin</li> <li>- The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p><b>Water Demand Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of water efficient equipment;</li> <li>- Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies;</li> <li>- Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines;</li> <li>- Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment;</li> <li>- The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;</li> </ul>

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		<p>- In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers.</p> <p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow</li> <li>- Blessington</li> <li>- Auhtrim</li> <li>- Tinahely</li> <li>- Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p><b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Solid Waste Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.1 To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site.</p> <p>CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development &amp; Design Standards of this plan).</p> <p>CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.</p> <p>CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste.</p> <p>CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area.</p> <p>CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Hazardous Waste Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents;</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

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		<p>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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provision of open space amenities,</li> <li>sustainable management of water,</li> <li>protection and management of biodiversity,</li> <li>protection of cultural heritage, and</li> <li>protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and</li> <li>the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment)</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption),</li> <li>the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority,</li> <li>the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow,</li> <li>the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area,</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrrough Coastal Protection Study , the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p> <p><b>Archaeology Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments &amp; Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules X.01 &amp; X.02 and Maps X.01 &amp; X.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care, as identified in Schedule X.02 and Map X.02 of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p><b>Architectural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p>



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		<p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p><b>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p><b>Other Structures &amp; Vernacular Architecture Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stonewalls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA.</li> <li>• The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line.</li> <li>• The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings.</li> <li>• Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible.</li> <li>• A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required.</li> <li>• The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used.</li> <li>• Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p><b>Historical &amp; Cultural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p> <p>CPO 8.28 Any road or bridge improvement works along the Military Road shall be designed and constructed with due regard to the history and notable features of the road (in particular its original support structures, route and alignment), insofar as is possible and reasonable given the existing transport function of the road.</p>

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<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape, Views &amp; Prospects</b></p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan ) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> <p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>CPO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

## Section 10 Monitoring Measures

### 10.1 Introduction

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

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

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

### 10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the measures identified in that RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring programmes.

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

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

### 10.3 Sources

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

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

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

### 10.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan, in consultation with others. This report will seek to address the indicators set out on Table 10.1. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition of European sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years).</li> <li>DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (see Section 10.4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>Implement and review, as relevant, County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022 and County Wicklow Biodiversity Plan 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water quality in the County's water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 17 “Natural Heritage and Biodiversity”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 9 “Economic Development”</li> <li>By 2020 all citizens will have access to speeds of 30Mbps, and that 50% of citizens will be subscribing to speeds of 100Mbps (Also relevant to Material Assets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives</li> <li>Consultations with DECC (see Section 10.4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> <li>Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>

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

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.</li> </ul>
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water (see Section 10.4)</li> <li>DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74%</li> <li>NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Data from the National Travel Survey</li> <li>EPA Air Quality Monitoring</li> <li>Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (see Section 10.4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above</li> </ul>
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> <li>EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting</li> <li>Climate Action Regional Office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC),</li> </ul>		

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action	
			for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations with DECC (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4)</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO data</li> <li>• Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO data</li> <li>• Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with DHLGH (see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>		
<b>Landscape</b>	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation</li> </ul>	

# Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a “screening procedure” is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species’ habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest</li> <li>Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> <li>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> <li>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>	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.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> <li>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> <li>First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk of flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</li> </ul>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	The aims are achieved by applying Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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		about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.	cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy</b>	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.</li> <li>• An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.</li> <li>• A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making.</li> <li>• Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>• Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>• Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>• Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</li> <li>• The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</li> </ul>	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</b>	The Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	In preparation	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 366 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 9 of 2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> </ul>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</li> </ul>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Climate Action Plan is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050. The Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 provides a legal framework for significantly reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. It contains a National Climate Objective which commits the country to "pursue and achieve, but no later than the end of the year 2050" carbon neutral status.</li> </ul>	The Act states that this would enable Ireland to "transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy". This goal is to be achieved through the introduction of carbon budgets, which will place a limit on the amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted by sectors such as transport and agriculture.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an</li> </ul>	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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	<p>'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b></p>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers.</li> <li>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b></p>	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</li> <li>Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</li> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action Charter (2019)</b>	Wicklow County Council signed up to the Climate Action Charter in December 2019. This charter includes substantial targets with regard to mitigation of climate change and increase energy efficiency.	Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of drawing up an implementation plan which takes in all the actions from the Climate Action Charter and the Climate Adaptation Strategy. The implementation plan will list all the actions, who is responsible for delivering it and an indication of the time to deliver it.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.</li> <li>The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.</li> </ul>	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</li> <li>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.</li> <li>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment.</li> <li>The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	<p>Vision: <i>“Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.”</i></p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</li> <li>Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</i></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025</b>	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</b>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Collection</li> <li>Self-sufficiency</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Legacy issues</li> <li>North-south cooperation</li> <li>Guidance and awareness</li> <li>Implementation</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i></li> </ul>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Framework sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</li> </ul>	<p>The three priorities stated in the Framework are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</b>	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	<p>Key targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> <li>At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

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			combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy &amp; Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</b>	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021)</b> <b>Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b> <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b> <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on River Basin Districts (RBDs).</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,



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<b>(Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Services Act 2007</b>  <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b>  <b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Harvest 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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			cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b>	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b> <b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b> <b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	'Our Rural Future' provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Framework acknowledges that the country is heading into an era of unprecedented change as we recover from the impact of COVID-19, as we adapt to new ways of working, as the impact of Brexit presents itself and as we transition to a climate-neutral society. This change is considered a significant opportunity for rural areas.	Our Rural Future focuses on the following thematic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband.</li> <li>Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas.</li> <li>Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages.</li> <li>Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities.</li> <li>Enhancing public services in rural areas.</li> <li>Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy.</li> <li>Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry.</li> <li>Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities.</li> <li>Nurturing our culture and heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017</b>	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.	The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Sustainable Communities,</li> <li>Supporting Enterprise and Employment,</li> <li>Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential,</li> <li>Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and</li> <li>Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>• Producer Groups</li> <li>• Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>• Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>• Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	<p>other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>River Basin Management Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>• Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD.</li> <li>• Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD.</li> <li>• Involve the public through consultations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	<p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>• To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> <li>• To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</li> </ul>	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>• To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>• To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> <li>• Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>• Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>• Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</li> <li>• By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>• Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>• Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>• Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.  Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> </ul> Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.</li> <li>• There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.</li> </ul> The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b>	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3))</b>  <b>Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997)</b>  <b>Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4</b>  <b>Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001)</b>  <b>Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b></p>	<p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> </ul> <p>to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b></p>	<p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences</li> <li>Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal.</li> <li>In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020)</b></p>	<p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p>	<p>The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment.</li> <li>Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector.</li> <li>Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection.</li> <li>Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives – a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period.</li> <li>Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses.</li> <li>Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b></p>			
<p><b>Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031</b></p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rail;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare.</li> <li>• Vision Statement: “The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas.”</li> <li>• Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy.</li> </ul>	Core principles deriving from the strategic vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs.</li> <li>• The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country.</li> <li>• The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance.</li> <li>• Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high-quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form.</li> <li>• Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form</li> <li>• Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high-quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans (including Development Plans Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes) in force within County Wicklow and in other adjoining planning authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2016-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2023</b>	It sets out a vision of what can be achieved in Wicklow, with clear priorities and a series of detailed actions and next steps to ensure the County is realising its potential over the next 5 years.	<p>The goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Wicklow as a year round destination;</li> <li>Capture more overnight tourism;</li> <li>Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation;</li> <li>Convert day visitors to staying visitors;</li> <li>Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets;</li> <li>Strategic approach to marketing and promotion; and</li> <li>Deliver sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022</b>	The overall aim of the Plan is: To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Increase understanding of the value of Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions; and</li> <li>Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate information.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015</b>	Sets out a strategy for increasing our understanding and appreciation of this along with measures for enhancing the protection of this valuable resource	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to provide a focussed approach for the county, identifying priorities habitats and species in need of attention and the action required to secure their future.</li> </ul> <p>It identifies opportunities and needs for partnership work and, is the start of a targeted and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation in the county.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Wicklow County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	Response to the impact that the climate change is having and will continue to have on the County of Wicklow and its citizens. It addresses how Wicklow County as an organisation responds to the impacts of Climate Change.	The Plans' objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Wicklow a stronger county by reducing impacts of future climate change related events;</li> <li>• Fully consider and mainstream climate adaptation in the day to day delivery of services by Wicklow County Council;</li> </ul> Actively engage with and inform citizens and communities in Wicklow about the impacts of climate change. Public awareness is key to developing effective climate adaptation measures.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow County Council Draft Energy Plan/Energy Performance Strategy (2020)</b>	Wicklow County Council Housing and Corporate Estate Department are currently working on an Energy Plan / Energy Performance Strategy which seeks to deliver the targets of the Charter with regard to Council's infrastructure / assets.	Upgrading of the public lighting to LED lights is an example of such a project.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Healthy Wicklow 2018-2021</b>	Wicklow County Council produced the 'Healthy Wicklow' strategy in line with the 'National Activity Plan' and the 'Healthy Ireland' framework.	The document aims to assess the requirements and provides objectives with which to improve the overall health and well-being of the people of Wicklow and is guided with the four following key goals: <p>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</p> <p>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</p> <p>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</p> <p>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Age-Friendly Strategy 2017-2022</b>	The age-friendly strategy was developed with the aim of making Wicklow an age friendly county, a county in which all public service and private sector providers work in partnership to make Wicklow great. It gives commitments to improving infrastructure both physical and social as well as services and information provision to improve the quality of life of older people across the county. <p>The strategy aims, in combination with other government and county programmes and plans, including the County Development Plan, to make Wicklow a county that is more accessible and accommodating to people as they grow older.</p>	The document seeks to address existing issues and improve the conditions for the ageing population in Wicklow under the following 9 themes: <p>Theme 1 Outdoor Spaces and Buildings</p> <p>Theme 2 Transportation</p> <p>Theme 3 Housing</p> <p>Theme 4 Social Participation</p> <p>Theme 5 Respect and Social Inclusion</p> <p>Theme 6 Civic Participation and Employment</p> <p>Theme 7 Communication and Information</p> <p>Theme 8 Community Support and Health Services</p> <p>Theme 9 Safety and Security</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Tourism Strategy &amp; Marketing Plan 2018 - 2023</b>	The Strategy notes that the County is performing well but has enormous untapped potential arising from its natural and built assets, proximity to large markets and relationship to the stories and promise of Ireland's Ancient East. It is recognised that tourism growth strategy should maximise off-peak visits, deliver business year round, be high value, attract international as well as domestic visitors and it must maximise the positive economic impact, achieving overnight stays as a priority.	The Strategy identifies five priority actions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop new accommodation;</li> <li>▪ Develop the key settlements of Bray, Wicklow, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs;</li> <li>▪ Masterplan for Glendalough;</li> <li>▪ Grow thematic experiences;</li> <li>▪ Develop a common narrative.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2026</b>	The Statement identifies a number of goals for tourism in County Wicklow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Wicklow as a year round destination,</li> <li>• Capture more overnight tourism,</li> <li>• Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation,</li> <li>• Convert day visitors to staying visitors, and</li> <li>• Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets and deliver sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

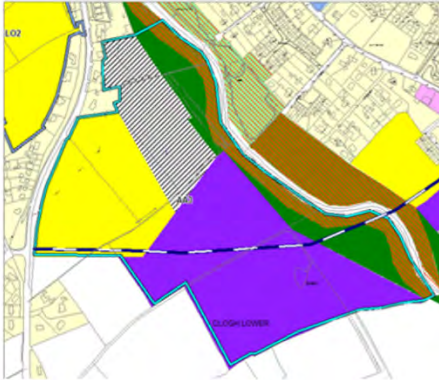
SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective etc.	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020 - 2025</b>	The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for realising the potential of Wicklow's outdoor recreation assets in a manner which prioritises environmental sustainability.	The Strategy identifies five outdoor recreations hubs / clusters – Glendalough, Rathdrum, Blessington/Baltinglass, Tinahely/Shillelagh and East Coast maritime. Objectives identified include: Expansion of the trails network, preparation of an outdoor recreation transport plan and increase awareness of environmental and cultural responsibilities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
<b>Eastern and Midland Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin: A Breath of Fresh Air/Come Here To Me Dublin brands</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

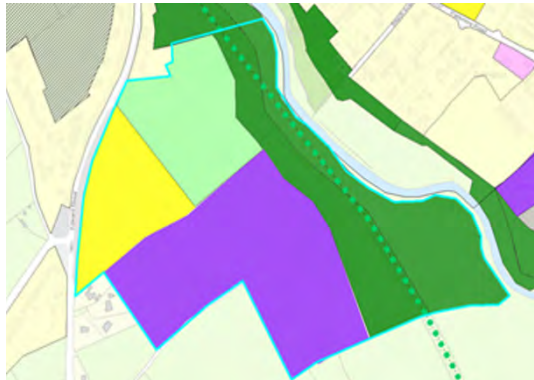
# Appendix II General Location of Land Use Zoning Alternatives

## Baltinglass Area 1: Bawnogues (N81) – former Action Area 3

Current Plan (2016)

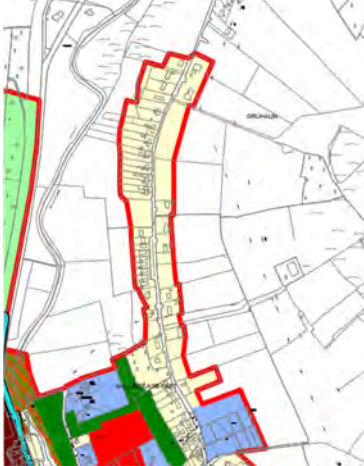


Draft Plan (2021)



## Baltinglass Area 2: Baltinglass East - Sruhaun

Current Plan (2016)

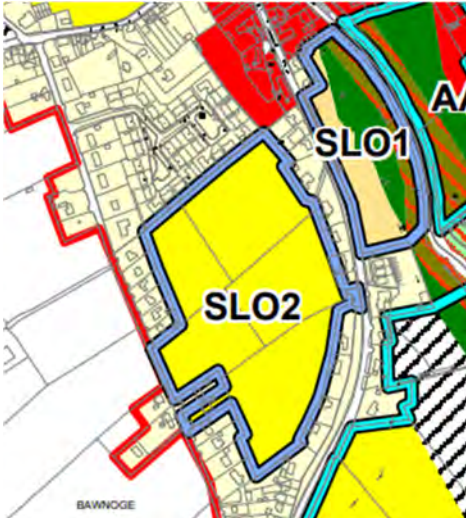


Draft Plan (2021)



## Baltinglass Area 3: Bawnogues – Baltinglass west (former SLO1, SLO2)

Current Plan (2016)

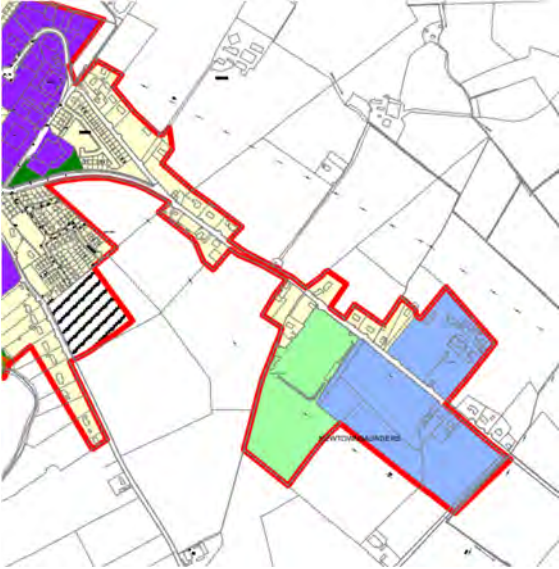


Draft Plan (2021)

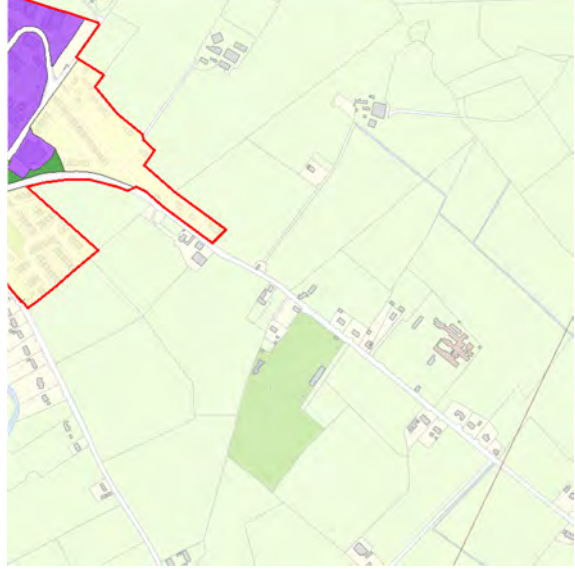


### Baltinglass Area 4: Newtownsaunders

Current Plan (2016)

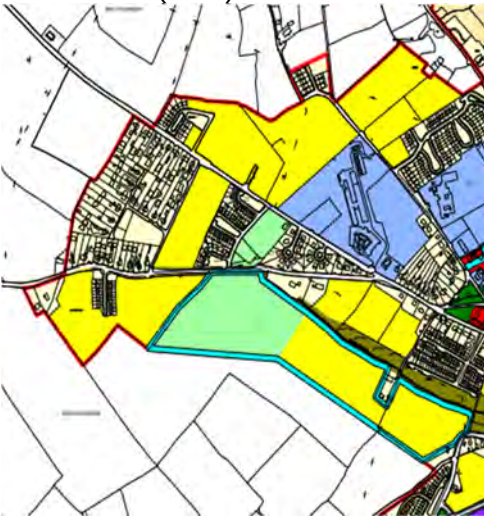


Draft Plan (2021)

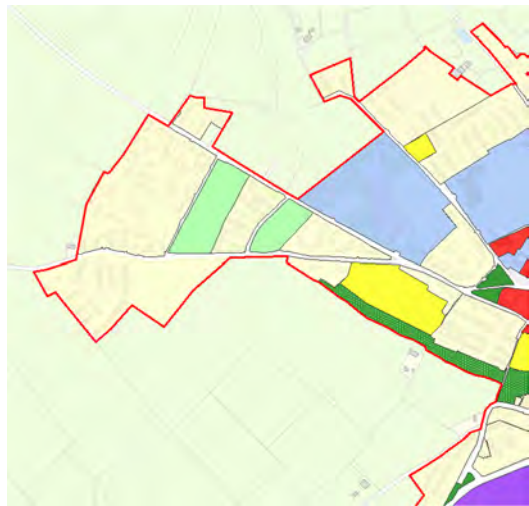


### Rathdrum Area 1: Lands to W / NW of town centre

Current Plan (2017)

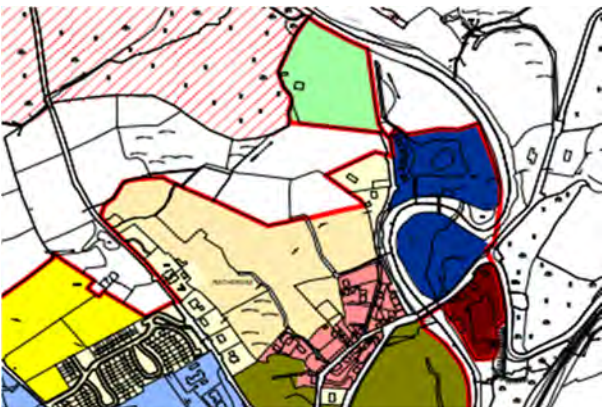


Draft Plan (2021)

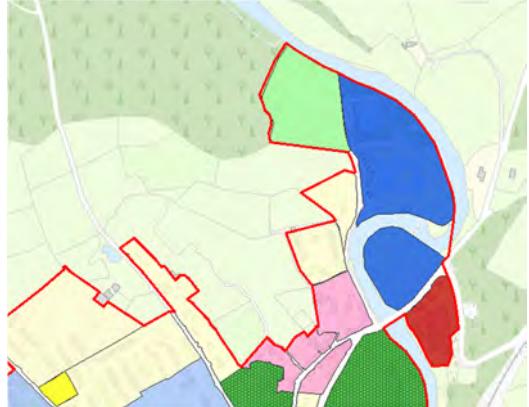


### Rathdrum Area 2: North of town centre

Current Plan (2017)



Draft Plan (2021)



### Rathdrum Area 3: Riverine

Current Plan (2017)

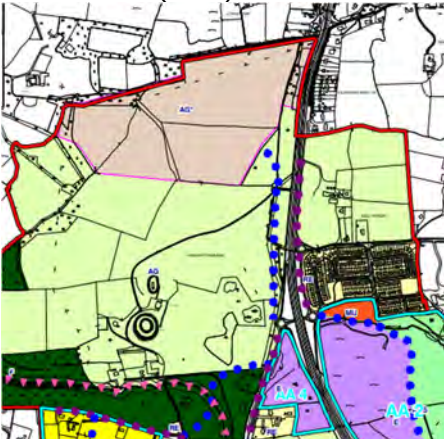


Draft Plan (2021)

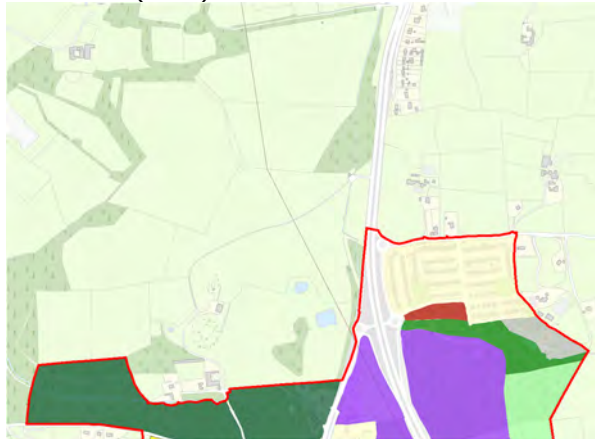


### Newtownmountkennedy Area 1: North of settlement

Current Plan (2008)



Draft Plan (2021)

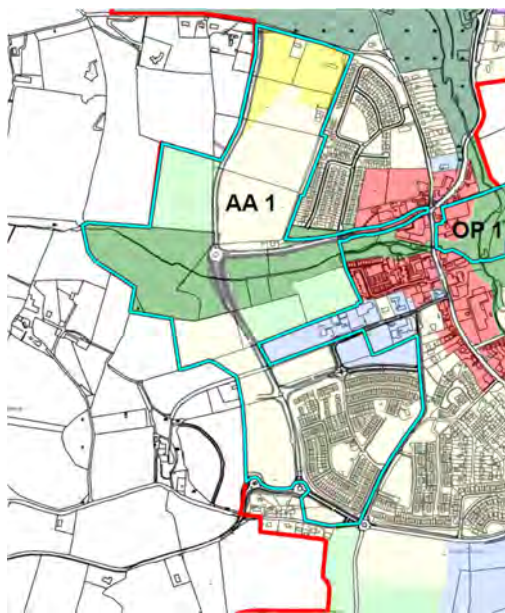


### Newtownmountkennedy Area 2: Action Area 1

Current Plan (2008)

