



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

# COUNTY KILDARE DRAFT HERITAGE PLAN 2026-2031

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## Report to Inform Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

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**Prepared for:**

**Kildare County Council**



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Kildare County Council



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**An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
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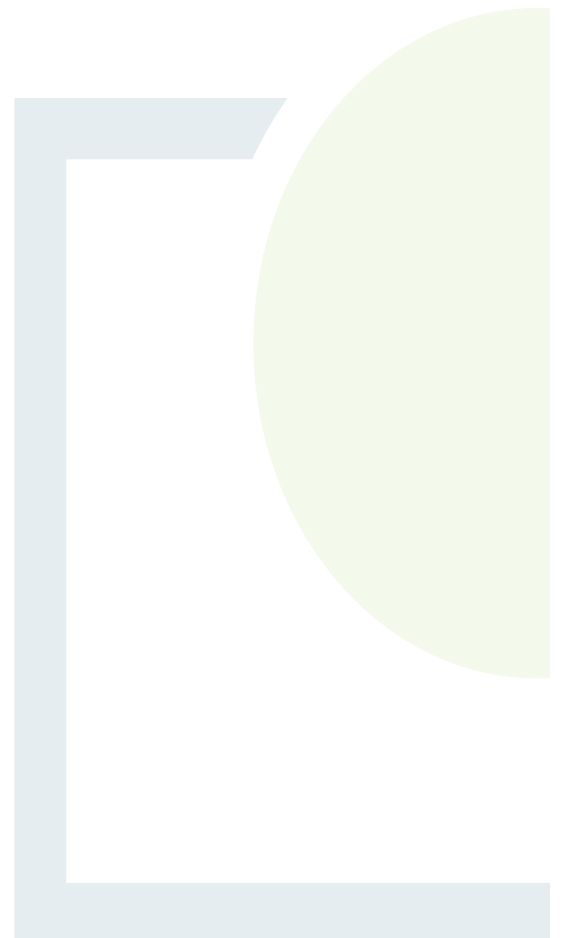
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## Report to Inform Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for the County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026-2031

### REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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**Abstract:** Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Report to Inform SEA Screening to Kildare County Council for their Local Authority Heritage Plan.

*This project has been funded by Kildare County Council and the Heritage Council. The Local Authority Heritage Officer Programme is delivered in partnership with the Heritage Council.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

Kildare County Council (KCC) is in the process of preparing a Local Authority Heritage Plan ('the Draft Plan') for its functional area (the Plan Area or County Kildare) for the years 2026-2031. The aim of the Draft Plan is to safeguard heritage within the county for present and future generations.

KCC appointed Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) to complete reports to inform SEA and AA Screening of the Draft Plan.

This document is the Report to Inform SEA Screening and documents the SEA Screening Assessment undertaken to identify the need for full SEA for the Draft Plan. This report should be read in conjunction with the corresponding Report to Inform AA Screening and the Draft Plan.

### 1.2 Background to Local Authority Heritage Plans

A Local Authority Heritage Plan must be prepared in accordance with The Heritage Council's Local Authority Heritage Plan Guidelines (2024)<sup>1</sup>. These guidelines provide best practice guidance to local authorities on preparing and implementing heritage conservation actions within their functional area. These guidelines note that a Heritage Plan is '*a city or county-wide strategy for the identification, protection, conservation, management, enhancement and interpretation of the built, natural and cultural heritage led by the local authority.*'

A Heritage Plan offers the opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at city or county-wide level, and to address them locally, within a regional and national framework. The Plan should be delivered by a number of groups working in partnership (i.e., the Heritage Forum for the relevant Local Authority), and should identify a vision for the heritage of the Plan Area and priorities for action, over a specified period, and should include a mechanism for monitoring impacts, review and evaluation.

While the aim of a heritage plan is specific to each local authority, the Plan will overall aim to record, conserve, promote local built, natural and cultural heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and the enjoyment of the heritage resources for the wider community.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/images/Local-Authority-Heritage-Plan-Guidelines.pdf>. (Accessed October 2025).