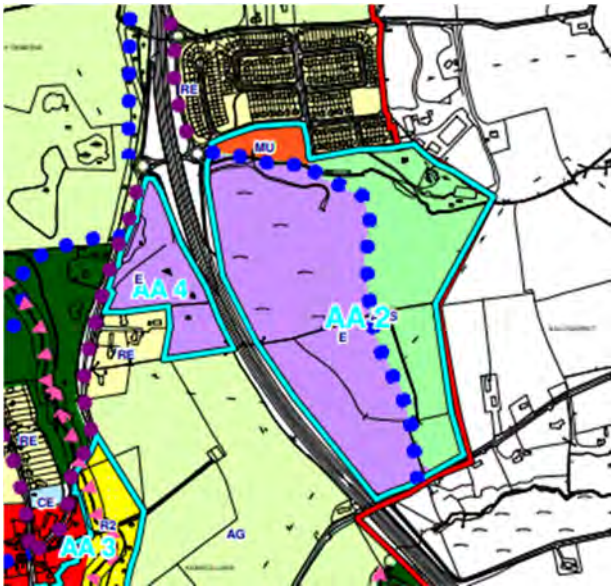


Draft Plan (2021)

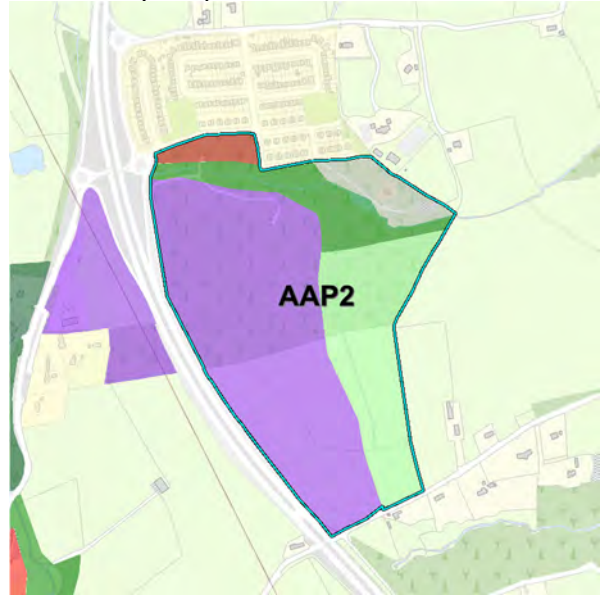


### Newtownmountkennedy Area 3: Ballyronan – Action Area 2

Current Plan (2008)

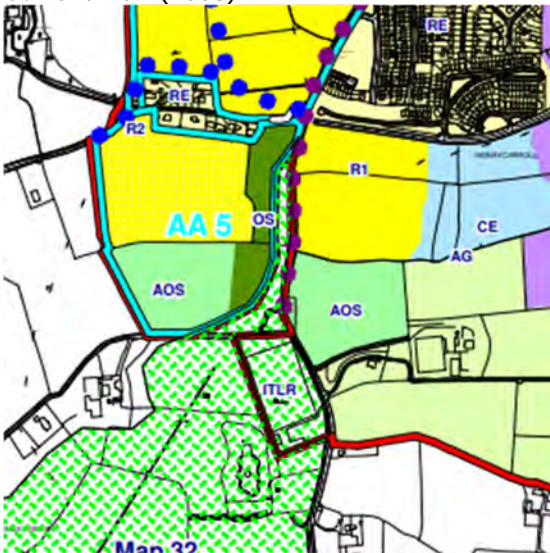


Draft Plan (2021)



### Newtownmountkennedy Area 4: Former Action Area 5, land to east and south

Current Plan (2008)

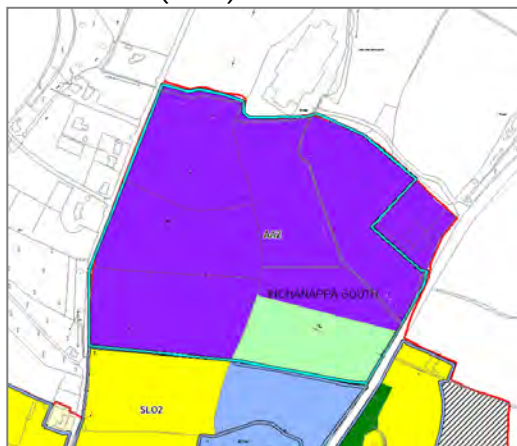


Draft Plan (2021)



### Ashford Area 1: Former AA2 & SLO 2

Current Plan (2016)

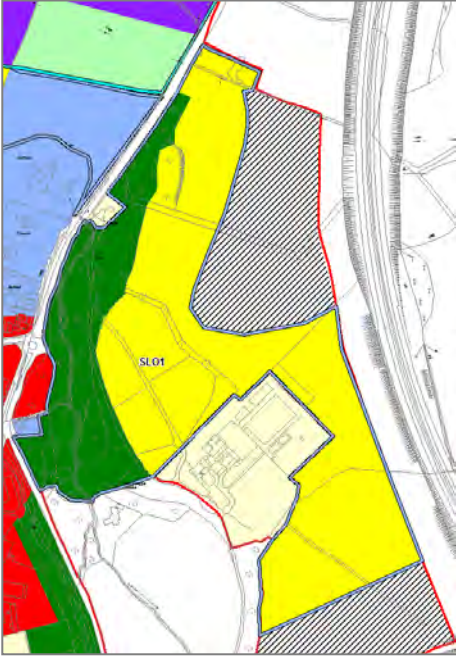


Draft Plan (2021)



### Ashford Area 2A

Current Plan (2016)

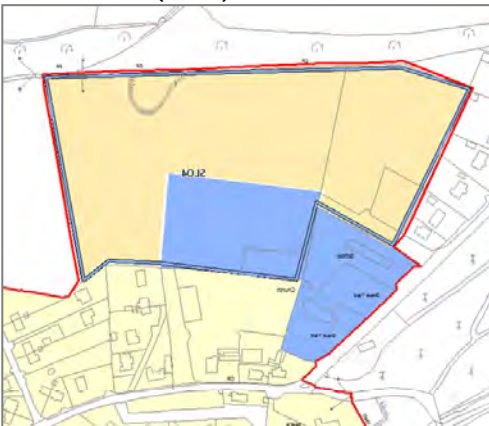


Draft Plan (2021)



### Ashford Area 2B

Current Plan (2016)

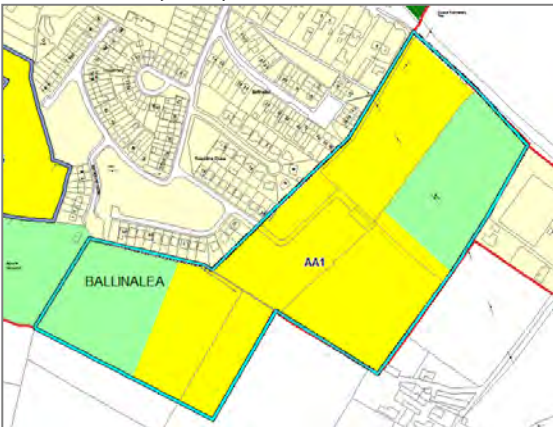


Draft Plan (2021)

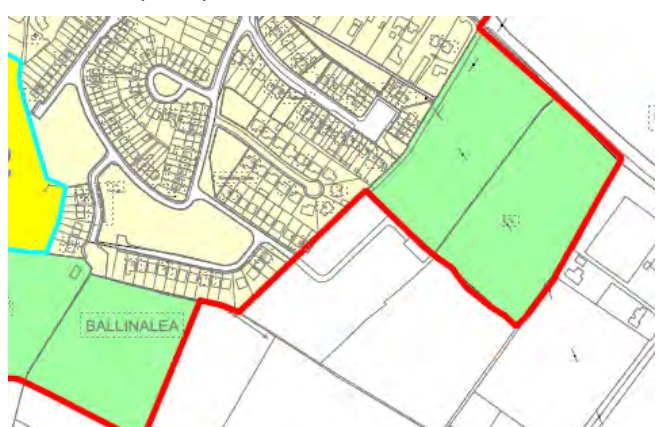


### Ashford Area 2C

Current Plan (2016)

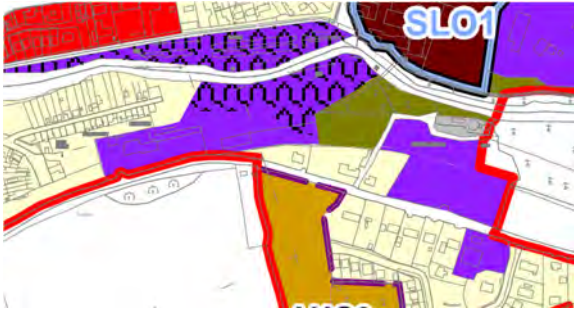


Draft Plan (2021)

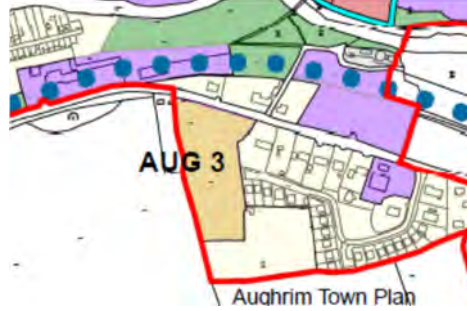


### Aughrim Area 1: Area south of Aughrim River

Current Plan (2016)

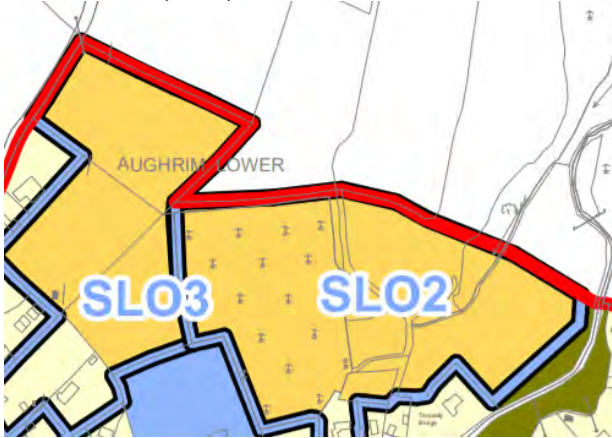


Draft Plan (2021)

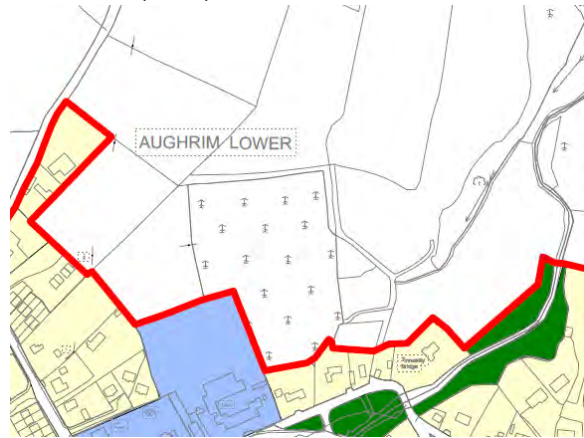


### Aughrim Area 2A

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)



### Aughrim Area 2B

Current Plan (2016)



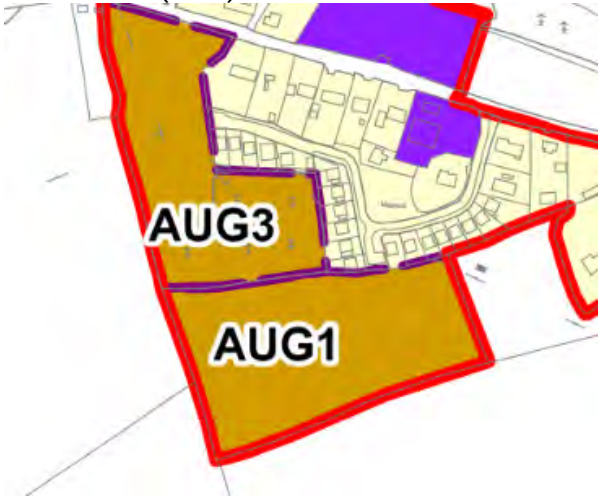
Draft Plan (2021)





**Aughrim Area 2C**

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)



**Aughrim Area 2D**

Current Plan (2016)

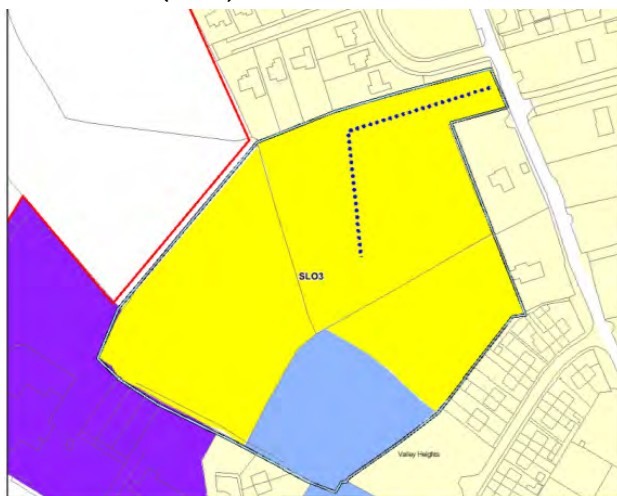


Draft Plan (2021)

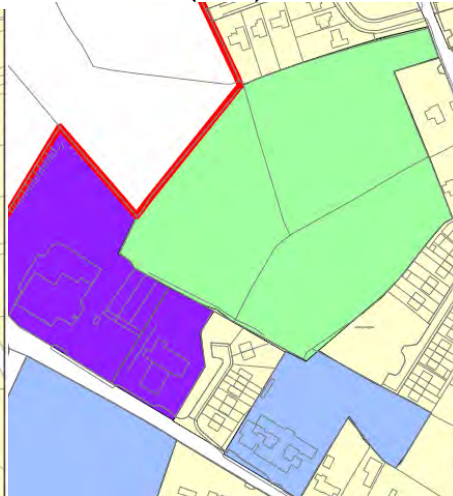


**Carnew Area 1: Former SLO 3**

Current Plan (2016)

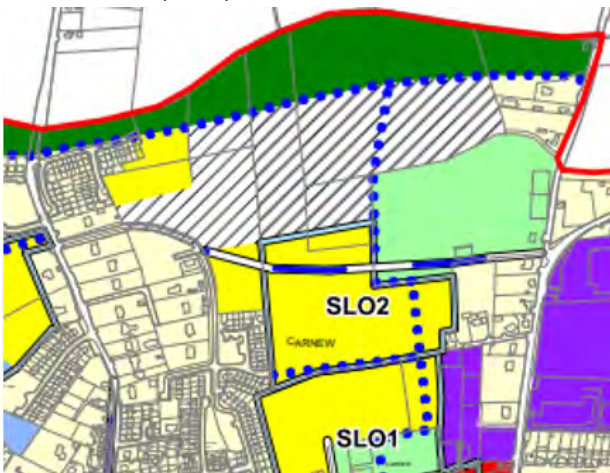


Draft Plan (2021)

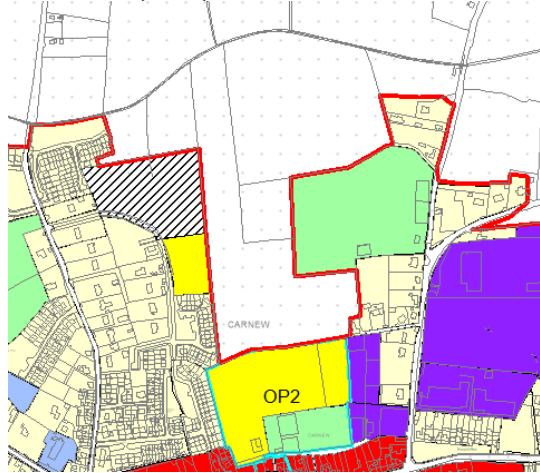


### Carnew Area 2: North of town centre

Current Plan (2016)

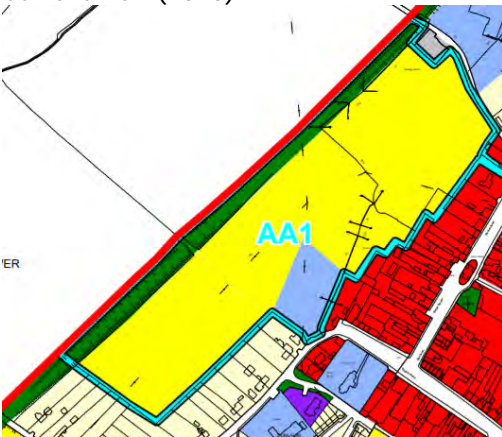


Draft Plan (2021)

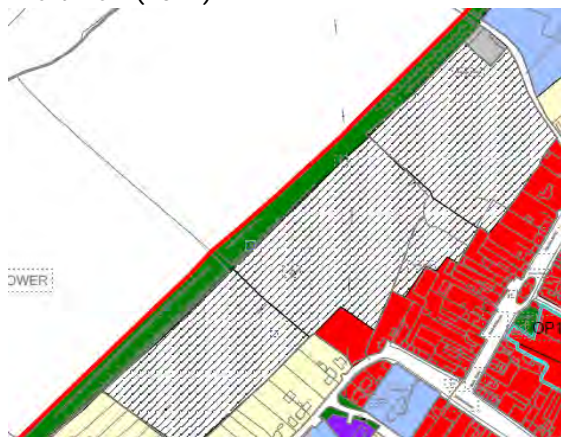


### Dunlavin Area 1: Former AA1

Current Plan (2016)

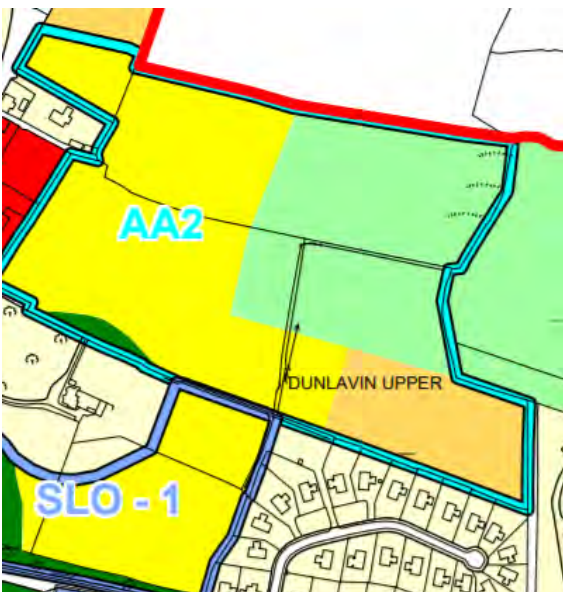


Draft Plan (2021)



### Dunlavin Area 2: Former AA2 & SLO 1

Current Plan (2016)

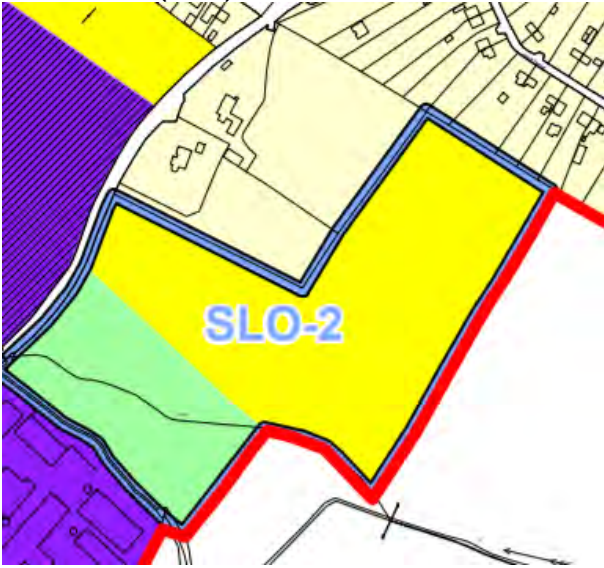


Draft Plan (2021)



**Dunlavin Area 3: Former SLO 2**

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)

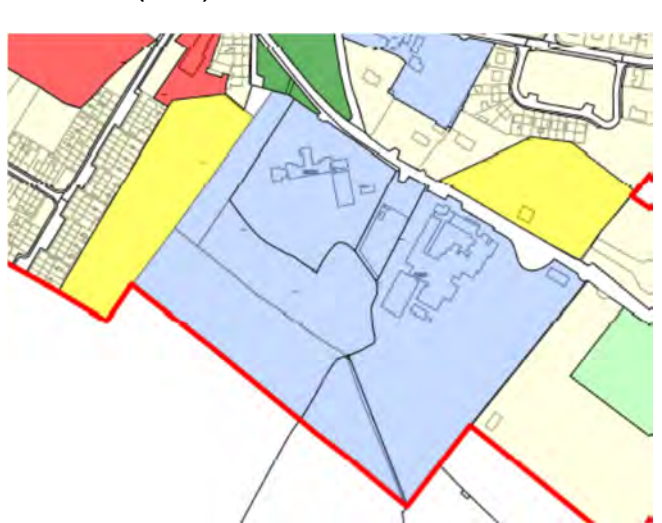


**Dunlavin Area 4: Former AA3**

Current Plan (2016)

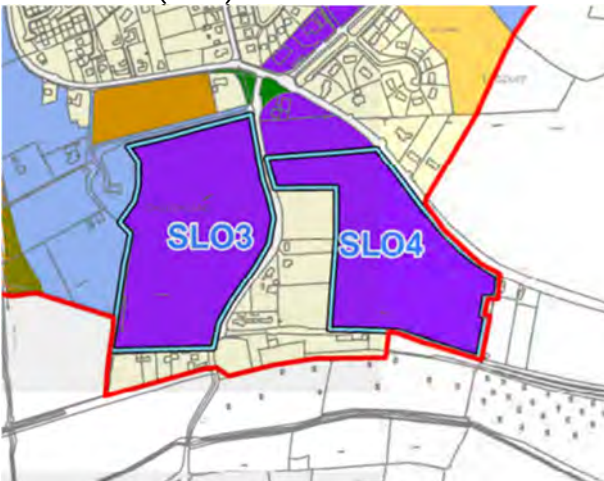


Draft Plan (2021)

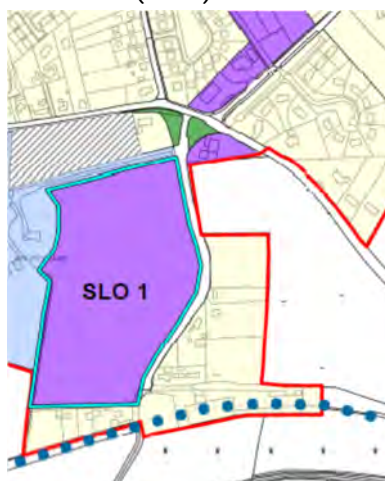


**Tinahely Area 1: Former SLO4**

Current Plan (2016)

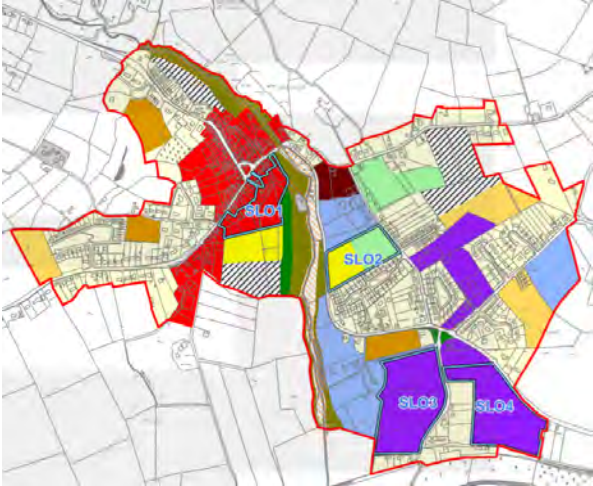


Draft Plan (2021)

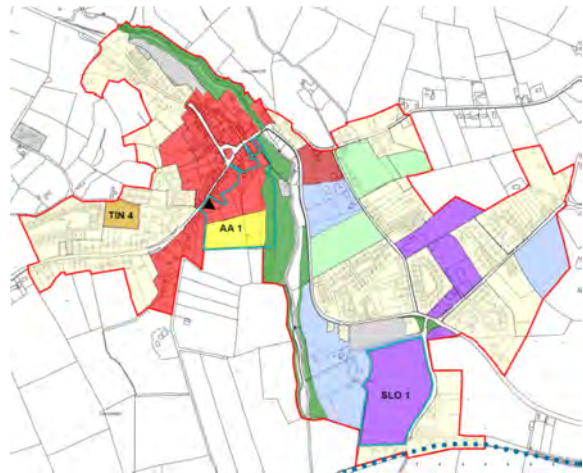


### Tinahely Area 2: Residential (various)

Current Plan (2016)

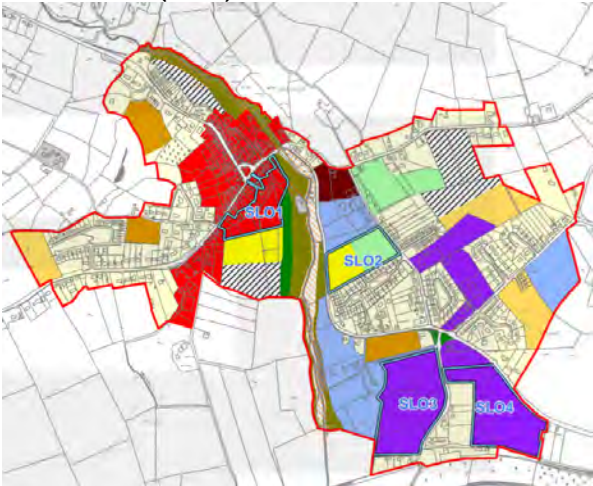


Draft Plan (2021)

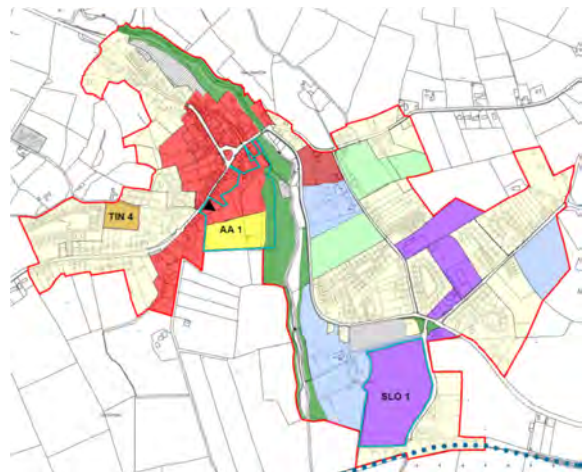


### Tinahely Area 3: Strategic Land Bank (various)

Current Plan (2016)



Draft Plan (2021)



# Appendix III SEA Screening Report

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

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FOR  
**PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**  
TO THE  
**DRAFT WICKLOW  
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028**

**for: Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

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



**APRIL 2022**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028, hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan".

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or alterations to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or alteration to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Wicklow CDP. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations to CDPs are provided under Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

This report should be read in conjunction with the CDP and all other associated documents including the:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow CDP 2022-2028;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow CDP 2022-2028;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Wicklow CDP; and
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Wicklow CDP.

## 1.2 Process so far

The CDP has been progressed to date in compliance with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

SEA<sup>2</sup> was undertaken on and informed the CDP in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the CDP on public display contains the findings of the assessment.

AA<sup>3</sup> was also undertaken on the CDP (informing both the CDP and the SEA) in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations. An AA Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment.

The CDP associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Material Alterations to the CDP and these are the subject of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Environmental Assessment is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning European Sites designated on foot of habitats and species.



### 1.3 SEA Environmental Report (May 2021)

The SEA Environmental Report for the CDP contains the information specified in Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 201 of 2011). The relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report that address these information requirements are detailed on Table 1.1 below.

The assessment undertaken on relevant Proposed Material Alterations (the findings of which are presented later in this document) has used the information contained in the SEA Environmental Report.

**Table 1.1 Information contained within the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the County Development Plan**

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

## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether each Proposed Material Alteration to the CDP would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A *'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment'* of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

### 2.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is being undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan and the Proposed Material Alterations. The SFRA process, the findings of which include an SFRA report that accompanies the amendments, has informed this report.

### 2.3 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive<sup>4</sup>, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The County Development Plan is being subject to Stage 2 AA and a Draft Natura Impact Report was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan. At adoption of the Plan, the Natura Impact Report will be finalised and an AA determination made by the Council.

An AA screening process has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations. This process has determined that Stage 2 AA for certain Alterations is necessary. An AA Natura Impact Report contains the findings of this assessment for the Proposed Material Alterations, has informed this SEA Screening Report and accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations.

### 2.4 Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations

The analysis of Proposed Material Alterations is undertaken considering interactions Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 2.1). Table 2.2 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.2 is supplemented by Table 2.3 which provides details on:

- The likely significant effects of implementing the Draft Plan, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Draft Plan; and
- Residual non-significant adverse effects arising from the Draft Plan.

Effects encompass the full range of effects<sup>5</sup>, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

<sup>5</sup> These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

The examination of Proposed Material Alterations also takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A *Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment* of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> <li>Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably</li> <li>Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas</li> <li>Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> <li>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

**Table 2.2 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations<sup>6</sup>**

Ref	SEA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
2	A future plan/assessment/feasibility study/ investigation of potential would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Was such an assessment to be followed by recommendations, such as varying the Plan, such recommendations would have to be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
3	The update to terminology/language/wording/numbering/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. Where the change relates to mapping, the implications of the change may have been considered under other related Alterations. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
4	This alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
5	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
6	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
7	Removal of this provision would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision would not be likely to result in any environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
8	These alterations relate to supporting documents but would not change Plan provisions. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
9	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan, further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Table 2.3), with the objective of protecting the integrity of European Sites brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. <b>Consequently, SEA is advised as prudent.</b>
10	As this alteration could potentially impact upon the protection of a European site(s), Stage 2 AA is required. <b>Consequently, SEA is advised as prudent.</b>
11	This alteration would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components. <b>Taking this into account, SEA is required.</b>
12	This alteration would potentially conflict with proper flood risk management as it has been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines. This alteration and applicable mitigation therefore needs to be examined beyond screening. <b>Taking this into account, SEA is required.</b>

No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above	No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
V1-1	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-68	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-2	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-69	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-3	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-70	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-4	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-71	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-5	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-72	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-6	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-73	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-7	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-74	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-8	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-75	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-9	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V1-76	10
V1-10	11	V1-77	10
V1-11	11	V1-78	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-12	11	V1-79	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-13	11	V1-80	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-14	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-81	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-15	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-82	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-16	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-83	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-17	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-84	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-18	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-85	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-19	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-86	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-20	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-87	9+10+11+12
V1-21	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-88	11
V1-22	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-89	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-23	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-90	11
V1-24	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-91	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-25	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-92	11
V1-26	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-93	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-27	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-94	11
V1-28	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-95	11
V1-29	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-96	11
V1-30	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-97	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-31	11	V2-98	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-32	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-99	11+12
V1-33	11	V2-100	11+12
V1-34	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-101	11
V1-35	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-102	11
V1-36	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-103	11
V1-37	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-104	11
V1-38	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-105	11
V1-39	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-106	11

<sup>6</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

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No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above	No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
V1-40	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-107	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-41	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-108	11
V1-42	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-109	11
V1-43	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-110	11
V1-44	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-111	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-45	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-112	12
V1-46	10	V2-113	11+12
V1-47	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-114	11
V1-48	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-115	11
V1-49	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V2-116	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-50	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-117	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-51	11	V3-118	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-52	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-119	9
V1-53	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-120	9
V1-54	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-121	9
V1-55	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-122	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-56	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-123	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-57	10	V3-124	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-58	10	V3-125	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-59	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-126	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-60	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-127	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-61	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-128	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-62	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-129	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-63	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-130	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-64	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-131	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-65	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-132	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required
V1-66	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required	V3-133	10+11
V1-67	Selection of SEA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - SEA not required		

**Table 2.3 Detail of effects<sup>7</sup>, if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans			Mitigation Measures from the Draft Plan, including:
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> <li>Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b> Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit or current and future generations.</p> <p>CP04.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p><b>Tourism and Recreation</b></p> <p>CP011.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p><b>Environmental Protection</b></p> <p>CP0 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CP0 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CP0 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Corridor and Route Selection</b></p> <p>CP0 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CP0 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity Objectives</b></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>CP0 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p> <p>CP0 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CP0 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Protected sites and species</b></p> <p>CP0 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019)</li> <li>National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Southern RSES, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),</li> <li>• Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state: to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p><b>Sites &amp; Corridors of ecological &amp; biodiversity value</b></p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p><b>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</b></p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B &amp; C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high value, where it appears that they are in danger of being felled.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p> <p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths/strategic walkways/cycleways, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets.</p> <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p>
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				<p><b>Recreation and Tourism</b></p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes ;</li> <li>Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.32 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Light Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development &amp; Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p><b>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>8</sup>.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Various measures within the mapped Cells provided for under Chapter 19.</b></p> <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Seveso Sites</b></p> <p>CPO 9.16 The Seveso Directive 96/82/EC as amended by Directive 2003/105/EC and more recently by Directive 2012/18/EU is concerned with the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous substances and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment. It applies to establishments where dangerous substances are produced, used, handled or stored. This EU directive seeks to ensure the safety of people and the environment in relation to major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances.</p> <p>The European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (the "COMAH Regulations", (S.I. No. 209 of 2015) implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU) and are the main regulations that give effect to this Directive in Irish law. The National Authority for Occupational Safety Health (i.e. the Health and Safety Authority – HSA) has been designated as the central competent authority for enforcement of these regulations.</p> <p>There is one Seveso site in County Wicklow (as of July 2019), located at Sigma Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Arklow.</p> <p>In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is the objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents;</li> <li>where proposals are being considered for the following: (i) new establishments at risk of causing major accidents, (ii) the expansion of existing establishments designated under the Directive, and (iii) other developments proposed near to existing establishments; the Council will require that applicants must demonstrate that the following considerations are taken into account:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances,</li> <li>public health and safeguarding of public health, and</li> <li>protection of the environment;</li> </ol> </li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2.</p>
<p><b>Population and Human Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p>

<sup>8</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.



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	<p>adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Soil</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>• Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Coastal and riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Soils &amp; Geology</b></p> <p>CPO 17.27 Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.</p> <p>CPO 17.28 Protect and enhance 'County Geological Sites' (Schedule 10.10 and Map 10.10 of this plan) from inappropriate development at or in the vicinity of a site, such that would adversely affect their existence, or value.</p> <p>CPO 17.29 To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland as is deemed necessary, when dealing with any proposals for major developments, which will entail 'significant' ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, tunnels, major drainage works, and foundations for industrial or large buildings and complexes.</p> <p>CPO 17.30 To facilitate public access to County Geological Heritage Sites, on the principle of "agreed access" subject to appropriate measures being put in place to ensure public health and safety and subject to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.31 To facilitate the Geological Survey of Ireland, and other interested bodies with the interpretation of geological heritage in Wicklow, and to facilitate the development of a "Wicklow Rock Trail", Geopark or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p> <p>CPO 17.32 To facilitate the exploitation of mineral resources, in an environmentally sensitive manner, in accordance with the objectives and control measures set out in Chapter 9 and in the Design &amp; Development standards of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>CPO 17.34 Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peatland stability;</li> <li>• Carbon emissions balance; and</li> <li>• Hydrology and ecology.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>• Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>• Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO13.1 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk</p>

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			<p>of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newtownmountkennedy</li> <li>- Rathdrum</li> <li>- Dunlavin</li> <li>- The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p><b>Water Demand Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of water efficient equipment;</li> <li>- Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies;</li> <li>- Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines;</li> <li>- Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment;</li> <li>- The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;</li> <li>- In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow</li> <li>- Blessington</li> <li>- Aghrim</li> <li>- Tinahely</li> <li>- Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> <li>- Lakes area around Blessington</li> <li>- Large and Small Villages</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:</p> <p>Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area. It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p>
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			<p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design:</p> <p><b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Flood Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 14.01 To support the implementation of recommendations in the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO14.02 To support and facilitate flood management activities, projects or programmes as may arise, including but not limited to those relating to the management of upstream catchments and the use of 'natural water retention' measures , and ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO14.03 To recognise the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, and adopt an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes. The focus of a flood management strategy should not solely be driven by conservation of existing lands; it should recognise that marshes, mud flats and other associated eco-systems evolve and degenerate, and appropriate consideration should be given to the realignment of defences and use of managed retreat and sacrificial flood protection lands to maintain such habitats as part of an overall strategy.</p> <p>CPO 14.04 To ensure the County's natural coastal defences (beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes and estuary lands) are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.</p> <p>CPO14.05 To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes in the County as identified in current and future FRMPs, and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoca River (Arklow) Flood Defence Scheme;</li> <li>- Avoca River (Avoca) Flood Defence Scheme;</li> <li>- Low cost works in accordance with the OPW's Minor Works Scheme;</li> <li>- Coastal Protection Projects, where funding allows.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 14.06 To implement the 'Guidelines on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009).</p> <p>CPO 14.07 To prepare new or update existing flood risk assessments and flood zone maps for all zoned lands within the County as part of the review process for Local Area Plans, zoning variations and Small Town Plans, where considered necessary.</p> <p>CPO 14.08 The zoning of land that has been identified as being at a high or moderate probability of flooding (flood zones A or B) shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in particular the 'justification test for development plans' (as set out in Section 4.23 and Box 4.1 of the guidelines).</p> <p>CPO 14.09 Applications for new developments or significant alterations/extension to existing developments in an area at risk of flooding shall comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the 'sequential approach' as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</li> <li>• An appropriately detailed flood risk assessment will be required with all planning applications, to ensure that the development itself is not at risk of flooding and the development does not increase the flood risk in the relevant catchment (both up and down stream of the application site), taking into account all sources of flooding.</li> <li>• Restrict the types of development permitted in Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to that which are 'appropriate' to each flood zone, as set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the guidelines for Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009, as amended) unless the 'plan making justification test' has been applied and passed.</li> <li>• Where a site has been subject to and satisfied the 'plan making justification test' development will only be permitted where a proposal complies with the 'Justification Test for Development Management', as set out in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines.</li> <li>• Flood Risk Assessments shall be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Guidelines and the SFRA.</li> </ul> <p>Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the planning authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'plan making justification test' will not be satisfied.</p> <p>CPO 14.10 To prohibit development in river flood plains or other areas known to provide natural attenuation for floodwaters except where the development can clearly be justified with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 'Justification Test'.</p> <p>CPO 14.11 To limit or break up large areas of hard surfacing in new developments and to require all surface car parks to integrate permeability measures such as permeable paving.</p> <p>CPO 14.12 Excessive hard surfacing shall not be permitted for new, or extensions to, residential or commercial developments and all applications will be required to show that sustainable drainage techniques have been employed in the design of the development.</p> <p>CPO 14.13 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design: Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p><b>Water Systems</b></p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being</p>
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				<p>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 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).                  CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
<p><b>Material Assets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> <li>Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate - however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Strategic Objective</b> To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p>CPO 9.54 To have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries and ancillary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2004, DoEHLG);</li> <li>'Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non Scheduled Minerals)'; EPA 2006;</li> <li>'Archaeological Code of Practice between the DoEHLG and the Irish Concrete Federation' 2009;</li> <li>'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', 2008; and</li> <li>'Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry', NPWS 2009.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Objective</b> To support and facilitate the exploitation of County Wicklow's natural aggregate resources in a manner, which does not unduly impinge on the environmental quality, and the visual and residential amenity of an area.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.8 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy and settlement strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure the provision of sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic water supply schemes and any other smaller, localised water improvement schemes required during the lifetime of the plan, as well as programmes to consolidate, and improve supply and resilience under the National Water Resource Plan. In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved water treatment supplies and storage infrastructure in the following settlements/areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newtownmountkennedy</li> <li>Rathdrum</li> <li>Dunlavin</li> <li>The areas and settlements covered by the Mid Wicklow Water Supply Scheme</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 To support Irish Water's ongoing investment in the Vartry Water Supply Scheme.</p> <p><b>Water Demand Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.14 To require all new developments to integrate water demand reduction designs and technologies in all aspects of the development including but not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of water efficient equipment;</li> <li>Provision of dual flush toilets, cistern bags or other similar technologies;</li> <li>Construction of grey water systems to allow for the re-use of wastewater from sinks, shower drains or washing machines;</li> <li>Provision of rainwater harvesting equipment;</li> <li>The use of low maintenance plants in the design of landscaping;</li> <li>In manufacturing, use of process or cooling loops, counter current rinsing and batch processing, or increasing the recycle rate of cooling towers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arklow</li> <li>Blessington</li> <li>Aughrim</li> <li>Tinahely</li> <li>Avoca</li> <li>Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where: Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area; It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p>

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				<p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design;</p> <p><b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Solid Waste Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.1 To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site.</p> <p>CPO 15.2 To require all new developments, whether residential, community, agricultural or commercial to make provision for storage and recycling facilities (in accordance with the standards set out in Development &amp; Design Standards of this plan).</p> <p>CPO 15.3 To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.</p> <p>CPO 15.4 To facilitate the development of waste-to-energy facilities, particularly the use of landfill gas and biological waste.</p> <p>CPO 15.5 To have regard to the Council's duty under the 1996 Waste Management Act (as amended), to provide and operate, or arrange for the provision and operation of, such facilities as may be necessary to promote reuse or for the recovery and disposal of household waste arising within its functional area.</p> <p>CPO 15.6 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Hazardous Waste Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.7 To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities for the disposal of hazardous household wastes in accordance with the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.8 In relation to the Prevention of Major Accidents (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) legislation, it is an objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 18.2 To protect existing green infrastructure resources and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of open space amenities,</li> <li>• sustainable management of water,</li> <li>• protection and management of biodiversity,</li> <li>• protection of cultural heritage, and</li> <li>• protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.1 To review and update the County Development Plan if necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the National Marine Planning Framework following its adoption, and</li> <li>• the Marine Planning and Development Management Act (following its enactment)</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.2 To work with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other relevant government departments and bodies on marine planning with particular reference to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework (following its adoption),</li> <li>• the implementation of any future Marine Planning and Development Management Act in so far as it relates to the duties and functions of the Planning Authority,</li> <li>• the designation of the nearshore area for County Wicklow,</li> <li>• the preparation of any sub-regional plans for the maritime area and nearshore area,</li> </ul> <p>CPO 19.12 To facilitate the provision of new or the reinforcement of existing coastal defences and protection measures where necessary along the full coastline of the County and in particular to consider the implementation of the measures identified in the Murrrough Coastal Protection Study, the draft East Coast Erosion Study and any other similar studies that are produced during the lifetime of the plan. To employ soft engineering techniques or natural solutions as an alternative to hard coastal defence works, wherever feasible</p>
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>• In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p>

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	<p>towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>o Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>o Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>o Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and</li> <li>o Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p>including those from cars, and air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>compact growth and sustainable mobility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</li> </ul>	<p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p><b>Climatic Factors</b> Refer to Section 8.6 of the main SEA Environmental Report "Integration of Climate Action into the Plan".</p>
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 5.17 To harness and integrate the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive reuse, recognising its important contribution to placemaking. New development should respect and complement the historic fabric of existing towns and villages – the traditional street patterns, plot sizes, mix of building types, distinctive paving and attractive street furniture.</p> <p>CPO 5.18 To protect, integrate and enhance heritage assets, including attractive streetscapes and historic buildings, through appropriate reuse and regeneration and restrict inappropriate development that would undermine the settlement's identity, heritage and sense of place.</p> <p><b>Archaeology Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.1 To secure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally. In the development management process, there will be a presumption of favour of preservation in-situ or, as a minimum, preservation by record. In securing such preservation the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>CPO 8.2 No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments &amp; Places (RMP) or any other site of archaeological interest will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>CPO 8.3 Any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance as identified in Schedules X.01 &amp; X.02 and Maps X.01 &amp; X.02 of this plan) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment.</p> <p>CPO 8.4 To require archaeological assessment for all developments with the potential to impact on the archaeological heritage of riverine, intertidal or sub tidal environments.</p> <p>CPO 8.5 To facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care, as identified in Schedule X.02 and Map X.02 of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 8.6 To protect the integrity of Baltinglass Hills archaeological landscape including identified monuments and their wider setting by resisting development that may adversely impact upon the significance and understanding of this important landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.7 To support the inscription of Glendalough to Ireland's tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site list and promote a conservation led approach to facilitating visitor access and enjoyment of this internationally significant landscape.</p> <p>CPO 8.8 To protect and promote the characteristics of historic towns in County Wicklow identified as zones of archaeological potential in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), ensuring that cognisance is given in relevant development proposals to retaining existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot widths where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.</p> <p>CPO 8.9 To protect and promote the conservation of historic burial grounds (those that are generally no longer in use but which may contain sites and features on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and/or RPS) and support greater public access to these where possible.</p> <p><b>Architectural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.10 To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of Wicklow and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations.</p> <p>CPO 8.11 To support the work of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in collecting data relating to the architectural heritage, including the historic gardens and designed landscapes, of the County, and in the making of this information widely accessible to the public, and property owners.</p> <p>CPO 8.12 To have regard to 'Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2011) in the assessment of proposals affecting architectural heritage.</p> <p><b>Record of Protected Structures Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.13 To ensure the protection of all structures, items and features contained in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 8.14 To positively consider proposals to alter or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to architectural heritage assessment and to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect / or other relevant expertise that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised.</p> <p>CPO 8.15 All development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p> <p>CPO 8.16 To support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc) previously existed.</p> <p>CPO 8.17 To strongly resist the demolition of protected structures or features of special interest unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist. All such</p>

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				<p>cases will be subject to full heritage impact assessment and mitigation.</p> <p><b>Other Structures &amp; Vernacular Architecture Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.18 To seek (through the development management process) the retention, conservation, appropriate repair and reuse of vernacular buildings and features such as traditional dwellings and outbuildings, historic shopfronts, thatched roofs and historic features such as stone walls and milestones. The demolition of vernacular buildings will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 8.19 Development proposals affecting vernacular buildings and structures will be required to submit a detailed, true measured survey, photographic records and written analysis as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>CPO 8.20 Where an item or a structure (or any feature of a structure) is considered to be of heritage merit (where not identified in the RPS), the Planning Authority reserves the right to refuse permission to remove or alter that structure / item, in the interests of the protection of the County's architectural heritage.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Area Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.21 Within Architectural Conservation Areas, all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals, shall be considered for protection. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.</p> <p>CPO 8.22 The design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole. Schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas will be promoted. In consideration of applications for new buildings, alterations and extensions affecting Architectural Conservation Areas, the following principles will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals will only be considered where they positively enhance the character of the ACA.</li> <li>• The siting of new buildings should, where appropriate retain the existing street building line.</li> <li>• The mass of the new building should be in scale and harmony with the adjoining buildings, and the area as a whole, and the proportions of its parts should relate to each other, and to the adjoining buildings.</li> <li>• Architectural details on buildings of high architectural value should be retained wherever possible. Original features, which are important to a building's character such as window type, materials, detailing, chimneys, entrances and boundary walls, both within and outside the architectural conservation area should be retained where possible.</li> <li>• A high standard of shopfront design relating sympathetically to the character of the building and the surrounding area will be required.</li> <li>• The materials used should be appropriate to the character of the area. Planning applications in ACAs should be in the form of detailed proposals, incorporating full elevational treatment and colours and materials to be used.</li> <li>• Where modern architecture is proposed within an ACA, the application should provide details (drawings and/or written detail) on how the proposal contributes to, or does not detract from the attributes of the ACA.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 8.23 To consider the designation of further ACAs for towns and villages in County Wicklow, when preparing future local plans, and as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 8.24 To establish, where it is considered appropriate, "Areas of Special Planning Control", if it is considered that all or part of an Architectural Conservation Area is of special importance to the civic life or the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of a town or village in which it is situated.</p> <p><b>Historical &amp; Cultural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 8.25 To protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the County's distinct local historical and cultural heritage, whether or not such structures, sites and objects are included on the RPS.</p> <p>CPO 8.26 To facilitate access to and appreciation of areas of historical and cultural heritage, through the development of appropriate trails and heritage interpretation, in association with local stakeholders and site landowners, having regard to the public safety issues associated with such sites.</p> <p>CPO 8.27 To facilitate future community initiatives to increase access to and appreciation of railway heritage, through preserving the routes of former lines free from development.</p> <p>CPO 8.28 Any road or bridge improvement works along the Military Road shall be designed and constructed with due regard to the history and notable features of the road (in particular its original support structures, route and alignment), insofar as is possible and reasonable given the existing transport function of the road.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape, Views &amp; Prospects</b></p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> <p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>CPO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

## 2.5 Schedule 2A

### PART 1

**1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources**

The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

**Table 2.4 Proposed Material Alterations Requiring SEA<sup>9</sup>**

No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see Table 2.2	No.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see Table 2.2
V1-10	11	V2-99	11+12
V1-11	11	V2-100	11+12
V1-12	11	V2-101	11
V1-13	11	V2-102	11
V1-31	11	V2-103	11
V1-33	11	V2-104	11
V1-46	10	V2-105	11
V1-51	11	V2-106	11
V1-57	10	V2-108	11
V1-58	10	V2-109	11
V1-76	10	V2-110	11
V1-77	10	V2-112	12
V2-87	9+10+11+12	V2-113	11+12
V2-88	11	V2-114	11
V2-90	11	V2-115	11
V2-92	11	V3-119	9
V2-94	11	V3-120	9
V2-95	11	V3-121	9
V2-96	11	V3-133	10+11

Taking the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**2. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy**

The Material Alterations are being proposed to the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan relates to the proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed

<sup>9</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document. For detail on SEA Screening Ref please refer to Table 2.2.



Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan influence other plans, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development***

The Draft Plan - to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate - has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Plan and found that the Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**4. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan***

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets.

Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Draft Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, they contribute towards its amelioration.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**5. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection)***

The Draft County Development Plan relates to the land use and town planning sector and have fulfilled requirements in relation to SEA. These processes integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

## **PART 2**

### **1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**

#### **a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**c) intensive land-use.**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status**

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

## Section 3 Conclusion

Most Proposed Material Alterations are determined not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from most Proposed Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 are advised as requiring SEA and consideration in an SEA Environmental Report.

The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan. An SEA Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations on the SEA and associated Plan-preparation process were taken into account. The Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report will be finalised in a similar manner at adoption, taking into account how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations were taken into account.

# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

## APPENDIX IV – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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FOR

**RELEVANT PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**

TO THE

**DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2022-2028**

**for: Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

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



**APRIL 2022**

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## Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report for relevant Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the Proposed Material Alterations. The Environmental Report has been prepared as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for the Proposed Material Alterations.

The Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake SEA. Certain Proposed Material Alterations were determined as requiring full SEA. The SEA Screening Determination accompanies the SEA Environmental Report and the Proposed Material Alterations document. Appendix III to the SEA Environmental Report comprises the SEA Screening Report that was prepared to inform the SEA Screening Determination.

This SEA Environmental Report provides the findings of the assessment and will be placed on public display alongside the Proposed Material Alterations. The Elected Members will be required to take account of this document, the Proposed Material Alterations and any submissions received on these after public display.

The SEA is being undertaken in order to comply with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.

### What is SEA?

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

### Why is SEA needed? The Benefits

The SEA for the Plan provides the planning authority and the public a guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the County.

SEA enables the planning authority to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the County – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible areas in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain and improve services to existing and future communities.

SEA enables requirements relating to environmental protection and management to be integrated into the Plan so that compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also facilitated.

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

An overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Wicklow is shown on Figure 1.1.

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

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland and foothill areas of the County, on account of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and High Amenity Area landscape designations, European Site ecological designations, archaeological heritage sensitives and areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability;

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

### **Difficulties Encountered during the SEA process**

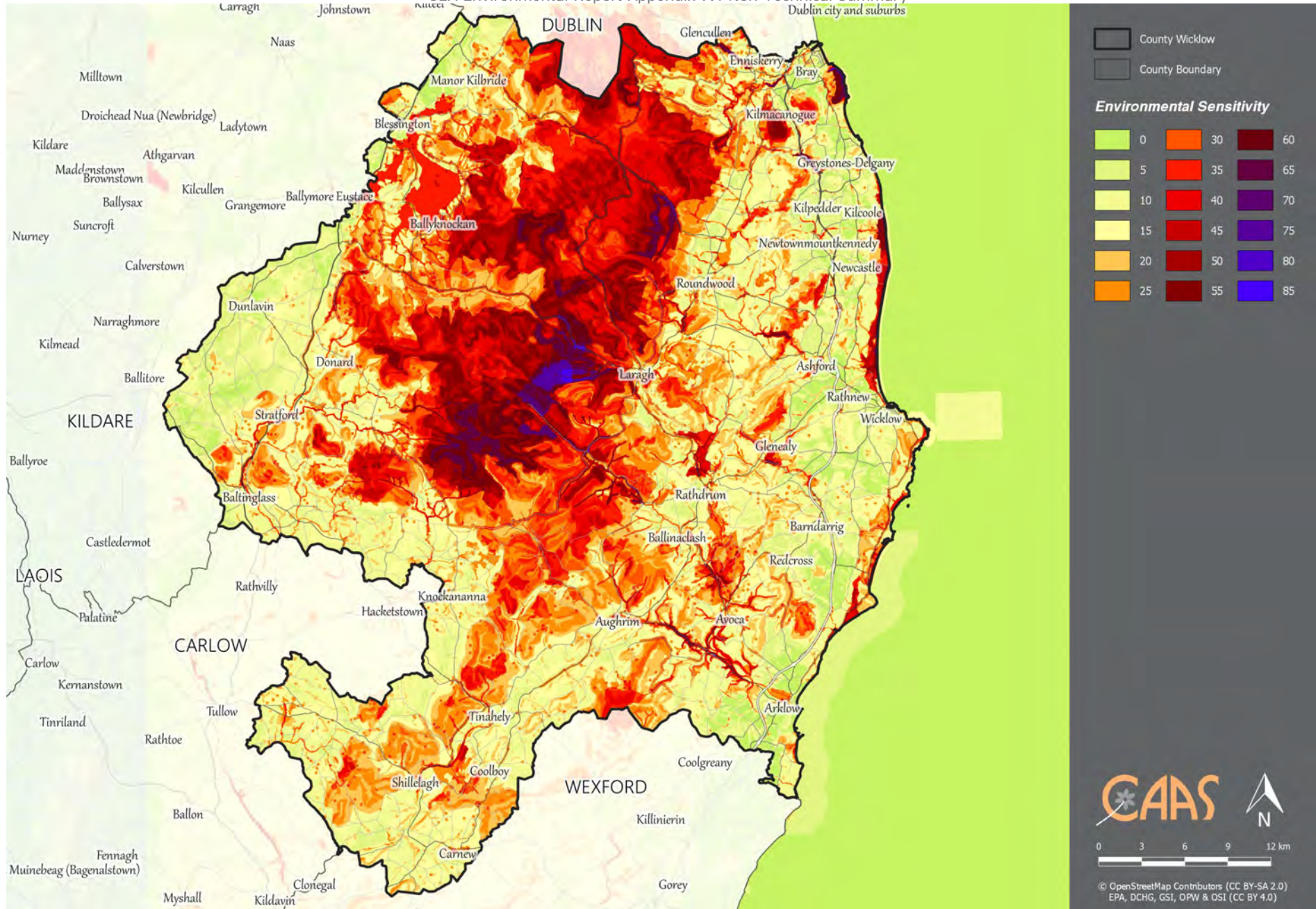
No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment to date. There was limited water services information available for some settlements within the County however objectives requiring the provision of appropriate levels of water services alongside new development have been integrated into the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate.

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

### **What happens at the end of the process?**

The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan taking into account, among other things, the content of the SEA Environmental Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to which this Non-Technical Summary relates. An SEA Statement will also be prepared which will summarise, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.





**Figure 1.1 Environmental Sensitivities that the Plan directs incompatible development away from CAAS for Wicklow County Council**

## Section 2 The Draft Plan and associated Proposed Material Alterations

### 2.1 Introduction

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

### 2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan consists of three Volumes as follow:

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

### 2.3 Plan Vision

The Vision of the Plan is:

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

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

## 2.4 Strategic County Outcomes

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

### **SCO1 Sustainable Settlement Patterns & Compact Growth**

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

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

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

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

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

### **SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities**

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

### **SCO5 Sustainable Mobility**

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

### **SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

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

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

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

### **SCO8 A Strong Economy**

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

### **SCO9 Tourism**

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

### **SCO10 Education & Skills**

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

## 2.5 Proposed Material Alterations

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document. The Alteration Numbers provided in this report can be used to locate this detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document.

Alterations proposed include those relating to text and maps, including land use zoning.

The Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake SEA and the alterations below were determined as requiring full SEA. The SEA Screening Determination accompanies this SEA Environmental Report and the Proposed Material Alterations document. Appendix III to this SEA Environmental Report comprises the SEA Screening Report that was prepared to inform the Determination.

Proposed Material Alterations requiring SEA and consideration in this SEA Environmental Report are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
V1-10	V1-57	V2-94	V2-104	V2-114
V1-11	V1-58	V2-95	V2-105	V2-115
V1-12	V1-76	V2-96	V2-106	V3-119
V1-13	V1-77	V2-99	V2-108	V3-120
V1-31	V2-87	V2-100	V2-109	V3-121
V1-33	V2-88	V2-101	V2-110	V3-133
V1-46	V2-90	V2-102	V2-112	
V1-51	V2-92	V2-103	V2-113	

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

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

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

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including: Housing; Landscape; Climate Action, Energy and Environment; Built Environment; Sustainable Transport; Flood Risk Management; Green Infrastructure Provisions; Social, Community and Cultural Development; Natural Heritage; and Development Management Standards.

The undertaking of this SEA process and the associated AA and SFRA processes contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as summarised in Section 6 of this report.

## 2.7 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

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

The Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix of the main SEA ER. These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the years 2018-2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

<sup>1</sup> For detail, please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

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

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

## Section 3 The Environmental Baseline

### 3.1 Introduction

The summary of the environmental baseline of the County is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 1.1, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Draft Plan, to which the Draft Plan relates, and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

### 3.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan and associated Material Alterations

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

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

Such adverse effects could include:

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

### 3.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

Designated sites within the County include Special Areas of Conservation<sup>2</sup> (SACs) and Special Protection Areas<sup>3</sup> (SPAs). These are mapped on Figure 3.1. There are 18 European sites (14 SACs and 4 SPAs) designated within the County. Other ecological designations occur within and adjacent to the County and these are detailed in the main SEA Environmental Report.

The most dominant land cover types are pastures throughout the County and peat bogs in the centre of the County. Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats include: non-irrigated land; pastures; complex cultivated patterns; land principally occupied by agriculture with areas of natural vegetation; broad-leaved forest; coniferous forest; mixed forests; natural grassland; moors and heaths; transitional woodland and scrub; beaches dunes sand; sparsely vegetated areas; inland marshes; peat bogs; salt marshes; water bodies; and coastal lagoons.

#### Existing Problems

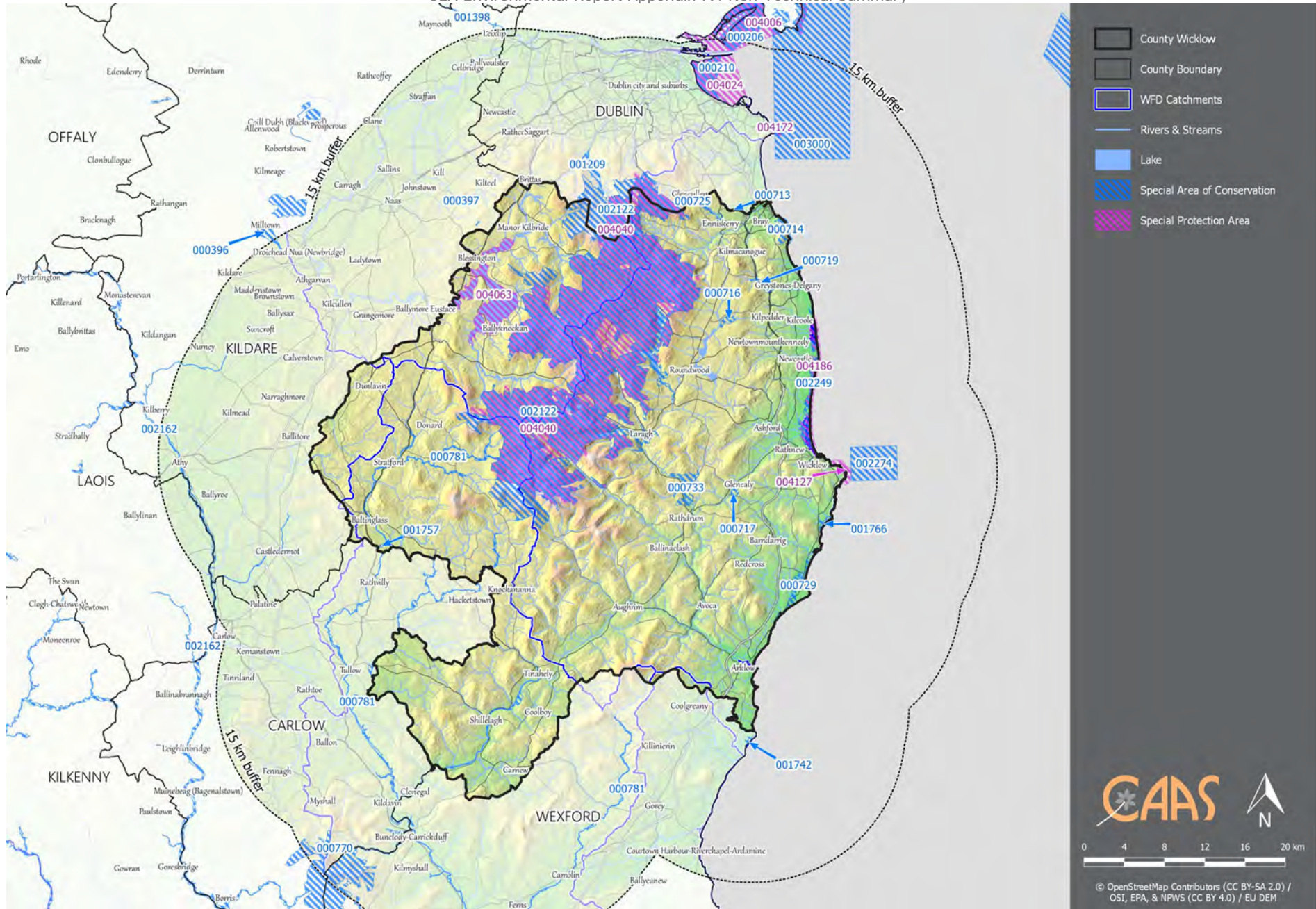
Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report include: Agriculture; Forestry; Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources); Energy production processes and related infrastructure development; Development and operation of transport systems; Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas; Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry); and Climate change.

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

The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services. Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

<sup>2</sup> SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000.

<sup>3</sup> SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.



**Figure 3.1 European sites within and within 15 km of the County**  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council



### 3.4 Population and Human Health

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

The new population provided for in the Draft Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

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

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

#### Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County.

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country.

### 3.5 Soil

Blanket peat and peaty soils (mainly in the central and north-western upland parts of the County) and brown earths<sup>5</sup> (occupying most of the southern, eastern and western parts of the County) are the two most dominant soil types in the County.

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

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

Geological Survey of Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Wicklow was completed in 2014 and identifies 62 County Geological Sites. Concentrations of these designations can be found in the upland areas and along the coast.

The County has numerous locations with a history of landslide events. Many of these events are associated with the upland peatland areas in the Wicklow Mountains and coastal areas.

<sup>4</sup> Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

<sup>5</sup> Brown earths are well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

## 3.6 Water

### Surface and Ground Water Status

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

The WFD status of most of the rivers and lakes within the County is classified as *moderate*, *good* and *high*, however sections<sup>6</sup> of rivers (including: Newtownmountkennedy; Rathnew; Avonbeg; Brown's Beck Brook; and Ballyduff Stream) are identified as *poor* and the Avoca River is identified as *bad* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

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

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) of rivers, transitional and coastal waters within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 3.2.

The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the County is mostly identified as being of *good* status, with areas of *poor* status in the south-east<sup>7</sup> and in the central parts of the County<sup>8</sup>.

### Bathing Water Quality

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

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2019<sup>9</sup> shows that locations of designated bathing waters along the County's coastline are either classified as *excellent*<sup>10</sup> (at Bray South Promenade, Greystones South, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga) or *good*<sup>11</sup> (at Silver Strand).

### Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

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

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

### Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk of flooding from sources including groundwater, pluvial<sup>12</sup> and fluvial<sup>13</sup>.

There is historic evidence of flooding at locations, including: along the Rivers Slaney, Greese and Avonbeg; at estuarine locations on the Rivers Vartry, Avoca and Dargle; and at various locations along the coastline.

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

<sup>6</sup> As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)

<sup>7</sup> Underlying an historic mine at Avoca.

<sup>8</sup> Underlying historic mines at Glendalough and Glenmalure.

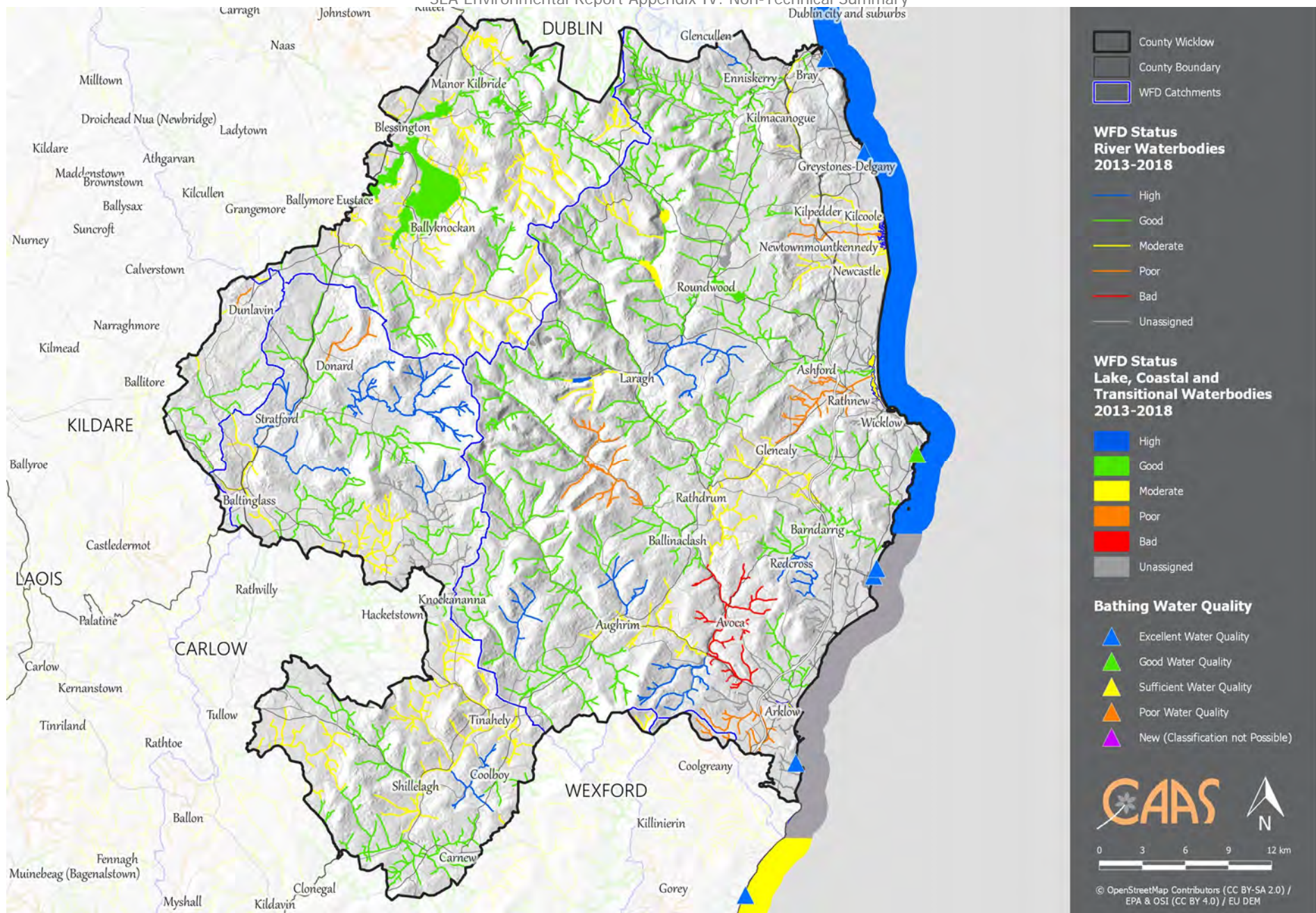
<sup>9</sup> EPA Report (2020) on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2019*

<sup>10</sup> The highest, cleanest class

<sup>11</sup> The second highest, second cleanest class

<sup>12</sup> Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

<sup>13</sup> Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.



**Figure 3.2 Surface Water Status (2013-2018)**

CAAS for Wicklow County Council

### 3.7 Air and Climatic Factors

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

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

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

The Climate Change Advisory Council's Annual Review 2020 identifies that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately - 2.5% per year is required to meet our objectives for 2050. It is noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included.

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

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

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

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

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

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

With regard to solutions, the report identifies that:

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

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current<sup>14</sup> air quality within the County is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

<sup>14</sup> 25/02/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council

### 3.8 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those referred to below, covered by the SEA include archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 3.9) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 3.6 and 1.1).

#### Public Assets and Infrastructure

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

#### Waste Water

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

Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned within the County to improve the existing network, to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan. This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in areas serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is identified as being available in all of these settlements except for Arklow, Auhgrim, Avoca and Knockananna. The highest levels of headroom are available at Shanganagh WWTP to the north of Bray, Wicklow Town WWTP and Greystones WWTP. Wicklow County Council will support and facilitate the delivery of new or improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements: Arklow; Blessington; Auhgrim; Tinahely; Avoca; and Laragh – Glendalough.