## 2. SEA SCREENING METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Overview of SEA

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

SEA aims to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

SEA of plans and programmes is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC ('the SEA Directive'). For a specific range of land-use plans, this Directive is transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 436 of 2004 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

For all other relevant plans and programmes in Ireland (including other types of plans in the land-use planning sector), the SEA Directive is transposed into Irish law by S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

### 2.2 Overview of the SEA Process

The SEA process comprises the following steps:

- Screening – the process whereby a decision is made on whether a particular plan or programme, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would require SEA. This report relates to this stage of the SEA process.

The following steps are necessary if a plan or programme requires SEA:

- Scoping – Scope and level of detail in the environmental assessment is decided upon, in consultation with the identified statutory bodies;
- Environmental Assessment - An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the relevant plan or programme;
- Preparation of an Environmental Report;
- Consultation of the plan or programme and associated Environmental Report;
- Evaluation of the submission and observations made on the plan or programme and environmental report; and
- Provision of an SEA Statement, identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final plan or programme



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

### 2.3 Legislative Context

The County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026-2031, as a non-statutory plan, require to be screened for the need for SEA in accordance with the requirements of:

- The SEA Directive, particularly Articles 3(3), 3(4) and 3(5) in relation to 'screening'; and,
- The European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011)(termed 'SEA Regulations' from this point onward), particularly Schedule 1, which sets out the '*Criteria for determining whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment.*'

### 2.4 Overview of the SEA Screening Process

The first step of the SEA process is to carry out SEA Screening to determine the need for SEA of a plan or programme

The first stage in determining whether a plan or programme requires SEA is the carrying out of a 'Pre-screening Check' (also known as a 'Stage 1 Applicability'). This allows rapid screening-out of a plan or programme that is clearly not going to have any environmental impact and screening-in of those that do require SEA. The second stage in determining whether a plan or programme requires SEA is known as 'Stage 2 Screening.' The purpose of this stage is to determine whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out in conjunction with a plan or programme. The application of environmental significance criteria is important in determining whether an SEA is required. Annex II of Directive 2001/42/EC sets out the statutory criteria that should be addressed when undertaking this stage. This process is typically undertaken following a broad 8-step approach, as depicted in Figure 2-1.

The first environmental significance criterion relates to the characteristics of the plan or programme, having regard to: the degree to which the plan or programme sets out a framework for other projects and activities; the influence of the plan or programme on other projects, plans or activities; the role of the plan for integrating environmental considerations to promote sustainable development; environmental issues of relevance to the plan or programme and the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of EU legislation on the environment.

The second environmental significance criterion refers to the characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected, having regard to; the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects; the cumulative nature of the effects; the transboundary nature of the effects; the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values or intensive use; the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European or international protection status.



Figure 2-1: SEA Screening steps as per the EPA's Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening

## 2.5 Relevant SEA Guidance

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with and having appropriate regard to the following guidance documents primarily:

- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening (EPA, 2021).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022)
- SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources (EPA, 2024).

## 2.6 Appropriate Assessment and Relationship to SEA Screening

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) be carried out where a plan or project is likely to have a significant impact on a European site. European sites in Ireland include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Areas of Protection (SPAs).

The first step is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This is referred to as Screening for AA and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have a likely, significant effect on the integrity of a European site. Where it is found that a plan may have a likely, significant effect on the integrity of a European site, or where likely, significant effects cannot be ruled (adopting a precautionary approach), an AA of the plan must be carried out.



Article 3(c) of the SEA Directive requires that an SEA is carried out on a plan or programme wherever such a plan or programme requires an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Therefore, where a plan requires an AA, it will also require an SEA.

This SEA Screening Report and the Draft Plan is accompanied by a Report to Inform AA Screening Report which should be read in conjunction with this document. The Report to Inform AA Screening concluded *'beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Plan, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant (negative) effect on European sites.'*



## 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY KILDARE DRAFT HERITAGE PLAN 2026-2031

### 3.1 County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026-2031

The aim of the Draft Plan is to *“to recognise the value and opportunity of Kildare’s unique heritage resource and to manage, conserve and protect it, in partnership for present and future generations.”*

The following Strategic Objectives are defined in the Draft Plan:

- Strategic Heritage Objective 1: Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training.
- Strategic Heritage Objective 2: Promote best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource.
- Strategic Heritage Objective 3: Collate and publish heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys & research to inform policy.
- Strategic Heritage Objective 4: Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life, cultural and economic development in County Kildare.
- Strategic Heritage Objective 5: Foster stewardship and involvement in heritage with the wider community of Kildare.