#### Water Supply

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above. The most recent available RAL (Q4 of 2020 published in January 2021) identifies eight County Wicklow drinking water supplies (at Auhgrim/Annacurra, Enniskerry, Wicklow, Bray, Greystones/Windgates/Tempelcarraig, Kilmacanogue and Newtown-Newcastle-Kilcoole.) where actions for improvement have been proposed and/or are being implemented.

#### Waste Management

Waste management across the County is guided by the Eastern-Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021.

#### Transport

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

#### Land

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

#### Coastline

Management of the County's coastline (of over 60 km) and coastal erosion are topics with relevance to various environmental components. The coastline of County Wicklow is amongst the most sensitive and valuable resources in the County, in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries. Many of the County's settlements have developed along or near the coast. Wicklow port is identified as a port of Regional Significance and Arklow port is identified as a regional port in the Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy. There are existing/ planned marinas at Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow.

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

### Existing Problems

There are a number of challenges with respect to the provision of water services infrastructure, some of which are summarised above.

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

## 3.9 Cultural Heritage

### Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped.

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

There are hundreds of Recorded Monuments within the County, including graveyards, castles, forts, crosses and churches.

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

### Architectural Heritage

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

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

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Protected structures are defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. There are hundreds of entries to the Record of Protected Structures within the County. Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within the County's settlements

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. There are 18 ACAs designated within the County:

- Blessington (Town Centre);
- Enniskerry (Town Centre);
- Tinahely (Town Centre);
- Dunlavin (Town Centre) ;
- Rathdrum (2 ACAs: Main Street and Low Town);
- Delgany (Village Centre);

- Greystones (5 ACAs: Church Road; Killincarrig Village; The Burnaby; Blacklion; and Greystones Harbour);
- Wicklow Town (5 ACAs: Town Centre; Leirim Place; Bachelors Walk and Church Street; Bay View Road; and Brickfield Lane); and
- Donard (Village Centre).

### Existing Problems

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

## 3.10 Landscape

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

Wicklow County Council have identified 15 distinctive Landscape Areas (Figure 3.3) within six Landscape Categories, as detailed below:

- 1. Mountain and Lakeshore Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**  
1(a) - The Mountain Uplands, 1(b) - The Blessington Lakes Area, 1(c) - The Bray Mountains Group, 1(d) - The North Eastern Valley
- 2. Coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**  
2(a) - Northern Coastline and 2(b) - Southern Coastline
- 3. Area of High Amenity**  
3(a) - North East Mountain Lowlands, 3(b) - South East Mountain Lowlands, 3(c) - The Southern Hills, 3(d) - The Baltinglass Hills and 3(e) - Transitional Lands
- 4. Corridor Area**  
4(a) - The N11 Corridor Area and 4(b) - The N81 Corridor Area
- 5. Rolling Lowlands**  
Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6
- 6. Urban Areas**  
All towns ranging from Levels 1-6 of the Wicklow Settlement Hierarchy

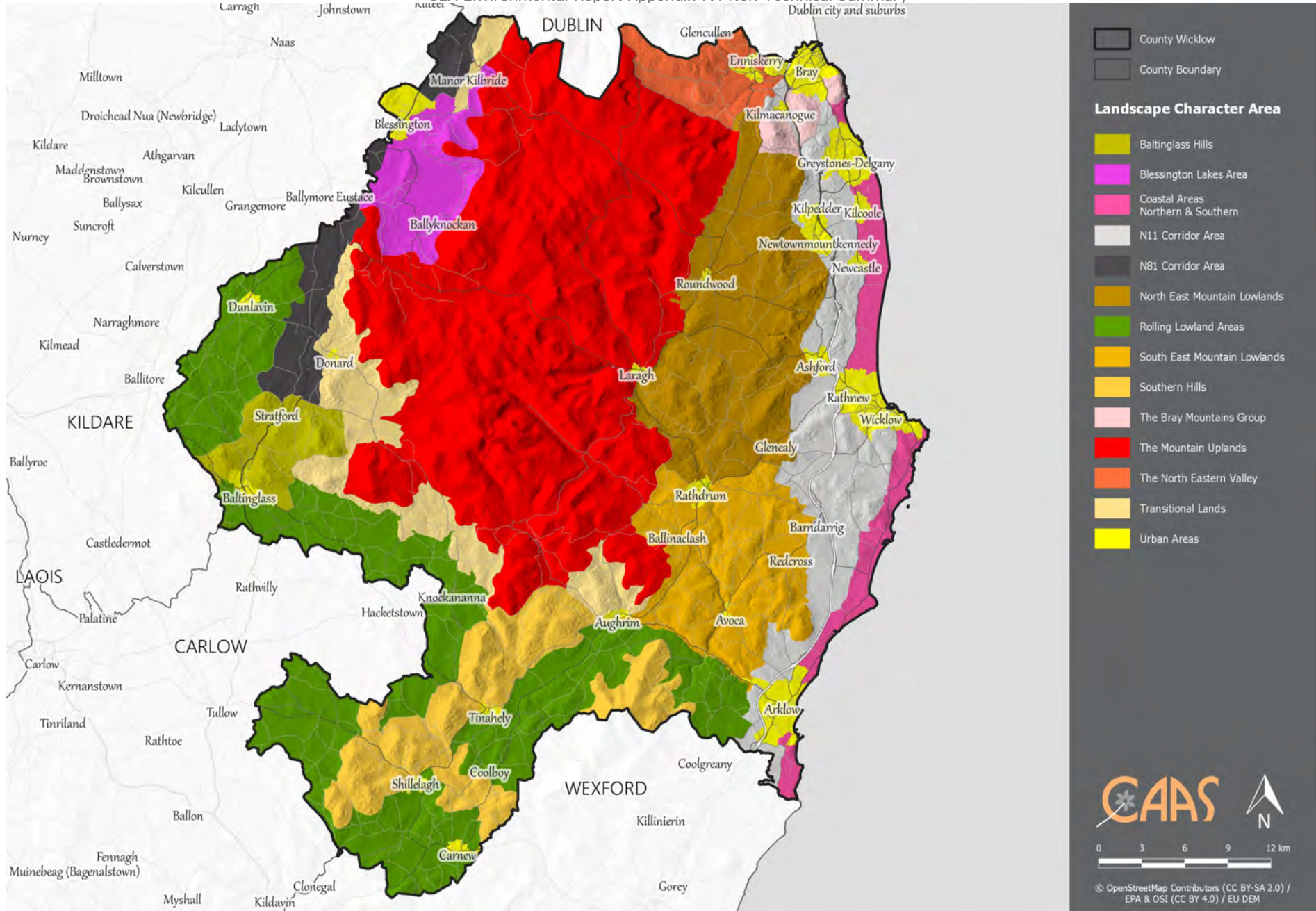
The above Landscape Character Categories in County Wicklow are arranged in a hierarchy of one to six with a level of sensitivity. The 'very high' sensitivity areas are the most sensitive to development and therefore developments which are likely to create a significant environmental and particularly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

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

The Plan area encompasses many sites and vantage points from which views over areas of great natural beauty, local landmarks, historic landscapes and adjoining Counties may be obtained. In addition to scenic views, the County also contains important prospects i.e. prominent landscapes or areas of special amenity value or special interest which are visible from the surrounding area. Protected views of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest and Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest are identified in the Plan and must be considered when assessing planning applications.

### Existing Environmental Problems

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



**Figure 3.3 Landscape Areas**  
CAAS for Wicklow County Council



### 3.11 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

**Table 3.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> <li>Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably</li> <li>Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas</li> <li>Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure).</li> <li>Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets.</li> <li>Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
<b>Landscape</b>	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

## Section 4 Alternatives

### 4.1 Introduction

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

The Alternatives described for the Plan below are not affected by the Proposed Material Alterations.

### 4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

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

### 4.3 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Population Allocations

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

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

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

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

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

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

This approach would result in a greater expansion of the County's smaller towns and villages. Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in smaller settlements. Services and public transport are more

limited and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Alternative B would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative B would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations. Alternative B would not be sustainable and would conflict with environmental protection and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 4.4 Assessment of Tier 2: Alternatives for Settlement Function

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Alternative B** is a conservative approach which focuses on the limited employment opportunities in all the settlements but fails to factor in the wider role these settlements play and the broad range of services provided in these settlements. By limiting population and

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

## 4.5 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Alternative A** recognises the important role that villages play in sustaining rural communities and in providing a proactive approach to the sustainable development of rural areas. Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Villages and Serviced Sites would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development

within Villages would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

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

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

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

**Selected Alternative for the Draft Plan: Alternative B was originally chosen for the Chief Executive's Draft Plan but Alternative A has been chosen by the Members for the Draft Plan for public display.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employment development at these locations beyond the development envelope of existing settlements would undermine the important role that rural villages and towns play as the

main locations for employment development on serviced lands proximate to residential areas and would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities). Alternative A would be against the principles of sustainable development and would have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment, including those on:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 4.6 Assessment of Tier 4: Land Use Zoning

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

- Environmental sensitivities – these are summarised under Section 1 and Section 3 of this Non-Technical Summary and include ecological designations, cultural heritage, riverine ecology, the status of water bodies, landscape/views and flood risk.
- Consolidation of land use zoning, which would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Consolidation would help to avoid premature development, increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health).
- Reducing greenfield development, which would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components.
- Whether water services infrastructure is already provided for or, if not, whether it could be more easily provided for;
- Access to transport infrastructure.
- Proximity to the existing development envelope and town centre.
- The need to facilitate services at settlement centres.
- Population and housing targets.
- The need to provide for compact growth.
- Lack of planning needs for potential infrastructure and associated unnecessary environmental effects.

Further detail is provided in the main SEA Environmental Report.



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

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

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

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

A final, consolidated SEA Environmental Report will be prepared on adoption of the Plan that will confirm which alternatives were included in the adopted Plan

## Section 5 Summary of Effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations

Table 5.1 summarises the overall environmental effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations.

**Table 5.1 Summary of Effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations**

Amendment No's. <sup>15</sup>	Commentary
V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121	These alterations could be considered mitigation in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan, further to that already included in the Draft Plan. Therefore it was deemed prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA. Consequently, SEA was advised as prudent. The changes arising from the alterations would also benefit the protection and management of various environmental components, in addition to European sites, including water, landscape, human health, soil, cultural heritage, air and climatic factors and the adequate provision of water services.
V1-46, V1-76, V1-77 and V3-133	These alterations further provide support for the development of walking routes and/or tourism in potentially sensitive locations (including for particular routes), in addition to that already provided for by the Draft Plan. The development of walking routes and visitor/destination management initiatives has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects, including on designated European sites, that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas. All effects would be consistent with those identified in the SEA overall assessment of the Plan (see Section 8.3) and would be mitigated by measures including those that have been integrated into the Draft Plan - see Section 9.
V1-57 and V1-58	These alterations further support rail transport, which is already supported by the Draft Plan. V1-57 supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. V1-58 further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These amendments would further help to maximise sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health. Supporting rail transport, including the construction, operation and protection of infrastructure, could potentially impact upon various environmental components, including material assets, ecology (including European sites), water and noise emissions. The existing rail network passes through and nearby to various protected ecological sites including the Bray Head Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Murrrough Wetlands SAC, Wicklow Reef SAC and the Murrrough Special Protection Area (SPA). All effects would be consistent with those identified in the SEA overall assessment of the Plan (see Section 8.3) and would be mitigated by measures including those that have been integrated into the Draft Plan - see Section 9.
V2-87, V2-99, V2-100, V2-112 and V2-113	Proposed Amendments V2-87, V2-99, V2-100, V2-112 and V2-113 relate to land use zoning and have been identified by the SFRA (see accompanying SFRA document) as having failed the Justification Test outlined in the Guidelines, however mitigation has been identified, including that within the Draft Plan, that applies in each of these instances. Once these measures are complied with, effects on environmental components including human health and material assets would be mitigated.
V1-10	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Ballinaclesh) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V1-11	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilpedder - Willowgrove) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>

<sup>15</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

SEA Environmental Report Appendix IV: Non-Technical Summary

Amendment No's. <sup>15</sup>	Commentary
V1-12	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Laragh) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V1-13	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Johnstown) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V1-31	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Kilmullen, Newcastle) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V1-33	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to a Motorway Service Area at Coolbeg Cross) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse</p>

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	<p>effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V1-51	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Jack Whites) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-87 <sup>16</sup>	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Baltinglass) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on ecologically designated sites (Slaney River Valley SAC and designated Salmonid River under SI 293 Regulations)</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including visual impacts on lands along a river corridor)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-88	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Baltinglass) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places (WI027-023) and associated landscape, including context</li> <li>• Effects on the Baltinglass Hills Area of Archaeological Potential/Significance and associated landscape, including context</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts - including as a result of developing lands that are elevated over surrounding areas</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on ecology including ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>

<sup>16</sup> The assessment of additional interactions between this amendment and European sites and flood risk are further considered elsewhere on this table.

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V2-90	<p>planning.</p> <p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Newtownmountkennedy) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts on an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-92	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Newtownmountkennedy) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts on an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-94	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Rathdrum) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-95	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Rathdrum) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-96	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Rathdrum) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-99	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Ballinalea), including for New Residential zoning, is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-100	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Inchanappa) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and associated landscapes, including context</li> <li>• Effects on entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and associated landscapes, including context</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul>

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	<p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-101	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Aughrim) This Proposed Amendment (relating to land use zoning in ) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-102	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-103	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including deciduous woodland and the Cronehorn Upper watercourse</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-104	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places (Ringfort), including context</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site, including impacts on a View of Special Amenity Value/Interest</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-105	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Carnew) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on an entry to the Record of Monuments and Places, including context</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site, including impacts on a View of Special Amenity Value/Interest</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-106	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Dunlavin) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts at and surrounding a greenfield site</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-108	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Tinahely) would, if development was to occur, present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. Development of these lands would be likely to be considered to be premature in the context of the development of Tinahely.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> </ul>



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Amendment No's. <sup>15</sup>	Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-109	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Tinahely) would, if development was to occur, present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. Development of these lands would be likely to be considered to be premature in the context of the development of Tinahely.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects arising from the development of these lands would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-110	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Tinahely) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of Extreme vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-113	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Roundwood) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The residential uses proposed are considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects on the designated sites Vartry Reservoir NHA</li> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including mature trees and ecological connectivity</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-114	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Roundwood) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including mature trees and ecological connectivity</li> </ul>

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Amendment No's. <sup>15</sup>	Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> <li>• Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including context of Bullaun stone (W1018-034)</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V2-115	<p>This Proposed Amendment (relating to Roundwood) is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets. The zoning proposed is considered to be premature in the context of current population targets.</p> <p>Potentially significant adverse unnecessary effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (including impacts in an Area of High Amenity and impacts on a View of Special Amenity Value/Interest)</li> <li>• Effects on an aquifer of High vulnerability</li> <li>• Effects on non-designated habitats and species, including mature trees and ecological connectivity</li> <li>• Loss of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies and associated interactions with quality and status</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility</li> </ul> <p>These greenfield lands are not part of the established built development envelope of this settlement. Consequently, potentially significant unnecessary adverse effects would be likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater difficulty in providing adequate and appropriate water services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets, infrastructure and community/social services</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality</li> <li>• Conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors</li> </ul> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>
V3-133	<p>The Enniskerry site that is the subject of this proposal is currently zoned in a separately adopted Local Area Plan for the town. The proposal seeks to change the zoning of this site from Passive Open Space and Agriculture.</p> <p>This proposal is not consistent with established planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. This proposal would both individually and cumulatively reduce the extent to which sustainable development is provided for by the Plan.</p> <p>This proposal would present additional, unnecessary and potentially significant adverse effects on various environmental components, including soil, water, biodiversity, the landscape, air and climatic factors and material assets.</p> <p>This site is adjacent to the Knocksink Wood SAC and developments under this land use zoning objective could potentially impact upon this European site and all other environmental components.</p> <p>The available reasonable alternative to adopting this proposal as part of the Plan is not to adopt this proposal. As this amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning, there is a need to reject this proposal in its current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.</p>

## Section 6 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

### 6.1 Mitigation

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

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development<sup>17</sup>;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate<sup>18</sup>;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate<sup>19</sup>; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate.

Additional mitigation relating to the Proposed Material Alterations is recommended under Table 6.1 below.

**Table 6.1 Additional Mitigation for Proposed Material Alterations**

Alteration No. <sup>20</sup>	Mitigation Description - for further summary information on adverse environmental effects refer to Section 5
V1-10, V1-11, V1-12, V1-13, V1-31, V1-33, V1-51, V2-87, V2-88, V2-90, V2-92, V2-94, V2-95, V2-96, V2-99, V2-100, V2-101, V2-102, V2-103, V2-104, V2-105, V2-106, V2-108, V2-109, V2-110, V2-113, V2-114, V2-115 and V3-133	These amendments would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and each has the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning. As a result, there is a need to reject these amendments in their current state in order to provide the most evidence-based framework for development and ensure sustainable development and proper planning.

### 6.2 Monitoring

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified at Table 3.1 and used in the evaluation. Monitoring indicators, targets, sources and remedial action is provided at Table 6.2 overleaf.

<sup>17</sup> Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan on public display, Wicklow County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate. The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County. Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

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

<sup>18</sup> Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 4), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Council considered a number of alternatives for the Plan. These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of preferred alternatives, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

<sup>19</sup> Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Eastern and Midland RSES. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist seeks to facilitate zoning that will help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level. Also taken into account were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

<sup>20</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

**Table 6.2 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action**

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

SEA Environmental Report Appendix IV: Non-Technical Summary

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

SEA Environmental Report Appendix IV: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water</li> <li>DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the EMRA, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels of 74%</li> <li>NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Data from the National Travel Survey</li> <li>EPA Air Quality Monitoring</li> <li>Consultations with Department of Transport and Department of Environment, Climate and Communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> <li>EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting</li> <li>Climate Action Regional Office</li> <li>Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan</li> </ul>		

SEA Environmental Report Appendix IV: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Wicklow County Council's Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with DHLGH</li> </ul>	
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation</li> </ul>

# NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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## IN SUPPORT OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

### FOR PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS

TO THE

## DRAFT WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

for: **Wicklow County Council**

County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town



by: **CAAS Ltd.**

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



**APRIL 2022**





**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)  
Determination under:  
The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)  
for:  
Proposed Material Alterations to the  
Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made by Wicklow County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of AA.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 23 (no.) European sites. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

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

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that, subject to additional recommendations to be integrated into the Plan in advance of adoption, the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>1</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

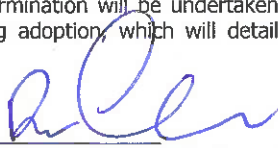
Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>2</sup>:

- V1-46
- V1-57
- V1-58
- V1-76
- V1-77
- V2-87
- V3-133

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>3</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that Stage 2 AA is required for the above Proposed Material Alterations. The AA will be completed before 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The AA Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

Signed:   
Chief Executive Wicklow County Council  
12 April 2022

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

<sup>2</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>3</sup> V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121.

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Wicklow County Council finalises the AA at adoption of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the planning authority in advance of the adoption of the Plan and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the planning authority at adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>1</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

## 1.3 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature<sup>2</sup> was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

In addition to being informed by these reports, the Natura impact Report was also informed by the Council’s new Draft County Development Plan 2022-2028 and accompanying the SEA Environmental

<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>2</sup> Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

Report and the Council's current County Development Plan 2016-2022 and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report.

All of these data sources are likely to be useful for AAs that must be undertaken for lower-tier plans/projects under the Plan.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

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

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

**Stage One: Screening**

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

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>3</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

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<sup>3</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

The AA exercise is being undertaken taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

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

## Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan and associated Proposed Material Alterations

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

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>4</sup>.

The Plan consists of three Volumes as follow:

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

The Vision of the Plan is:

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

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

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

### **SC01 Sustainable Settlement Patterns & Compact Growth**

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

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<sup>4</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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

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

**SCO3 Strong Rural Communities and Sustainable Rural Development**

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

**SCO4 Sustainable Healthy Communities**

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

**SCO5 Sustainable Mobility**

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

**SCO6 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity**

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

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

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

**SCO8 A Strong Economy**

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

**SCO9 Tourism**

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

**SCO10 Education & Skills**

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

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alteration document. The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.



## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>5</sup> or species<sup>6</sup> at that site have been considered.

Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

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

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [IE0000396] Version 7.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Red Bog, Kildare SAC [IE0000397] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Bray Head SAC [IE0000714] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Deputy’s Pass Nature Reserve SAC [IE0000717] Version 7.

<sup>5</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>6</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

## Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [IE0000719] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 7.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC [IE0000729] Version 1.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC [IE0000733] Version 7.  
NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [IE0000770] Version 1.  
NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [IE0000781] Version 1.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 6.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC [IE0001398] Version 6.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC [IE0001742] Version 1.  
NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Holdenstown Bog SAC [IE0001757] Version 1.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Magherabeg Dunes SAC [IE0001766] Version 1.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.  
NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [IE0002162] Version 1.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for The Murrrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 7.  
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Reef SAC [IE0002274] Version 1.  
NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 6.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [IE0004063] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Head SPA [IE0004127] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 7.  
NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for The Murrrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 7.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Mouds Bog SAC [IE002331] Version 1.

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

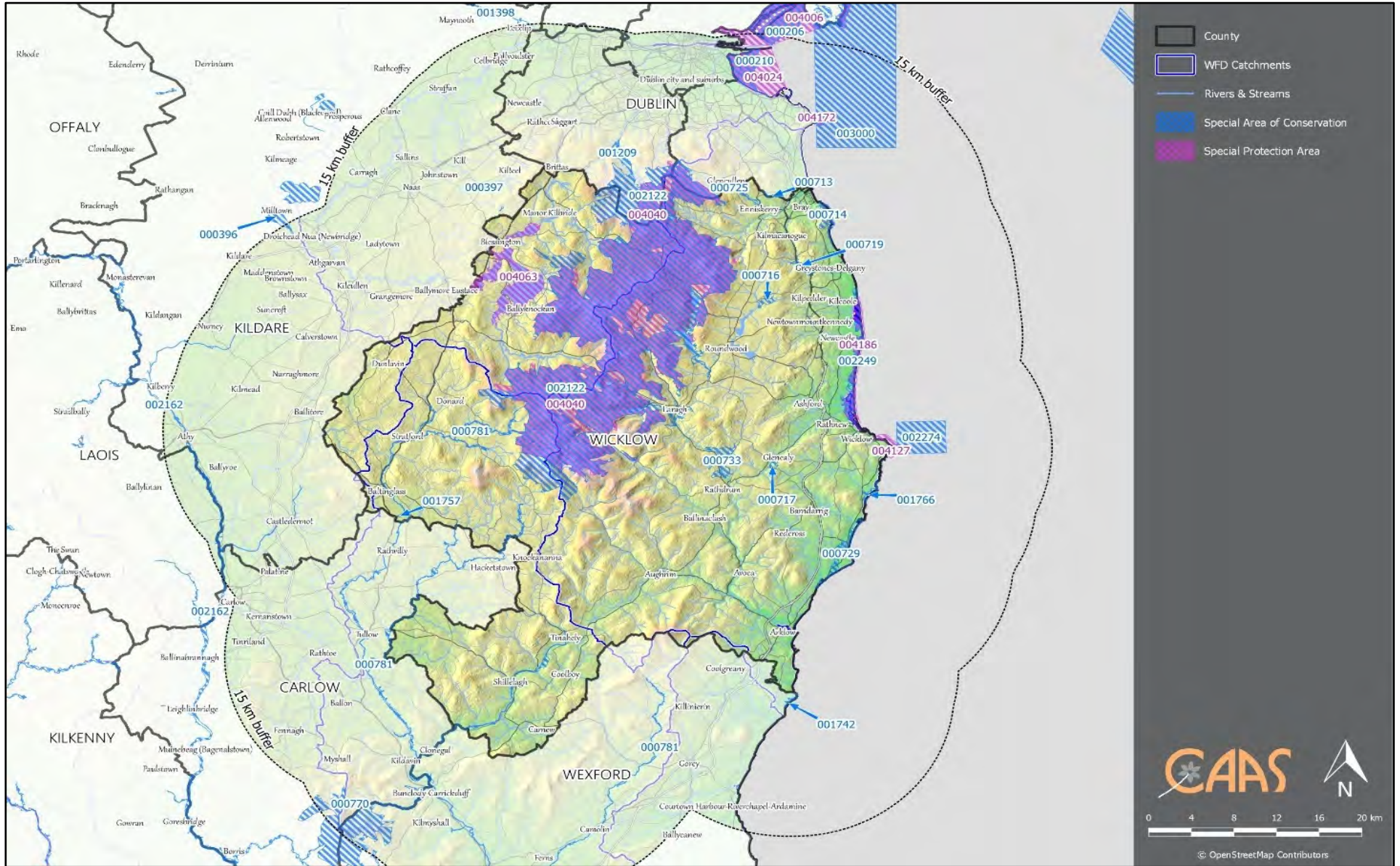


Figure 3.1 European Sites within 15 km buffer zone of County Wicklow

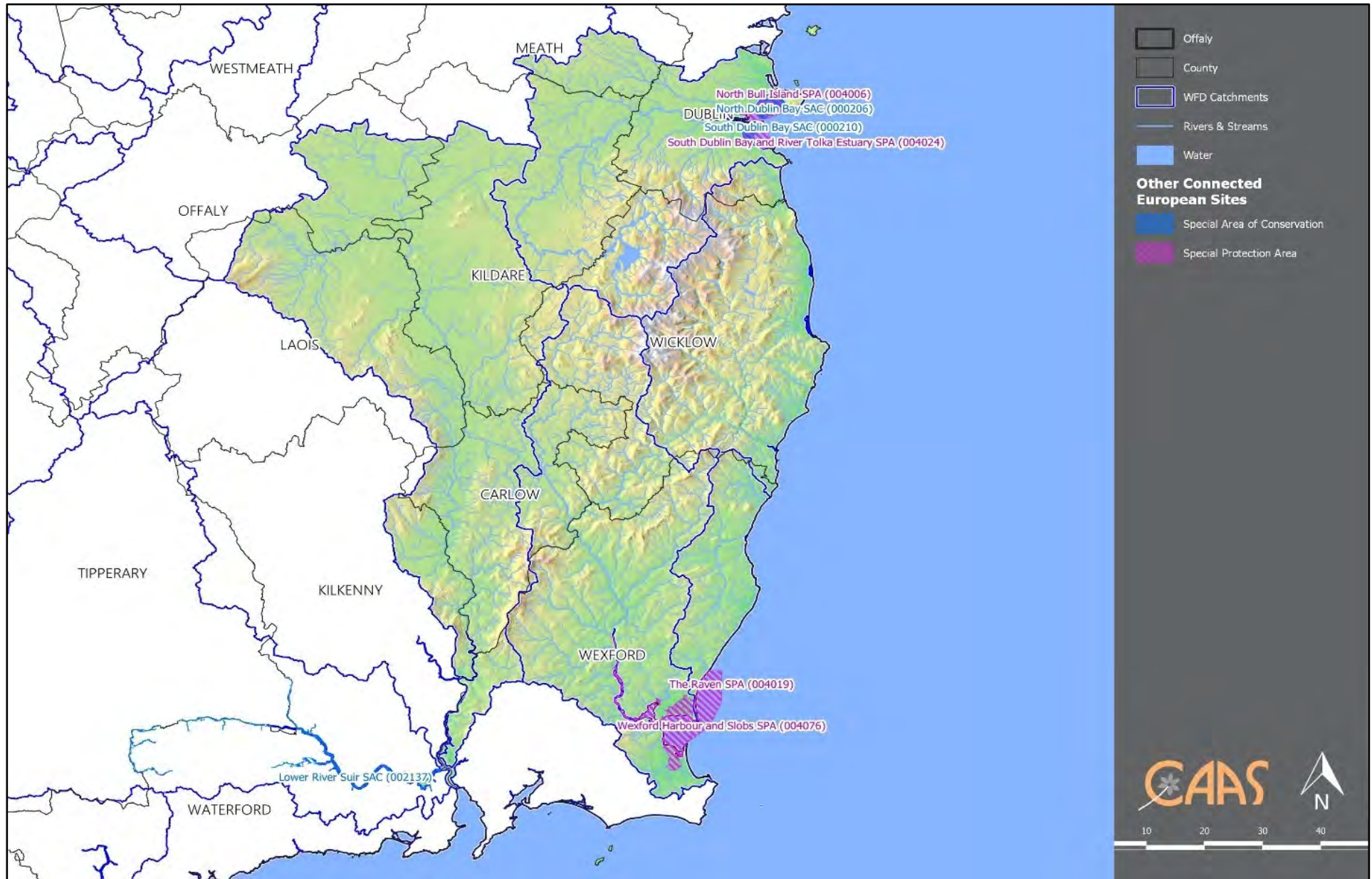


Figure 3.2 European Sites hydrologically linked to County Wicklow

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

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

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>7</sup>.

The potential for Proposed Material Alterations to result in effects on designated European sites is examined on Table 3.1.

#### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European Sites considering information provided above. Furthermore, the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is proposed is also taken into account.

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<sup>7</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Table 3.1 AA Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations**

Ref	AA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b> Refer also to Section 5.
2	A future plan/assessment/feasibility study/ investigation of potential would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b> Was such an assessment to be followed by recommendations, such as varying the Plan, such recommendations would have to be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
3	The update to terminology/language/wording/numbering/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. Where the change relates to mapping, the implications of the change may have been considered under other related Alterations. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
4	This alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
5	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
6	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
7	Removal of this provision would remove the potential for effects on any European site; however, removal of the provision would not be likely to result in any effect on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
8	These alterations relate to supporting documents but would not change Plan provisions. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
9	Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those measures to contribute towards the protection of European sites), there is no potential for effects on the integrity of any European site to arise from this Proposed Material Alteration. However, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As this alteration could be considered mitigation, in relation to the Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites under the Plan, further to that already included in the Draft Plan (see Section 5), with the objective of protecting the integrity of European Sites brought to Stage 2 under the ongoing AA being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, <b>it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.</b>
10	As this alteration could potentially impact upon the protection of a European site(s), <b>Stage 2 AA is required.</b> Effects from this alteration are considered further under Section 4 of this report.

No.	AA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above	No.	AA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
V1-1	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-68	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-2	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-69	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-3	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-70	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-4	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-71	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-5	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-72	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-6	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-73	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-7	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-74	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-8	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-75	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-9	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-76	10
V1-10	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-77	10
V1-11	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-78	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-12	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-79	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-13	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V1-80	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-14	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-81	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-15	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-82	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-16	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-83	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-17	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-84	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-18	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-85	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-19	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-86	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-20	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-87	9+10
V1-21	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-88	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-22	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-89	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-23	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-90	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-24	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-91	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-25	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-92	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-26	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-93	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-27	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-94	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-28	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-95	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-29	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-96	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required
V1-30	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required	V2-97	Selection of AA Screening Considerations from Ref. 1 to 8 - Stage 2 AA not required



### 3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

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

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

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

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

### 3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 23 (no.) European sites. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

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



Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>8</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>9</sup>:

- V1-46
- V1-57
- V1-58
- V1-76
- V1-77
- V2-87
- V3-133

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>10</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

It is therefore advised that pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that Stage 2 AA is required for the above Proposed Material Alterations.

An AA Screening Determination accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations document.

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<sup>8</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>9</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>10</sup> V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121.

## Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>11</sup>:

- V1-46
- V1-57
- V1-58
- V1-76
- V1-77
- V2-87
- V3-133

The Stage 2 AA assesses potential adverse impacts on the integrity of the 23 (no.) European Sites, brought forward from screening under the overall AA for the Plan, that may be mitigated by these Proposed Material Alterations.

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>12</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The overall AA Screening for the Draft Plan identified 23 (no.) European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 23 (no.) European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website<sup>13</sup>.

### 4.3 Identifying, Characterising and Mitigating Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>14</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>12</sup> V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121.

<sup>13</sup> Last accessed 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

<sup>14</sup> These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

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

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

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

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

#### Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

#### Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

### 4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

If adopted as part of the Plan, various Proposed Material Alterations<sup>15</sup> could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects on the integrity of European sites.

#### 4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

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

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<sup>15</sup> V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121.

necessary for the ecological integrity of any European Site, such as CPO 17.4<sup>16</sup>, 17.5<sup>17</sup>, 17.6<sup>18</sup>, 17.7<sup>19</sup>, 17.8<sup>20</sup>, 17.9<sup>21</sup>, 17.10<sup>22</sup> and 17.11<sup>23</sup>.

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

#### 4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

The Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European Sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources in measures such as : CPO 17.7<sup>24</sup> and CPO 17.8<sup>25</sup>. The Plan provides Policy Objectives to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones through mitigation such as mitigation measures such as CPO 17.12<sup>26</sup>, CPO 17.13<sup>27</sup>, CPO 17.14<sup>28</sup>, CPO 17.15<sup>29</sup>, CPO 17.16<sup>30</sup>, CPO 17.17<sup>31</sup> (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Inappropriate lighting will

<sup>16</sup> To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009 147/EC), the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019)
- National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended), European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.
- National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010);
- Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),
- Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.

<sup>17</sup> Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan\*. \* = Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>18</sup> Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

<sup>19</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>20</sup> Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

<sup>21</sup> The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.

<sup>22</sup> To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.

<sup>23</sup> To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 10.16 in Plan) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.

<sup>24</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>25</sup> Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

<sup>26</sup> To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

<sup>27</sup> To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.

<sup>28</sup> Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

<sup>29</sup> To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.

<sup>30</sup> Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.

<sup>31</sup> Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.

be minimised through the implementation of Policy Objectives set out in Chapter 10 of the Plan, such as CPO 15.17<sup>32</sup>, CPO 15.19<sup>33</sup> and CPO 15.20<sup>34</sup>.

Further to these provisions there are policy objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways: CPO13.1<sup>35</sup> and CPO13.3<sup>36</sup>, wetlands: CPO 17.25<sup>37</sup> and CPO 17.26<sup>38</sup>, peatlands CPO 17.33<sup>39</sup> etc. These policies apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Draft Plan and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Draft Plan.

#### 4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation in general, from the perspective that many of the tourism destinations or attractions in the area are in or adjacent to European Sites. V1-46, V1-76, V1-77 and V3-133 further provide support for the development of walking routes and/or tourism in potentially sensitive locations. Such developments in these locations, including the construction and operation of infrastructure and associated land use activities, could potentially impact upon various European sites.

In this regard, Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1<sup>40</sup>, CPO 11.4<sup>41</sup>, CPO 11.477<sup>42</sup>, CPO 11.488<sup>43</sup> and CPO 11.499<sup>44</sup> ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected.

The Draft Plan accounts for noise pollution effects through Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.12<sup>45</sup> and CPO 15.13<sup>46</sup>, thereby affording protection to European Sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Draft Plan avoid or minimise noise - in accordance with the EPA Noise Regulations (2006), and the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. The Plan also provides for measures around lighting (CPO 15.17<sup>47</sup>, CPO 15.19<sup>48</sup>, CPO 15.20<sup>49</sup>) and air (CPO 15.9<sup>50</sup>). Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality due to anthropocentric sensitivities for species such as the hen harrier (which is known to occur within Wicklow). Policies to

<sup>32</sup> To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.

<sup>33</sup> To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.

<sup>34</sup> To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.

<sup>35</sup> To ensure and support the implementation of the *EU Groundwater Directive* and the *EU Water Framework Directive* and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

<sup>36</sup> To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.

<sup>37</sup> Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.

<sup>38</sup> Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built-in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.

<sup>39</sup> To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.

<sup>40</sup> To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.

<sup>41</sup> To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.

<sup>42</sup> Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.

<sup>43</sup> Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.

<sup>44</sup> Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.

<sup>45</sup> To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure.

<sup>46</sup> To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.

<sup>47</sup> To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.

<sup>48</sup> To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.

<sup>49</sup> To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.

<sup>50</sup> To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).

ensure the protection of habitat quality have been built into the Draft Plan; identified above, further details see Section 5).

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

#### 4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment and trampling. However, the Plan mitigates effects by requiring compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives – such as CPO 17.4<sup>51</sup>, 17.5<sup>52</sup>, 17.6<sup>53</sup>, 17.7<sup>54</sup>, 17.8<sup>55</sup>, 17.9<sup>56</sup>, 17.10<sup>57</sup> and 17.11<sup>58</sup>. Overall, this Plan identifies the rigorous approach that will be taken when assessing the ecological impacts of a proposed development and the precautions surrounding this approach.

Furthermore, the Plan contains provisions to protect and management of biodiversity, including non-designated biodiversity, such as CPO 17.12<sup>59</sup>, CPO 17.13<sup>60</sup>, CPO 17.14<sup>61</sup>, CPO 17.15<sup>62</sup>, CPO 17.16<sup>63</sup> and CPO 17.17<sup>64</sup>. Similarly, the Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of species diversity overall through connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources

<sup>51</sup> To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:

- EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009 147/EC), the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU 'Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making' (European Commission 2019)
- National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended), European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.
- National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment' (2018), 'Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' (2003), 'Tree Preservation Guidelines', 'Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (draft 2000), 'Appropriate Assessment Guidance' (2010);
- Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),
- Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges.

<sup>52</sup> Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan\*. \* = Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>53</sup> Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

<sup>54</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>55</sup> Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

<sup>56</sup> The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.

<sup>57</sup> To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.

<sup>58</sup> To preserve lands at 'The Rocks', Kilcoole (as shown on Map 10.16 in Plan) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.

<sup>59</sup> To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

<sup>60</sup> To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.

<sup>61</sup> Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

<sup>62</sup> To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.

<sup>63</sup> Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.

<sup>64</sup> Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.

in developments (e.g., 17.6<sup>65</sup>, 17.7<sup>66</sup>, 17.8<sup>67</sup>). Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as: woodlands: CPO 17.18<sup>68</sup>, hedgerows: CPO 17.23<sup>69</sup>, soils: CPO 17.27<sup>70</sup> and pollinators: CPO 17.16<sup>71</sup>. These Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5). In addition to this the Plan identifies Policy Objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards. Further details in relation to relevant mitigation measures are in Section 5 below.

#### 4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Plan contains many robust Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Abstractions for drinking water could individually and/or cumulatively could impact upon ecology, including European Sites. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European Sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European Sites. Policy Objectives that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European Sites include: CPO 17.24<sup>72</sup>; CPO 17.25<sup>73</sup>; and CPO 17.26<sup>74</sup>.

Similarly, emissions to air and hazardous waste have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European Sites; however, the Plan contains Policy Objectives such as CPO 15.9<sup>75</sup>, which accounts for this. Increased development pressures could place additional loadings onto the existing waste water treatment plant facilities. Section 4 of the SEA identifies the currently loadings for Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) in the County, indicating there is additional capacity within the existing infrastructure at most locations (see Table 4.3 of the associated SEA Environmental Report for further details).

<sup>65</sup> Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora (Article 10, EU Habitats directive). An Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive will be required in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site to determine the likelihood of the plan or project having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects and to ensure that projects which may give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

<sup>66</sup> To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.

<sup>67</sup> Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.

<sup>68</sup> To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B & C of this plan.

<sup>69</sup> To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).

<sup>70</sup> Geological and soil mapping where available shall be considered in planning decisions relating to settlement, excavation, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), lands with unstable soils / geology or at risk of landslides, and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance.

<sup>71</sup> Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land.

<sup>72</sup> To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

<sup>73</sup> Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.

<sup>74</sup> Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built-in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.

<sup>75</sup> To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).

Additionally, policies such as CPO13.3<sup>76</sup>, CPO 9.49<sup>77</sup>, CPO 17.14<sup>78</sup>, CPO 17.24<sup>79</sup> and CPO 17.25<sup>80</sup> provide broader scope to ensure the protection of wildlife corridors, and the wider catchment zones associated with riparian habitats and areas sensitive to hydrological interactions.

#### 4.3.1.6 Climate change

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Policy Objective CPO 17.5 provides that “Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>81</sup>”. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

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

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

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

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<sup>76</sup> To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to ‘Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment’ by Inland Fisheries Ireland) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.

<sup>77</sup> To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.

<sup>78</sup> Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses (rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the Natura 2000 network in Wicklow.

<sup>79</sup> To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU’s Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

<sup>80</sup> Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.

<sup>81</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



**Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan**

Site Code	Site Name <sup>82</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>83</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are hunting, leisure fishing, dispersed habitation, grazing, sand and gravel extraction and fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: fisheries, extraction of materials, agricultural practices, and tourism and recreational activities. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan also provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration with extraction of natural materials within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are fertilisation, cultivation, groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, discontinuous urbanisation, continuous urbanisation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, forest planting on open ground, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, other point source pollution to surface water, roads, motorways, grazing and sand and gravel extraction.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, extraction of materials, hydrological impacts, direct land take, waste disposal, and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000714	Bray Head SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are erosion, urbanised areas, human habitation, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, burning down, motorised vehicles, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, non intensive cattle grazing, species composition change (succession) and vandalism.</p> <p>These threats relate to: direct land use management, tourism and recreation, direct land take and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>VI-57 supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. VI-58 further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These amendments would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan that would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing, species composition change (succession), raising the groundwater table or artificially recharge groundwater, forest planting on open ground, dispersed habitation, fertilisation, non-intensive horse grazing, landfill and land reclamation and drying out.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, hydrological interactions, agricultural practices and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

<sup>82</sup> For qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

<sup>83</sup> Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019)

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>82</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>83</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are grazing in forests or woodland, grazing, attraction park, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, vandalism, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, silviculture, forestry and forest replanting (native trees).</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use management, waste disposal, invasive species, recreational and tourism activities and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, roads, motorways, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, attraction park, grazing, golf course, burning down, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees and vandalism.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, direct land use management, tourism and recreational activities, direct land take and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, improved access to site, removal of forest undergrowth, camping and caravans, interpretative centres, invasive non-native species, grazing, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, discontinuous urbanisation, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), forest planting on open ground, roads, motorways, vandalism, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, paths, tracks and cycling tracks.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: invasive species, direct land use management, tourism and recreational activities, direct land take and agricultural practices, extraction of materials and direct land take. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43.</p> <p>Proposed Amendment V3-133 seeks to change Open Space land use zoning to Agriculture at lands in Enniskerry that are currently zoned in a separately adopted Local Area Plan for the town. The subject lands are adjacent to the Knocksink Wood SAC. Agriculture land use zoning could potentially impact upon this European site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations would contribute towards mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000729	Buckroneey-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are stock feeding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, fertilisation, erosion, camping and caravans, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, species composition change (succession), non intensive grazing, airport, intensive cattle grazing, vandalism, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, non intensive mowing, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, golf course, trampling, overuse, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, invasive non-native species, discontinuous urbanisation and hunting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: Tourism and recreation, agricultural practices, direct land management, land take, pollution, waste disposal, invasive species and hydrological impacts. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>82</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>83</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
		<p>such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are dispersed habitation, forest replanting (native trees), taking and removal of animals (terrestrial), poaching, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry), invasive non-native species, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), damage caused by game (excess population density), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles. These pressures relate to: direct land take and management, agricultural practices, extraction of materials, tourism and recreational use. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for Rathdrum Plan (level 4) such as: RT13, aims to protect natural heritage in accordance with the overarching objectives set out in Volume 1. The Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan includes policies such as: LG19 and LG20 to mitigate against tourism and development pressures that are heightened in this area due to the sensitive ecological location within the Wicklow Mountains. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are cultivation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, storage of materials, forest and Plantation management &amp; use, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, invasive non-native species, irrigation, modifying structures of inland water courses, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, erosion, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, bridge, viaduct, bait digging or collection, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, pollution to surface waters (limnic &amp; terrestrial, marine &amp; brackish), fertilisation, fishing harbours, discharges, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, sand and gravel extraction, predator control, water abstractions from surface waters, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, bottom culture and surface water abstractions for agriculture. These pressures relate to: direct land take and management, agricultural practices, extraction of materials, tourism and recreational use, invasive species, hydrological impacts and fisheries. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for Tinahely Plan (level 5) such as: AA1; TIN18 and TIN19 aim to protect the Slaney River Valley SAC relative to local development. The Shillelagh Plan specifies an objective to “safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed development.” The Donard Plan includes an objective to “protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Browns Beck Brook”. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>Proposed Amendment V2-87 seeks to change land use zoning to Tourism at lands in Baltinglass that are nearby to the Slaney River Valley SAC. Tourism land use zoning could potentially impact upon this European site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alterations would contribute towards mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

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001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, leisure fishing, abandonment or lack of mowing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, non-intensive sheep grazing, forest planting on open ground (native trees), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, forest replanting (non-native trees), artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), roads, paths and railroads, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered communities, non-intensive cattle grazing, non-intensive horse grazing, car parks and parking areas, peat extraction, mowing or cutting of grassland, discontinuous urbanisation and grazing. These pressures relate to: direct land take and management, agricultural practices, extraction of materials, tourism and recreational use, invasive species, hydrological impacts and fisheries. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are problematic native species, burning down, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, species composition change (succession), off-road motorized driving, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, erosion, outdoor sports and leisure activities and recreational activities.</p> <p>These pressures relate to tourism and recreational activities, direct land use management, and flood and coastal defences. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. Policy objectives such as CPO 19.15 and CPO14.02, CPO14.03, CPO14.04 and CPO14.05 ensure that where flood and coastal management is required that it is done in the most sustainable manner and with regard to sensitive biodiversity and retention of areas of valuable ecosystem services where possible.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are grazing, suspended electricity and phone lines, cultivation, forest planting on open ground, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits and human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, agricultural practices and hydrological impacts. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, non-intensive grazing, vandalism, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, species composition change (succession), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, erosion and pollution to surface waters by industrial plants.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, agricultural practices, hydrological impacts, tourism and recreational activities. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>82</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>83</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are invasive non-native species, Fences, fencing, Wildlife watching, Damage by herbivores (including game species), trampling, overuse, grazing in forests or woodland, Stock feeding, Burning down, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, collapse of terrain, landslide, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, vandalism, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, urbanised areas, human habitation, military manoeuvres, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), erosion, peat extraction, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, off-road motorized driving, grazing, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched) and taking from nest (e.g. falcons).</p> <p>These pressures relate to invasive species, direct land use management, hydrological interactions, tourism, recreational use, agricultural practices and waste disposal and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19.</p> <p>Additional policies for Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan such as: LG19 and LG20 aim to mitigate against tourism and development pressures that are heightened in this area due to the sensitive ecological location within the Wicklow Mountains National Park and SAC. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002249	The Murrrough Wetlands SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, Disposal of industrial waste, Silviculture, forestry, Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, sand and gravel extraction, modification of water flow (tidal &amp; marine currents), erosion, railway lines, TGV, paths, tracks and cycling tracks and fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, hydrological interactions, tourism, recreational use, agricultural practices and waste disposal and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. Similarly, the Plan provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration within the extractive industry within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for the Ashford Plan (Level 5) such as: ASH12 aims to provide support county level mitigation in protecting watercourses within the Plan area that are hydrologically linked to the Murrrough Wetlands European Sites. Newcastle Plan (Level 6) also specifies policy objectives for the river running through the Plan that is hydrologically linked to the Murrrough European Sites that aims to: “protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrrough Wetlands SAC / SPA”. Furthermore, there are important mitigatory European Sites Objectives included in the Introductions to Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 Plans.</p> <p>VI-57 supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. VI-58 further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These amendments would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan that would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are netting, Date mussel-fishing, leisure fishing, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, scuba diving, snorkelling, potting, benthic dredging and benthic or demersal trawling.</p> <p>These pressures relate to fisheries, waste disposal, tourism and recreational activities and land use management. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as:</p>