A series of Actions have been defined in the Draft Plan under each Strategic Objective. The higher-level Objectives are broader in scope, whilst the Actions underpinning the Objectives are more defined and measurable. These are presented in Table 3-1.



**Table 3-1: Draft Plan Objectives and corresponding Actions**

Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 1: Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training.</b>	1.	Support community groups, the Tidy Towns Network and NGOs in the development of community-led pilot projects supported by built heritage conservation professionals which would act as best practice conservation models.
	2.	Continue to support the nomination for Dún Ailinne, Kilcullen, as a candidate for the "Royal Sites of Ireland" UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.
	3.	Develop the KCC Heritage Hub- an accessible online resource for built, natural and cultural heritage matters in the county.
	4.	Use available online media platforms and other new technology (such as 3D Modelling) to bring heritage to new audiences.
	5.	Inform the network of heritage groups and NGOs in the county through the Public Participation Network (PPN).
	6.	Continue to support the involvement of all four Kildare towns in the Irish Walled Towns Network.
	7.	Resource local heritage initiatives through the KCC Community Heritage Grant Scheme.
	8.	Develop a rolling heritage education awareness programme based on an audit of current heritage education programmes to include seminars, walks, exhibitions and workshops and to increase participation in annual events such as Biodiversity Week, Heritage Week and Culture Night.
	9.	Increase awareness of Kildare’s significant military heritage, working with the Dept. of Defence and other stakeholders.
	10.	Work in partnership with relevant agencies/organisations, local voluntary groups and the public to protect and promote waterways heritage in Kildare.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action
	11.	Establish links with the owners of historic houses and other heritage sites to promote those open to the public during National Heritage Week.
	12.	Promote and support training for relevant Citizen Science projects.
	13.	Explore the designation of significant trees or groups of trees suitable for Tree Preservation Orders as resources allow.
	14.	Continue to support the Geological Survey Ireland to identify and protect the Geological Sites of Importance in the county.
	15.	Support the Landscape Character Assessment and its integration into the County Development Plan.
	16.	Support the preparation of a County Kildare Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy to inform the County Development Plan.
	17.	Support heritage-related actions in the Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 including:
	a.	N1- Develop Green Infrastructure Plan
	b.	N12- Support the Heritage in Schools programme
c.	N17-Engage with Bord na Móna to explore the appropriate and sensitive diversification of former cutaway peatlands	
18.	Organise an annual/biennial heritage seminar for all interested parties to increase awareness of heritage in the county.	
19.	Develop communication and promotional strategy for Kildare's heritage which maximises the existing structures, such as local and online media, community and business networks.	



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 2: Promote best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource.</b>	20.	Assist community groups and property owners/operators to avail of funding and advice from all relevant sources for the conservation and management of heritage sites.
	21.	Develop Feighcullen Woodland Creation on Public Land project subject to project level environmental assessment and to progress additional locations for similar projects across other municipal districts, where possible and feasible.
	22.	Seek to leverage funding for a County Archaeologist subject to resources.
	23.	Collaborate with KCC Architectural Conservation Officer to prepare a Buildings at Risk Register for heritage buildings in the county.
	24.	Update the county Kildare Thatched Cottage Survey.
	25.	Continue to update & maintain the Record of Protected Structures, ensuring that structures of significant historic, architectural, cultural, scientific and technical interest in the county are included.
	26.	Support and collaborate the implementation of the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031.
	27.	Work with all stakeholders to implement the Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan which seeks to protect and promote archaeological, cultural, natural and built heritage of this significant heritage resource. It is envisaged that the delivery of projects contained in the CPMP will require separate Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA).
	28.	Facilitate traditional skills workshops in association with relevant bodies.
	29.	Develop links with other Local Authorities and other public bodies to assess opportunities for potential shared heritage projects.
30.	Support preparation of a feasibility study to determine viability of developing of a County Museum.	



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action
	31.	Support communities in the recording of oral histories. Where possible, compile oral histories with other relevant media such as photographs and written materials.
	32.	Promote best practice in the management, conservation, and recording of historic graveyards and develop a conservation management programme for historic graveyards in the care of KCC with the County Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and graveyard maintenance groups across the county.
	33.	Support delivery of objective in County Development Plan to develop a National Peatlands Park, including identification of potential sites and development of strategy with landowners and other stakeholders.
	34.	Prioritise the protection of heritage in the sustainable development of greenways, blueways and peatways in the county.
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 3: Collate and publish heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys &amp; research to inform policy.</b>	35.	Compile a list in collaboration with Architectural Conservation Officer of all council-owned built heritage sites and develop conservation/management strategies for these structures as resources permit.
	36.	Continue to promote citizen science recording projects such as the Meitheal Logainm Minor Placenames Project, National Biodiversity Data Centre and the National Benchmark Survey to expand datasets of local heritage knowledge.
	37.	Publish surveys and reports prepared as actions of the Heritage Plan.
	38.	Establish and maintain an archive of reports on archaeological sites and finds.
	39.	Encourage appropriate access to National Monuments and publicly owned archaeological monuments in the county and facilitate partnerships to provide appropriately managed access to these sites.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action
	40.	Advise as required on the naming of new estates in Kildare to accurately reflect the cultural heritage of the county.
	41.	Support audit of natural heritage sites in the ownership of KCC and implementation of conservation/management strategies for these sites.
	42.	Commission a recording project of local traditional music.
	43.	Expand Heritage GIS Databases by gathering and displaying further audits on heritage in the county in conjunction with KCC GIS team.
	44.	Ensure that the objectives of the Heritage Plan are incorporated into all statutory plans where appropriate.
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 4: Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life, cultural and economic development in County Kildare.</b>	45.	Liaise with heritage and tourism organisations and other relevant partners to promote the development of promotional material for publicly accessible heritage sites and routes in the county.
	46.	Continue to support the network of Kildare Museums and Heritage Centres.
	47.	Support and provide guidance for the sensitive development of themed heritage access trails on existing established routes in the county e.g. geology, natural heritage, pilgrimages and ancient roadways, canal trails and military heritage. Possible route concepts include:
		Túras Columbanus
		Industrial heritage trails (including canals and peatlands)
	St. Brigid's Way	
	48.	Consider provision of on-site information for Kildare's heritage sites through the use of technology such as QR codes or similar.
49.	Prepare an audit of existing heritage-related directional signage and seek to improve the provision and quality of directional signage. Develop design standardisation for heritage signage in the county where possible.	



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action
	50.	Collate materials and publish findings relating to Kildare’s sporting heritage, including the equine heritage of Kildare as “Thoroughbred Country”.
	51.	Support the work of Kildare’s Local Studies and Archives team.
	52.	Support development of a schools project based on 1930’s Folklore Commission Schools Collection.
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 5: Foster stewardship and involvement in heritage with the wider community of Kildare.</b>	53.	Work with Creative Ireland and local arts groups to promote Kildare’s cultural heritage.
	54.	Promote supports for community heritage groups, including the Adopt a Monument Scheme, as well as promoting national and local grant schemes.
	55.	Support existing national education programmes such as the Heritage in Schools Programme and develop a scheme to bring schools and community groups to heritage sites in the county.
	56.	Promote accessible and inclusive heritage events and services.
	57.	Develop strategic links with third level institutions to encourage research and mapping of Kildare’s heritage and other relevant projects.