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		<p>CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The plan also provides for the sustainable development and management of the fishing and aquaculture industry via Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.49 and CPO 9.50.</p> <p>VI-58 further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These amendment would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan that would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are silviculture, forestry, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, paths, tracks and cycling tracks, interpretative centres and peat extraction.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, tourism, recreational use, agricultural practices and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The plan ensures that any waste and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are leisure fishing, forest planting on open ground, nautical sports, bridge, viaduct and hunting.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, tourism, recreational use and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing of successional material will be managed through Policy Objectives such as CPO 17.18 and CPO 17.23. Woodland and treelines are protected where necessary / appropriate / possible within the Plan area via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.18, CPO 17.19, CPO 17.20, CPO 17.21, CPO 17.22 and CPO 17.23. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43. The plan also provides for the sustainable development and management of the fishing and aquaculture industry via Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.49 and CPO 9.50. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004127	Wicklow Head SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, tourism and recreational activities. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
004186	The Murrrough SPA	<p>The known threats to this site are railway lines, TGV, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles and fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use, tourism and recreational activities and agricultural practices. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. Policy Objectives such as CPO11.1, CPO 11.4, CPO 11.47, CPO 11.48 and CPO 11.49 ensure that the integrity of European Sites and sensitive areas that contribute to the site, are protected from tourism and recreation related potential impacts. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water; CPO 17.24 and CPO 17.25, CPO 13.2, CPO 13.3, CPO 13.4, CPO 13.5, CPO 13.6, CPO 13.7, CPO 13.9 and CPO 13.21.</p> <p>Regarding the lower-level Plans (Levels 4, 5 and 6) within the overarching County Plan, additional policies for the Ashford Plan (Level 5) such as: ASH12 aims to provide support county level mitigation in protecting watercourses within the Plan area that are hydrologically linked to the Murrrough Wetlands European Sites. Newcastle Plan (Level 6) also specifies policy objectives for the river running through the Plan that is hydrologically linked to the Murrrough European Sites that aims to: "protect the river from adverse environmental impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the development having regard to its hydrological links to the Murrrough Wetlands SAC / SPA".</p> <p>VI-57 supports the DART+ programme and the electrification of the rail line south of Greystones and provision of high speed and high frequency services on the existing underutilised south east rail line to south Wicklow. VI-58 further provides for the improvement of the Dublin-Rosslare line, including any coastal protection measures related to the protection of the line. These amendments would have the potential to impact upon this site. Measures that have been integrated into the Draft Plan that would help to ensure mitigation of effects - see Section 5 of this report.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

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Site Code	Site Name <sup>82</sup>	Characterisation of Potential Effects <sup>83</sup> (Refer to Section 5 for mitigation)
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are discharges, noise nuisance, noise pollution, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, utility and service lines, professional active fishing, removal of sediments and shipping lanes.</p> <p>These pressures relate to: direct land use, pollution, waste disposal, fisheries and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. The plan also provides for the sustainable development and management of the fishing and aquaculture industry via Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.49 and CPO 9.50. The plan ensures that any waste production and emissions (light, air, noise) generated as a result of the Plan or developments, are managed appropriately and sustainably in line with best practice guidelines, via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 15.1, CPO 15.9, CPO 15.12, CPO 15.13, CPO 15.17, CPO 15.19, CPO 15.19. The Plan also provides for a similar standard of the sustainable management and consideration with extraction of natural materials within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.51 and CPO 9.54.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	<p>The known threats to this site are peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning, overgrazing and conversion to forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to direct land use management, agricultural practices and extraction of materials. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European Sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives such as: CPO 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.11. There are no provisions in the Plan which relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. The Plan supports agricultural activities and Policy Objectives such as CPO 9.36 and CPO 9.39 allow for agricultural activities and agricultural run-off into freshwater and adjoining transitional/coastal systems to be managed appropriately. Policy Objective CPO 17.33 relates directly to the National Strategy for the protection and maintenance of peatlands. Policy Objective CPO 17.17 provides for the control of spread and management of invasive species where necessary. The Plan provides for sustainable forestry practices within the county boundary via Policy Objectives such as: CPO 9.42 and CPO 9.43.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

## Section 5 Mitigation Measures

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above. The Draft Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites are identified in Table 5.1 below. Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current 2016-2022 Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

In addition to the Draft Plan measures identified on the table below, various Proposed Material Alterations<sup>84</sup> could further contribute towards mitigation of Plan's potential effects on the integrity of European sites.

**Table 5.1 Mitigation Measures that will contribute towards the protection of European Sites<sup>85</sup>**

Topic	Draft Plan measures, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>SCO6 Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity</b> Natural heritage and biodiversity is the cornerstone of Wicklow's identity – 'The Garden of Ireland'. It is essential that we conserve and enhance the County's rich natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.36 To facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance.</p> <p><b>Tourism and Recreation</b></p> <p>CPO11.1 To promote, encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism and recreation sectors in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p><b>Environmental Protection</b></p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Corridor and Route Selection</b></p> <p>CPO 12.10 Where projects for new infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>CPO 18.17 Where projects for significant green infrastructure identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new green infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage &amp; Biodiversity Objectives</b></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>CPO 17.1 To protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Wicklow in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity and as a non renewable resource.</p>

<sup>84</sup> V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121.

<sup>85</sup> For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.



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Topic	<b>Draft Plan measures, including:</b> [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p>CPO 17.2 Ensure the protection of ecosystems and ecosystem services by integrating full consideration of these into all decision making.</p> <p>CPO 17.3 To support and promote the implementation of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p><b>Protected sites and species</b></p> <p>CPO 17.4 To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Wildlife Sites (including proposed Natural Heritage Areas); Salmonid Waters; Flora Protection Order sites; Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).</p> <p>To contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including but not limited to the following and any updated/superseding documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) , the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) , the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) , the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC); EU ‘Guidance on integrating ecosystems and their services into decision-making’ (European Commission 2019)</li> <li>• National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) , European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and the Flora Protection order 2015.</li> <li>• National policy guidelines (including any clarifying circulars or superseding versions of same), including ‘Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment’ (2018), ‘Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development’ (2003), ‘Tree Preservation Guidelines’, ‘Landscape and Landscape Assessment’ (draft 2000), ‘Appropriate Assessment Guidance’ (2010);</li> <li>• Catchment and water resource management plans, including the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (including any superseding versions of same),</li> <li>• Biodiversity plans and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (including any superseding versions of same) and the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan;</li> <li>• Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA), including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report’s goals and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 17.5 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan .</p> <p>CPO 17.6 Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.7 To maintain the conservation value of all proposed and future Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and to protect other designated ecological sites in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.8 Ensure ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Annex I habitats, or rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.9 The Council recognises the natural heritage and amenity value of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and shall consult at all times with National Park management regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation value of the park, or on issues regarding visitor areas.</p> <p>CPO 17.10 To support the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of site specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for designated sites.</p> <p>CPO 17.11 To preserve lands at ‘The Rocks’, Kilcoole (as shown on Map 17.13) in its existing state; to allow no development of these lands; to protect the lands as a natural habitat and biodiversity area; to protect the open nature and landscape quality of the lands.</p> <p><b>Sites &amp; Corridors of ecological &amp; biodiversity value</b></p> <p>CPO 17.12 To protect non-designated sites from inappropriate development, ensuring that ecological impact assessment is carried out for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on locally important natural habitats, species or wildlife corridors. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 17.13 To facilitate, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the ongoing identification and recording of locally important biodiversity areas and species in County Wicklow, not otherwise protected by legislation and ensure that consideration is given to these in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO 17.14 Ensure that development proposals support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, including linear landscape features like watercourses(rivers, streams, canals, ponds, drainage channels, etc), woodlands, trees, hedgerows, road and railway margins, semi-natural grasslands, natural springs, wetlands, stonewalls, geological and geo-morphological systems, features which act as stepping stones, such as marshes and woodlands, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones that taken as a whole help to improve the coherence of the European network in Wicklow.</p> <p>CPO 17.15 To protect and enhance wetland sites that are listed as being of C+ or higher importance in the County Wicklow wetlands survey and any subsequent updates or revisions thereof and to implement the recommendations of the County Wicklow wetlands survey.</p> <p>CPO 17.16 Require pollinator friendly landscape management and planting within new developments and on Council owned land .</p> <p>CPO 17.17 Work with statutory authorities to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species and require, where appropriate Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared as part of the development management process where necessary.</p> <p><b>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows</b></p> <p>CPO 17.18 To promote the preservation of trees, groups of trees or woodlands in particular native tree species, and those trees associated with demesne planting, in the interest of amenity or the environmental, as set out in Schedule 10.08 and Map 10.08 A, B &amp; C of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 17.19 To consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to protect trees and woodlands of high value, where it appears that they are in danger of being felled.</p> <p>CPO 17.20 Development that requires the felling of mature trees of environmental and/or amenity value, even though they may not have a TPO in place, will be discouraged.</p> <p>CPO 17.21 To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible.</p> <p>CPO 17.22 To encourage the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees, as part of the development management process, and require the planting of native broad leaved species, and species of local provenance in all new developments.</p> <p>CPO 17.23 To encourage the retention, wherever possible, of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatment in the County. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, provision of the same type of boundary will be required of similar length and set back within the site in advance of the commencement of construction works on the site (unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Authority).</p>

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Topic	Draft Plan measures, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p>CPO 18.3 New development and redevelopment proposals shall wherever possible, integrate nature based solutions to the design, layout and landscaping of development proposals, and in particular to the delivery of linear parks and connected open spaces along watercourses in order to enhance the existing green infrastructure of the local area. All such proposals will be subject to ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>CPO 18.4 To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.5 To identify and facilitate the provision of linkages along and between green / river corridors within the county and adjoining counties to create inter connected routes and develop riverside parks and create linkages between them to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.6 To promote and facilitate the development of coastal paths linking up with existing recreational paths/strategic walkways/cycleways, creating new linkages between coastal sites and inward linkages to settlements and green spaces in built up areas and extensions to existing facilities where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>CPO 18.7 To facilitate the development of green bridges / wildlife crossings over existing physical transport barriers to repair fragmentation of the green infrastructure network caused by such grey infrastructure developments.</p> <p>CPO 18.11 To support the development of greenways, blueways and other access routes along natural corridors while ensuring that there is no adverse impact on the flora and fauna, biodiversity or water quality of natural assets.</p> <p>CPO 18.13 To facilitate greater public recreational access to the Wicklow coast and improved linkages between the coast and the coast road, subject to full ecological and heritage impact assessment and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><b>Recreation and Tourism</b></p> <p>CPO 11.4 To only permit the development of a tourism or recreational facility in a rural area in cases where the product or activity is dependent on its location in a rural situation and where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development does not adversely affect the character, environmental quality and amenity of the rural area or the vitality of any settlement and the provision of infrastructure therein. The natural resource / tourist product / tourist attraction that is essential to the activity shall be located at the site or in close proximity to the site, of the proposed development. The need to locate in a particular area must be balanced against the environmental impact of the development and benefits to the local community.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 To ensure that tourism and recreation related developments are appropriately located in the County. Subject to the following exceptions, all tourist and recreation related developments are 'open for consideration' in all landscape areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following tourist uses will not be permitted within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (both the Mountain Uplands Area and the Coastal Area): Static caravans and mobile homes ;</li> <li>• Holiday homes will not be permitted in any landscape category other than urban zones except where they comply with objectives CPO 11.13, CPO 11.14, CPO 11.15 and CPO 11.16.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 11.29 To encourage eco-tourism projects or those tourism projects with a strong environmentally sustainable design and operational ethos.</p> <p>CPO 11.42 To promote and encourage the recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes and the development of 'blueways' in the County subject to normal environmental protection and management criteria. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Planning Authority will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and character of the area, listed views and prospects onto and from the area in question. Where possible, such structures should be set back an appropriate distance from the actual amenity itself and should not adversely affect the unique sustainable quality of these resources.</p> <p>CPO 11.47 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the plan, shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant environmental effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities; visitor/habitat management plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 11.48 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p> <p>CPO 11.49 Where projects for new tourism projects identified in this chapter are not already provided for by existing plans / programmes or are not already permitted, then the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the plan relating to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Light Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.17 To ensure that all external lighting whether free standing or attached to a building shall be designed and constructed so as not to cause excessive light spillage, glare, or dazzle motorists, and thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties, traffic and wildlife.</p> <p>CPO 15.18 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create light pollution or light impacts on adjacent residences to mitigate impacts, in accordance with the Development &amp; Design Standards set out in this plan.</p> <p>CPO 15.19 To promote the use of low energy LED (or equivalent) lighting.</p> <p>CPO 15.20 To require the design and implementation of a hierarchy of light intensity zones in development schemes to ensure that environmental impact is minimised as far as possible particularly in areas proximate to ecological corridors.</p> <p><b>Coastal Zone Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 19.13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>86</sup>.</p> <p>Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Cell 2 Bray Head CPO 19.17</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To protect and enhance Bray Head, in accordance with the SAAO.</li> <li>2. To maintain and enhance amenity routes on Bray Head and in particular the cliff path from Bray to Greystones.</li> <li>3. To facilitate the development of services and facilities for visitors such as suitable signage, footpath surfaces, notice and maps, while preserving the rugged and natural character of the area and its paths</li> <li>4. To protect all listed views and prospects to or from Bray Head as set out in the Local Area Plan for Bray MD and County Development Plan.</li> <li>5. Development, which would reduce existing areas of heathland, maritime grassland and wooded areas, will not normally be permitted except for reasons of overriding public interest.</li> </ol>

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

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Topic	Draft Plan measures, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p>6. To facilitate existing agricultural usage of Bray Head, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitat diversity.</p> <p>7. To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its amenity and green break function between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</li> <li>The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</li> <li>Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</li> </ol> <p>8. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft or hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</p> <p><b>Cell 3 Bray Head to Greystones (Rathdown) CPO 19.18</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strictly regulate and manage development in this cell to protect its function as a green break between the built up area of Bray and Greystones. Within this area, the following restrictions apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential development shall be strictly limited to those persons engaged in agriculture in this cell and who can demonstrate a definable economic need to live on the farm holding;</li> <li>The highest standards of siting and design will be rigorously enforced for any developments in this area;</li> <li>Commercial and industrial development will be prohibited in the cell.</li> </ol> </li> <li>To maintain and enhance the cliff path from Bray to Greystones, while preserving its rugged and natural character.</li> <li>To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</li> <li>To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity value of the Cliff Walk and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 4 Greystones Town CPO 19.19</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan for Greystones – Delgany and Kilcoole, in particular to provide for a high quality integrated harbour/marina mixed development linked to a linear coastal public park and any future heritage park. The development shall provide leisure, recreational, open space and marine facilities, and mixed form residential, commercial, civic and social amenities, centred around the harbour and marina. The development shall provide a link to the coastline with public access and coastal protection works provided to preserve the landscape from further erosion in the future.</li> <li>To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage and changing / toilet facilities.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 5 Greystones to Kilcoole (Ballynerrin) CPO 19.20</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</li> <li>To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwellings and regard to environmental designations.</li> <li>To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</li> <li>To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</li> <li>To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</li> <li>To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</li> <li>To facilitate and support the upgrading of Kilcoole train station and associated facilities.</li> <li>To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the ecological and amenity value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 6 Kilcoole - Wicklow Town (The Murrough) CPO 19.21</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of The Murrough cSAC. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of the cSAC, including development that is within the cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</li> <li>To facilitate the development of visitor and interpretative facilities, particularly those relating to bird watching and beach usage, in a sustainable and suitable manner which does not compromise either landscape quality or habitats.</li> <li>To maintain and improve points of vehicular access to the coast at Six Mile Point, Five Mile Point and Ballybla.</li> <li>To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R761, to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</li> <li>To control and limit residential development to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design, which takes due cognisance of the historic settlement pattern in the area and to environmental designations.</li> <li>To prohibit the development of new dwellings within 100m of the shoreline.</li> <li>To facilitate the development of a coastal walk (having due regard to environmental designations and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive) and to restrict development that interferes with the achievement of this objective.</li> <li>To protect all listed views and prospects along the R761 and coast in this cell.</li> <li>To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</li> <li>To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs CPO 19.22</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the coastal protection and development objectives of the relevant Local Area Plan/ for Wicklow Town – Rathnew.</li> <li>No development will be permitted that has the potential to adversely affect the conservation objectives of The Murrough Wetlands SAC, The Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SAC, or Wicklow Reef SPA either directly, indirectly or cumulatively.</li> <li>To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</li> <li>To support investigations into alternatives for the development of Wicklow Port.</li> <li>To retain Wicklow Golf Club at its present location and to preserve the open character of this area, as it acts as an important buffer area between the town and recreation areas further to the south.</li> <li>To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect both the amenity and ecological value of the coastline and the significant economic and social value of the railway line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Cell 8 Wicklow Head / Kilpoole CPO 19.23</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve the open character of Wicklow Head.</li> <li>No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Magherabeg pNHA / cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a SAC, including development that is within a SAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</li> <li>Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</li> <li>To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive.</li> </ol>

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	<p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of new tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing development cluster at Blainroe or to existing developed sites;</li> <li>Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</li> <li>the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; and</li> <li>the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</li> <li>automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> </ol> <p>6. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>7. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>8. To conserve the right of way from the Wicklow Town settlement boundary along the coastline to Brides Head and Lime Kiln Bay.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 9 Brittas Bay CPO 19.24</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. To protect, conserve and encourage the recovery of the beach-dune system at Brittas Bay, in accordance with the conservation objectives for which the SAC is designated, and as per site specific conservation management prescriptions prepared in 2018. Development that results in the erosion of the beach-dune system will not be permitted. In this respect, the Council will particularly ensure protection against erosion caused by amenity and recreational use of the dunes.</p> <p>4. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>5. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>7. All services and facilities to serve the local community and tourists shall be located within the boundaries of Ballynacarrig Village. Notwithstanding this, one small-scale local service type development shall be considered in proximity to the South Beach car park. The development may comprise a shop/service garage/pub/restaurant/café development. The maximum floor area of the development shall be 200m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>8. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New tourist accommodation shall be directed into one of the three identified development clusters of Ballynacarrig Village, Brittas Bridge and Cornagower (as shown on Map XX.02), or to existing developed sites. Only in exceptional circumstances, and where the following criteria are complied with, will accommodation be considered on a greenfield site outside a cluster: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development shall be located in close proximity to the identified clusters and shall have or be provided with direct and high quality connections to the clusters and to the coast;</li> <li>the development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</li> <li>The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject to the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design;</li> <li>The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</li> <li>Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</li> <li>The development of temporary camping/glamping sites may be considered strictly on the basis of: the use being seasonal only (March - October) and the full removal of all temporary structure and facilities at the end of each season, the highest quality of design and layout being employed, including excellent screening, strict adherence to environmental controls especially with regard to waste/wastewater disposal.</li> </ol> <p>9. To limit the size of existing public car parks to the present levels and to support the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the road at Cornagower East.</p> <p>10. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>11. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>12. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 10 Mizen Head to Arklow (Sallymount / Johnstown) CPO 19.25</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. No development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the pNHA, cSAC or Vulnerable Aquifer designations in the area. The Planning Authority will have particular regard to the impact that all developments have on the integrity of a cSAC, including development that is within a cSAC and development that is not within a designated area, but which is likely to have an effect thereon.</p> <p>3. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>4. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>6. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p>

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	<p>a) New tourist accommodation shall be limited to suitable sites west of the coast road that are served by high quality road network and are or can be provided with direct and proximate access to the coast.</p> <p>b) Permission will only be considered for new tourist accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc).</p> <p>c) The development of any new static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited; expansion of existing facilities will be considered subject to the suitability of the site, a modest scale and high quality design.</p> <p>d) The development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types.</p> <p>e) Automated gates will not be permitted on any development.</p> <p>7. To strictly control the development of new entrances and access driveways on the R750 to those which can be proven to be necessary for either traffic safety reasons or the normal functioning of the landholding.</p> <p>8. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking on the inland side of the coast road, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>9. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>10. To facilitate the provision of necessary infrastructure, include water and energy infrastructure, to serve the local settlements/area.</p> <p><b>Cell 11 Arklow Environs CPO 19.26</b></p> <p>1. To enhance the visual, recreational and natural amenities of the Arklow coastal area, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out in the Arklow Town and Environs Local Area Plan.</p> <p>2. To facilitate the development and enhancement of visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area, particularly walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs.</p> <p>3. To support and facilitate the development of marine and shipping activity in Arklow, particularly the recreational use of the existing harbour / marina and the development of a roll on-roll off port at the existing Roadstone jetty.</p> <p>4. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline</p> <p><b>Cell 12 Arklow Head / Clogga CPO 19.27</b></p> <p>1. To facilitate the enhancement of recreational amenities and facilities in the cell to cater for day visitors and long stay holiday makers to the extent that it is consistent with maintaining the capacity of the cell (including its beach and bathing water quality, sand dunes, car parks and road network) and in a manner that does not diminish its unique rural, scenic and recreational amenities.</p> <p>2. Development that is detrimental to the quality or amenity of heritage features will not be permitted, including views and prospects, archaeological features, protected trees/structures.</p> <p>3. To strictly control the further proliferation of sea outfalls for effluent discharge and in particular to prohibit short sea outfalls. All effluent discharges should be in compliance with the EU Bathing Water Directive. Any development that compromises the Blue Flag status of the beach will not be permitted.</p> <p>4. To facilitate the development of appropriate outdoor and indoor recreation in the cell by permitting the use of its rural hinterland for environmentally sensitive and sustainable recreational purposes, where buildings and structures have only a minor impact on the landscape and where the completion of landscaping schemes would assimilate such developments into the countryside (e.g. golf, pitch and putt, amenity forestry, paint ball games, adventure fun parks).</p> <p>5. To facilitate the development of new tourist accommodation subject to the following controls:</p> <p>6. New tourist accommodation shall be restricted to the existing developed cluster at Clogga or to existing developed sites;</p> <p>a) permission will only be considered for new accommodation where the development forms part of a well developed, integrated tourism and recreation development, which would add to the public amenity and enjoyment of the area and provides a significant public element (e.g. public car parking, playground / indoor playzone, swimming pool open to paying public etc);</p> <p>b) the development of any further holiday homes shall be prohibited, other than a small scale element of which may be allowable in an integrated development that provides a range of accommodation types;</p> <p>c) the development of any further static or touring caravan parks shall be prohibited;</p> <p>d) automated gates will not be permitted on any development; and</p> <p>e) new development shall have or be provided with high quality direct access to the main traffic routes;</p> <p>f) development shall be of an exceptionally high quality design.</p> <p>7. To preserve existing access routes to the beach and to support and facilitate the development of additional car parking, proximate to existing access ways to the beach.</p> <p>8. To control and limit the development of permanent rural housing to that shown to be strictly necessary (in accordance with the County settlement and rural development strategies) and to require the highest standards of siting and design for any new dwelling and regard to environmental designations.</p> <p>9. To facilitate coastal protection works (natural, soft and hard engineered), to protect the economic, amenity and ecological value of the coastline.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<p>CPO 17. 33 To have regard to the National Peatlands Strategy (NPWS 2015) as may be applicable.</p> <p>CPO 17.34 Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. Project proposals for developments on peatlands shall ensure no adverse impacts arise in relation to: Peatland stability; Carbon emissions balance; and Hydrology and ecology.</p>
<b>Water</b>	<p>CPO 4.14 To ensure that key assets in rural areas such as water quality and natural and cultural heritage are protected to support quality of life and economic vitality.</p> <p>CPO 9.39 To ensure that agricultural developments do not cause increased pollution to watercourses. Developments will be required to adhere to the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC), the Nitrates National Action Programme and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), with regard to storage facilities, concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Developments will be required to comply with relevant measures, which operate to protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources. The disposal and storage of agricultural waste shall comply with the standards required by Council.</p> <p>Strategic Objective To promote the development of the County's sea and river fishing industry, to a scale and in a manner, which maximises its contribution to the County's economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>CPO 9.49 To support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council will not permit development that has a detrimental impact on the environment. In particular, development that has a detrimental impact on the environmental/ ecological/ water quality of seas, rivers and streams, will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 9.50 To facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and aquaculture industry. Infrastructure and buildings in coastal or riverbank locations should be located in proximity to existing landing facilities and shall be of a design that is compatible with the area. Any development, which by reason of its nature or scale is detrimental to the character or amenity of an area, will not be permitted. Any development in the coastal zone shall comply with the objectives of this plan, as set out in Chapter 19.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO13.1 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</p>