## 3.2 Relationship with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of plans and has been informed by and is consistent with the aims and objectives of other plans, programmes and strategies developed at national, regional and local levels. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

### National Level

- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework (2018).
- Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework First Revision (2025).
- Heritage Ireland 2030: A Framework for Heritage (2022).
- Climate Action Plan (2025)
- National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023-2030
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025
- Draft Built & Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2025)
- Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020
- The National Peatlands Strategy 2015-2025

### Regional and Local Level

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly 2019 - 2031.
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029.
- The Kildare Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029.
- County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 (Draft)

#### 3.2.1 Heritage Ireland 2030

Heritage Ireland 2030 is Ireland's National Heritage Plan, and establishes a framework for the understanding and enjoyment of heritage for the next decade under the following three themes:

- National Leadership and Heritage
- Heritage Partnerships
- Communities and Heritage.

A series of objectives under each theme are detailed in the plan.



Heritage Ireland 2030 sets out a framework for action across government, local authorities, communities, and individuals. It promotes stronger leadership, better coordination, and more meaningful public engagement, while also supporting innovation, education, and sustainable development. The Plan recognises that local authorities have a critical role in all aspects of the protection and promotion of heritage, as enablers of community action, managers of land, providers of infrastructure, owners of land and monuments and as regulatory authorities in relation to planning and economic development.

It is an objective of Heritage Ireland 2030 to enhance support for local authorities in their active role of heritage management, conservation and community engagement, and to *“Continue the preparation and implementation of City or County Heritage plans and resource their implementation with a view to maximising their effectiveness and assistance in the delivery of Heritage Ireland 2030”*<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Action 148 of the Heritage Ireland 2030



## 4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

This section of the report documents the SEA Screening undertaken.

Stage 1 Applicability Analysis was undertaken initially. This analysis is detailed in Section 4.1 of this report (Table 4-1 and Table 4-2).

Stage 2 Screening Analysis was then undertaken. This analysis is detailed in Section 4.2 of this report (Table 4-3, Table 4-4 and Table 4-5).

### 4.1 Stage 1 - SEA Applicability Analysis

**Table 4-1: SEA Applicability Analysis**

SEA Applicability Analysis	
<b>Status of Plan/Programme (P/P) Maker</b>	
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	The Draft Plan has been prepared by a local authority (Kildare County Council).
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	The Draft Plan is required by administrative provisions. The local authority, KCC, is required to prepare the Draft Plan in compliance with Heritage Ireland 2030, Ireland's National Heritage Plan. Heritage Ireland 2030 was prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of the Government of Ireland.
<b>Nature of the Plan/Programme</b>	
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	No. The Draft Plan is a non-statutory document for establishing a framework for coordinated heritage management for KCC. The Draft Plan does not contain any land-use policies, and instead intends to identify any gaps in policy or data which can impact land-use planning. Such data collection will inform future land-use planning processes, including the preparation of Development Plans.  The implementation of this Plan will also enable KCC to facilitate, promote and coordinate heritage stakeholders and their activities in consistency and compliance with the existing and emerging plans, policies and strategies.
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	No.
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No.



SEA Applicability Analysis	
Exemptions	
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No.

**Table 4-2: Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis**

Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis	
Applicability Analysis Criterion	Outcome (Yes or No)
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	No
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No
Conclusion	
Having regard to the SEA Screening Process defined in Section 2.4, it has been concluded that Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis is required to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and whether a full SEA of the plan is needed.	



## 4.2 Stage 2 - SEA Screening Analysis

To inform the Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis, an evaluation of the potential environmental effects of the Draft Plan Actions has been undertaken. This evaluation is presented in Table 4-3.