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	<p>quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO13.2 To prevent development that would pollute water bodies and in particular, to regulate the installation of effluent storage and disposal systems in the vicinity of natural water bodies or development that would exacerbate existing underlying water contamination.</p> <p>CPO13.3 To minimise alterations or interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels, except for reasons of overriding public health and safety (e.g. to reduce risk of flooding); a buffer of generally 25m along watercourses should be provided (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible.</p> <p>CPO13.4 To ensure that any development or activity with the potential to impact on ground water has regard to the GSI Groundwater Protection Scheme (as shown on Map XX).</p> <p>CPO 13.5 To ensure compliance with and to implement the provisions of the Nitrates Directive in so far as it falls within the remit of the Council to do so.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 To encourage and promote the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO13.7 To support and facilitate projects and programmes that aim to improve scientific knowledge and public awareness of the importance of natural water quality, and in particular to support the LAWPRO programme in County Wicklow and adjoining counties as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Water Supply Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.9 To protect existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for public water supplies.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 To require new developments to connect to public water supplies where services are adequate or where they will be provided in the near future, or where extension of an adjacent water supply system is technically and environmentally feasible.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be only permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health, would not impact on the source or yield of an existing supply, particularly a public supply or would not adversely affect the ability of water bodies to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Private water supplies for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p><b>Waste Water Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.15 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Wicklow County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, to ensure that all lands zoned or identified for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of regional and strategic wastewater schemes.</p> <p>In particular, to support and facilitate the delivery of new / improved wastewater treatment plants in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arklow</li> <li>- Blessington</li> <li>- Aughrim</li> <li>- Tinahely</li> <li>- Avoca</li> <li>- Laragh – Glendalough</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.16 Permission will be considered for private wastewater treatment plants for single rural houses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the specific ground conditions have been shown to be suitable for the construction of a treatment plant and any associated percolation area;</li> <li>• the system will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on ground waters / aquifers and the type of treatment proposed has been drawn up in accordance with the appropriate groundwater protection response set out in the Wicklow Groundwater Protection Scheme (2003);</li> <li>• the proposed method of treatment and disposal complies with Wicklow County Council's Policy for Wastewater Treatment &amp; Disposal Systems for Single Houses (PE ≤ 10) and the Environmental Protection Agency "Waste Water Treatment Manuals"; and</li> <li>• in all cases the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance documents.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 13.17 Private wastewater treatment plants for multi-house developments will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 Private wastewater treatment plants for commercial / employment generating development will only be considered where:</p> <p>Irish Water has confirmed the site is due to be connected to a future public system in the area or Irish Water has confirmed there are no plans for a public system in the area;</p> <p>It can clearly demonstrated that the proposed system can meet all EPA / Local Authority environmental criteria; and</p> <p>An annually renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system is contracted with a reputable company / person, details of which shall be provided to the Local Authority.</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Where any application for a private treatment plant would require a discharge licence under the Water Pollution Acts, a simultaneous application for same shall be required to be made when submitting the planning application.</p> <p><b>Storm &amp; Surface Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 13.20 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Ensure the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Wicklow County Council SuDS Policy to ensure surface water runoff is managed for maximum benefit. In particular to require proposed developments to meet the design criteria of each of the four pillars of SuDS design; <b>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Amenity and Biodiversity.</b></p> <p>CPO 13.22 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 14.14 Underground tanks and storage systems shall be permitted as a last resort only where it can be demonstrated the other more sustainable SuDS infrastructure measures are not feasible. In any case underground tanks and storage systems shall not be permitted under public open space, unless there is no other feasible alternative.</p> <p>CPO 14.15 To promote the use of green infrastructure, such as swales and wetlands, where feasible as landscape features in new development to provide storm / surface runoff storage and reduce pollutants, as well as habitat, recreation and aesthetic functions.</p>

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Topic	<p><b>Draft Plan measures, including:</b>                      [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]</p>
	<p>CPO 14.16 For developments adjacent to all watercourses of a significant conveyance capacity or where it is necessary to maintain the ecological or environmental quality of the watercourse, any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back from the edge of the watercourse in accordance with the guidelines in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p><b>Water Systems</b></p> <p>CPO 17.24 To ensure and support the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and the EU Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin and Sub-Basin Management Plans and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to a deterioration in water quality. The Council will also have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 17.25 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands are retained for their biodiversity and ecosystems services value and resist development and activities that would interfere with the natural water cycle to a degree that would interfere with the survival and stability of these natural habitats.</p> <p>CPO 17.26 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses by avoiding interference with river / stream beds, banks and channels and maintaining a core riparian buffer zone of generally 25m along watercourses (or other width, as determined by the Planning Authority having particular regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' by Inland Fisheries Ireland for urban location) free from inappropriate development, with undeveloped riparian vegetation strips, wetlands and floodplains generally being retained in as natural a state as possible. Structures such as bridges should be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.</p> <p>CPO 18.16 To protect the quality of bathing waters and to endeavour to ensure that bathing waters achieve "sufficient or better status" and increase the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent", in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC).</p> <p>CPO 19.5 To work with the OPW and any other relevant bodies to address the effects of sea level changes, coastal flooding and erosion and to support the implementation of adaptation responses in vulnerable areas</p>
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.9 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to emissions to air (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.10 To require proposals for new developments with the potential for the accidental release of chemicals or dust generation, to submit and have approved by the Local Authority construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.11 To require activities likely to give rise to air emissions to implement measures to control such emissions, to undertake air quality monitoring and to provide an annual air quality audit.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 15.12 To implement the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any subsequent Plan) in order to avoid, prevent and reduce the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to environmental noise exposure</p> <p>CPO 15.13 To enforce, where applicable, the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003, and EPA Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 15.14 To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise (other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 15.15 To require proposals for new developments with the potential to create excessive noise to prepare a construction and/or operation management plans to control such emissions.</p> <p>CPO 15.16 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures to undertake noise monitoring and to provide an annual monitoring audit.</p> <p><b>Climatic Factors</b></p> <p>CPO 12.7 To facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles types, including the roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations.</p> <p>CPO 12.9 To seek to ensure all new or upgraded transport infrastructure is climate resilient.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage and detailed measures for settlements contained in Volume 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 4.15 To protect and promote the quality, character and distinctiveness of the rural landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape, Views &amp; Prospects</b></p> <p>CPO 17.35 All development proposals shall have regard to the County landscape classification hierarchy in particular the key landscape features and characteristics identified in the Wicklow Landscape Assessment (set in Volume 3 of the 2016 County Development Plan ) and the 'Key Development Considerations' set out for each landscape area set out in Section 5 of the Wicklow Landscape Assessment</p> <p>CPO 17.36 Any application for permission in the AONB which may have the potential to significantly adversely impact the landscape area shall be accompanied by a Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment, which shall include, inter alia, an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape, a series of photos or photomontages of the site / development from clearly identified vantage points, an evaluation of impacts on any listed views / prospects and an assessment of vegetation / land cover type in the area (with particular regard to commercial forestry plantations which may be felled thus altering character / visibility). The Assessment shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p> <p>CPO 17.37 To resist development that would significantly or unnecessarily alter the natural landscape and topography, including land infilling / reclamation projects or projects involving significant landscape remodelling, unless it can be demonstrated that the development would enhance the landscape and / or not give rise to adverse impacts</p> <p>CPO 17.38 To protect listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.</p> <p>PO 18.15 To implement the measures set out in the Bray Head SAAO (Special Amenity Area Order) (See Map 10.11).</p> <p>CPO 19.8 To protect the character and visual potential of the coast and conserve the character and quality of seascapes.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Topic	Draft Plan measures, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
<p><b>More detailed provisions from Settlement and Town Plans</b></p>	<p><b>Level 4 – Introduction</b> To protect Natura 2000 sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development.</p> <p><b>European Sites Objectives</b> To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development. Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>87</sup>. Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 4 - Rathdrum</b> RT13 Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 4 - Baltinglass</b> <b>BALT11</b> To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><b>Level 4 - Newtownmountkennedy</b> <b>NK14</b> To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites. <b>NK22</b> To facilitate the development and enhancement of suitable access to and connectivity between areas of interest for residents, wildlife and biodiversity, with focus on promoting river corridors, Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and other distinctive landscapes as focal features for linkages between natural, semi natural and formalised green spaces where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><b>Level 5 Introduction: European Sites Objectives</b> To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development. Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>88</sup>. Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Carnew</b> CAR1 New residential development shall comply with the principles, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Tinahely:</b> AA1 Objectives: Any proposal shall have regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC which is in close proximity to this site. SLO 1 Integrated Employment — Churchland: Any proposal shall have regard for the Slaney River Valley SAC. TIN18 To protect the integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC, in light of the sites conservation objectives TIN1 New residential development shall comply with the principles, objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Level 5 - Ashford</b> ASH12 To safeguard the integrity of streams and rivers in the plan area, in particular all watercourses that are hydrologically linked to The Murrrough Natura 2000 site, including the use of adequate buffer zones between watercourses and proposed developments.</p> <p><b>Level 6 Introduction: European Sites Objectives</b> <b>European Sites Objectives</b> To protect European Sites and a suitable buffer area from inappropriate development. Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan<sup>89</sup>. Ensure that development proposals, contribute as appropriate towards the protection and where possible enhancement of the ecological coherence of the European Site network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the EU Habitats directive. All projects and plans arising from this Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit.</p> <p><b>Level 6 – Donard</b> Specific Development Objectives 1. To protect and enhance the natural heritage of the town and in particular to have regard to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is hydrologically linked to the settlement via the Browns Beck Brook</p>

<sup>87</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

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

<sup>89</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place.



Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Topic	Draft Plan measures, including: [text to be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption]
	<p><b>Level 6 – Shillelagh</b></p> <p>1. To safeguard the integrity of the Derry River, which forms part of the River Slaney Valley SAC, including the use of adequate buffer zones between the river and proposed development.</p> <p><b>Laragh-Glendalough Tourism Plan</b></p> <p>LG19 To have regard to the 'Management Plan for Wicklow Mountains National Park' regarding any developments likely to impact upon the conservation objectives of the park, or on issues regarding visitor access.</p> <p>LG20 No development will be permitted that adversely affects the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. All development proposals shall comply with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) On lands designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' it is an objective of the Council to preserve and improve the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to prohibit development that adversely affects the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, in light of the site's conservation objectives. Land designated a 'Natura 2000 Site' comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).</li> <li>(ii) Any proposed development with potential to impact upon a Natura 2000 site shall be subject to an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 1992 and 'Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland-Guidance for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2009).</li> <li>(iii) Avoid encroachment on a Natura 2000 site and implement an appropriate buffer zone on adjacent sites, as required, where feasible or as determined following consultation with NPWS or other relevant body.</li> <li>(iv) Ensure that recreational use is directed away from sensitive areas within the Natura 2000 site, in accordance with the Wicklow Mountains National Park Management Plan and in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</li> </ul> <p>In order to ensure the protection of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, the planning authority is not limited to the implementation of the above objectives, and shall implement all other relevant objectives of the CDP as it sees fit.</p> <p>LG31 Development will be controlled to ensure that the overall landscape character of this area, and the ability to enjoy and experience same particularly on the route from Laragh to Glendalough is not diminished, and in particular vistas of Glendalough and the surrounding mountains and valley from the road shall be maintained and protected.</p>

## Section 6 Conclusion

Taking into the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site as a result of all Proposed Material Alterations, apart from<sup>90</sup>:

- V1-46
- V1-57
- V1-58
- V1-76
- V1-77
- V2-87
- V3-133

Furthermore, the AA screening process takes into account the need to undertake Stage 2 AA when mitigation is being proposed. As certain Proposed Material Alterations<sup>91</sup> could be considered to be mitigation in relation to Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites, further to the mitigation already integrated into the Draft Plan, the AA process identified that it would be prudent to undertake Stage 2 AA.

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

Taking into account the mitigation measures already incorporated into the Plan, subject to additional recommendations to be integrated into the Plan in advance of adoption, it is concluded that the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 are not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>92</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

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<sup>90</sup> For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

<sup>91</sup> V2-87, V3-119, V3-120 and V3-121.

<sup>92</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

# Appendix I Background information on European Sites

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

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

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

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

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

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

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

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

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

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

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

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

# Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan/Amendments
<b>International/European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a “screening procedure” is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European Sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species’ habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored to a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan/Amendments
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Appropriate Assessment of Proposed Material Alterations

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan/Amendments
<p><b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b></p>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> <li>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</b></p>	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> <li>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</b></p>	<p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<p>The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively</p>

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	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.	well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> <li>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> <li>First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</b> <b>(EU Air Framework Directive)</b> <b>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>○ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>○ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>○ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>• Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>• Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>• Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>• Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>• Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>• Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>• Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>• Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>• The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>• Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>• Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>• The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>• The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>• The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</li> </ul>	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	<p>environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Financing</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including: The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy</b>	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.</li> <li>An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.</li> <li>A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making.</li> <li>Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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		<p>Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</li> <li>The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</li> </ul>	<p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Growth</li> <li>Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation]</b>	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European Sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European Sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> </ul>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</li> </ul>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Climate Action Plan is an all of Government plan to tackle climate change and bring about a step change in Ireland's climate ambition over the coming years. The plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the diverse and wide-ranging impacts climate disruption is having on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Climate Action Plan sets out clear 2030 targets for each sector with the ultimate objective of achieving a transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and environmentally sustainable society and economy by 2050. The Action Plan deals with both mitigation and adaptation.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b>	<p>These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European Sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers.</li> <li>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <p>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the</p>

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<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</li> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Climate Action Charter (2019)</b>	<p>Wicklow County Council signed up to the Climate Action Charter in December 2019. This charter includes substantial targets with regard to mitigation of climate change and increase energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of drawing up an implementation plan which takes in all the actions from the Climate Action Charter and the Climate Adaptation Strategy. The implementation plan will list all the actions, who is responsible for delivering it and an indication of the time to deliver it.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	<p>The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	<p>EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.</li> <li>The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.</li> </ul>	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</li> <li>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.</li> <li>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	
<b>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment.</li> <li>The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	Vision: <i>"Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</i>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</li> <li>Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025</b>	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise.

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		economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Collection</li> <li>Self-sufficiency</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Legacy issues</li> <li>North-south cooperation</li> <li>Guidance and awareness</li> <li>Implementation</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i></li> </ul>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State’s investment to best develop and manage Ireland’s land transport network over the coming decades.</li> </ul>	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively

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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 Plan/Amendments
			contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</b>	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	<p>Key targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> <li>At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy &amp; Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</b>	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-
<b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>			

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Services Act 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> </ul>	Key strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

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<p><b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b></p> <p><b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	<p>combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Food Harvest 2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b></p>	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment</p>	<p>not applicable</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b></p> <p><b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b></p> <p><b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Rural Development Programme</b></p>	<p>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of</p>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-</p>



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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 Plan/Amendments
	agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	'Our Rural Future' provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Framework acknowledges that the country is heading into an era of unprecedented change as we recover from the impact of COVID-19, as we adapt to new ways of working, as the impact of Brexit presents itself and as we transition to a climate-neutral society. This change is considered a significant opportunity for rural areas.	Our Rural Future focuses on the following thematic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband.</li> <li>Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas.</li> <li>Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages.</li> <li>Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities.</li> <li>Enhancing public services in rural areas.</li> <li>Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy.</li> <li>Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the Marine and Forestry.</li> <li>Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities.</li> </ul> Nurturing our culture and heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017</b>	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.	The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Sustainable Communities,</li> <li>Supporting Enterprise and Employment,</li> <li>Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential,</li> <li>Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and</li> <li>Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity.</li> </ul>	
<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>Producer Groups</li> <li>Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>River Basin Management Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>Identify and manages water bodies in the River Basin District (RBD).</li> <li>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD.</li> <li>Involve the public through consultations.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> <li>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</li> </ul>	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all

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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 Plan/Amendments
		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.	environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</li> </ul>	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</li> <li>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy Context</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,

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	sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>Wider Government Policy</li> <li>International Context</li> <li>Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.  Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> </ul> Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.	The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.</li> <li>There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.</li> </ul> The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the

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<b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b>	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> </ul> to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences</li> <li>• Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal.</li> <li>• In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020)</b>	The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.  The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.	The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment.</li> <li>• Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector.</li> <li>• Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection.</li> <li>• Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period.</li> <li>• Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses.</li> <li>• Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Regional/ County/Local Level			
<b>Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rail;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare.</li> <li>• Vision Statement: “The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas.”</li> <li>• Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Core principles deriving from the strategic vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs.</li> <li>• The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country.</li> <li>• The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance.</li> <li>• Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high-quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form.</li> <li>• Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form</li> <li>• Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high-quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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 Plan/Amendments
<b>Land Use Plans (including Development Plans Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes) in force within County Wicklow and in other adjoining planning authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy.</li> <li>Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Wicklow LECP 2016-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2023</b>	It sets out a vision of what can be achieved in Wicklow, with clear priorities and a series of detailed actions and next steps to ensure the County is realising its potential over the next 5 years.	<p>The goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish Wicklow as a year round destination;</li> <li>Capture more overnight tourism;</li> <li>Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation;</li> <li>Convert day visitors to staying visitors;</li> <li>Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets;</li> <li>Strategic approach to marketing and promotion; and</li> <li>Deliver sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017-2022</b>	The overall aim of the Plan is: To conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of Wicklow and to foster a greater awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this by all.	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of, and enthusiasm for, Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Increase understanding of the value of Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Promote the conservation and management of Wicklow's heritage;</li> <li>Facilitate partnership and active community participation in heritage plan actions; and</li> <li>Record the heritage of Wicklow and disseminate information.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015</b>	Sets out a strategy for increasing our understanding and appreciation of this along with measures for enhancing the protection of this valuable resource	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to provide a focussed approach for the county, identifying priorities habitats and species in need of attention and the action required to secure their future.</li> </ul> <p>It identifies opportunities and needs for partnership work and, is the start of a targeted and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation in the county.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Noise Action Plan 2018-2023</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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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 Plan/Amendments
<b>Wicklow County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	Response to the impact that the climate change is having and will continue to have on the County of Wicklow and its citizens. It addresses how Wicklow County as an organisation responds to the impacts of Climate Change.	The Plans' objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Wicklow a stronger county by reducing impacts of future climate change related events;</li> <li>• Fully consider and mainstream climate adaptation in the day to day delivery of services by Wicklow County Council;</li> </ul> Actively engage with and inform citizens and communities in Wicklow about the impacts of climate change. Public awareness is key to developing effective climate adaptation measures.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow County Council Draft Energy Plan/Energy Performance Strategy (2020)</b>	Wicklow County Council Housing and Corporate Estate Department are currently working on an Energy Plan / Energy Performance Strategy which seeks to deliver the targets of the Charter with regard to Council's infrastructure / assets.	Upgrading of the public lighting to LED lights is an example of such a project.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Healthy Wicklow 2018-2021</b>	Wicklow County Council produced the 'Healthy Wicklow' strategy in line with the 'National Activity Plan' and the 'Healthy Ireland' framework.	The document aims to assess the requirements and provides objectives with which to improve the overall health and well-being of the people of Wicklow and is guided with the four following key goals:  Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Age-Friendly Strategy 2017-2022</b>	The age-friendly strategy was developed with the aim of making Wicklow an age friendly county, a county in which all public service and private sector providers work in partnership to make Wicklow great. It gives commitments to improving infrastructure both physical and social as well as services and information provision to improve the quality of life of older people across the county.  The strategy aims, in combination with other government and county programmes and plans, including the County Development Plan, to make Wicklow a county that is more accessible and accommodating to people as they grow older.	The document seeks to address existing issues and improve the conditions for the ageing population in Wicklow under the following 9 themes: Theme 1 Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Theme 2 Transportation Theme 3 Housing Theme 4 Social Participation Theme 5 Respect and Social Inclusion Theme 6 Civic Participation and Employment Theme 7 Communication and Information Theme 8 Community Support and Health Services Theme 9 Safety and Security	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wicklow Tourism Strategy &amp; Marketing Plan 2018 - 2023</b>	The Strategy notes that the County is performing well but has enormous untapped potential arising from its natural and built assets, proximity to large markets and relationship to the stories and promise of Ireland's Ancient East. It is recognised that tourism growth strategy should maximise off-peak visits, deliver business year round, be high value, attract international as well as domestic visitors and it must maximise the positive economic impact, achieving overnight stays as a priority.	The Strategy identifies five priority actions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop new accommodation;</li> <li>▪ Develop the key settlements of Bray, Wicklow, Greystones, Arklow, Blessington and Enniskerry as visitor hubs;</li> <li>▪ Masterplan for Glendalough;</li> <li>▪ Grow thematic experiences;</li> <li>▪ Develop a common narrative.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Statement of Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2026</b>	The Statement identifies a number of goals for tourism in County Wicklow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Wicklow as a year round destination,</li> <li>• Capture more overnight tourism,</li> <li>• Encourage the provision of alternative forms of accommodation,</li> <li>• Convert day visitors to staying visitors, and</li> <li>• Integrate development of tourism infrastructure and assets and deliver sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2020 - 2025</b>	The County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy provides a blueprint for realising the potential of Wicklow's outdoor recreation assets in a manner which prioritises environmental sustainability.	The Strategy identifies five outdoor recreations hubs / clusters – Glendalough, Rathdrum, Blessington/Baltinglass, Tinahely/Shillelagh and East Coast maritime. Objectives identified	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

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		include: Expansion of the trails network, preparation of an outdoor recreation transport plan and increase awareness of environmental and cultural responsibilities.	combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East and Dublin: A Breath of Fresh Air/Come Here To Me Dublin brands</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.