**Table 4-3: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Effects of Draft Plan Actions**

Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
<p><b>Strategic Heritage Objective 1: Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training.</b></p>	1.	<p>Support community groups, the Tidy Towns Network and NGOs in the development of community-led pilot projects supported by built heritage conservation professionals which would act as best practice conservation models.</p>	<p>The action will support community groups and other stakeholders in the development of community-led projects, supported by heritage professionals. This will serve as best practice conservation models and increase public understanding and awareness of heritage conservation. The action will have positive effects for environmental receptors such as cultural heritage and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	2.	<p>Continue to support the nomination for Dún Ailinne, Kilcullen, as a candidate for the "Royal Sites of Ireland" UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.</p>	<p>The action is advocacy-based and will support the nomination for Dún Ailinne as a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. The action will contribute to cultural heritage awareness and support the delivery of the Plan through advocacy. In isolation, the action will not interact with an environmental receptor to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	3.	Develop the KCC Heritage Hub - an accessible online resource for built, natural and cultural heritage matters in the county.	The action proposes the development of the KCC Heritage Hub, an online resource which can contribute to increased public awareness to the cultural heritage resources within the Plan Area. In and of itself, the action will not interact an environmental receptor to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	4.	Use available online media platforms and other new technology (such as 3D Modelling) to bring heritage to new audiences.	The action proposes the use of online media platforms and other technology to disseminate heritage information and increase awareness for cultural heritage within the wider community. It has the potential to underpin and support the delivery of the Plan. In and of itself, the action will not interact with an environmental receptor to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	5.	Inform the network of heritage groups and NGOs in the county through the Public Participation Network (PPN).	<p>The action pertains to collaborating with the wider network of heritage groups and NGOs within the Plan Area to exchange knowledge and information. The action has the potential to create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing heritage initiatives and measures within the Plan Area, and contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan. In and of itself, however, the action, being engagement-based, will not interact with an environmental receptor to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	6.	Continue to support the involvement of all four Kildare towns in the Irish Walled Towns Network.	<p>The Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) aims to unite and coordinate the strategic efforts of local authorities and community groups involved in the management, conservation and enhancement of historic walled towns in Ireland. Within the Plan Area, Athy, Castledermot, Kildare and Naas are the principal medieval walled towns and members of the IWTN.</p> <p>The action proposes the continued involvement of the aforementioned towns in the IWTN. The action is engagement-based, and will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	7.	Resource local heritage initiatives through the KCC Community Heritage Grant Scheme.	<p>The action will commit resourcing and funding for local heritage initiatives through the KCC Community Heritage Grant Scheme, which funds projects that contribute to the conservation of items of heritage (defined under the Heritage Act, 1995). Eligible projects and activities under this scheme include gathering heritage data and heritage management, and raising awareness of heritage. Any lower-order projects and activities will be subject to their own environmental assessment processes (including Appropriate Assessment) where appropriate, under the Local Authority land-use planning framework.</p> <p>The action will underpin and support the delivery of the Plan, and potentially result in positive effects for cultural and natural heritage, biodiversity, flora and fauna, landscape and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	8.	Develop a rolling heritage education awareness programme based on an audit of current heritage education programmes to include seminars, walks, exhibitions and workshops and to increase participation in annual events such as Biodiversity Week, Heritage Week and Culture Night.	The action proposes the development of a heritage awareness programme which will include a range of activities across different mediums. The action will promote awareness and foster interest in the county heritage. It will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	9.	Increase awareness of Kildare's significant military heritage, working with the Dept. of Defence and other stakeholders.	The action will draw public attention and increase awareness of Kildare's military heritage through collaboration with the Department of Defence and other relevant stakeholders. It has the potential to foster further interest in this aspect of county heritage and contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	10.	Work in partnership with relevant agencies/organisations, local voluntary groups and the public to protect and promote waterways heritage in Kildare.	The action proposes engagement and collaboration with relevant stakeholders and the public to protect and promote waterways heritage in Kildare. The action will contribute to the general conservation and enhancement measures for heritage within the Plan Area and effective delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	11.	Establish links with the owners of historic houses and other heritage sites to promote those open to the public during National Heritage Week.	The action proposes engagement with owners of heritage sites with the intention to promote these sites over National Heritage Week, which will increase public interest and awareness. The action has the potential to foster public engagement throughout the local community and contribute to the overall delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	12.	Promote and support training for relevant Citizen Science projects.	The action is training-based and will impart support for relevant Citizen Science projects that could contribute to biodiversity and natural heritage initiatives and measures. Such citizen science efforts can contribute to a wider database of baseline information, which in turn can aid informed decision-making and lead to more target and focused conservation efforts. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	13.	Explore the designation of significant trees or groups of trees suitable for Tree Preservation Orders as resources allow.	The action proposes assessing the feasibility for the designation of significant trees or groups of trees for Tree Preservation Orders within the Plan Area. The action has positive implications for biodiversity, flora and fauna, and cultural heritage through the potential conservation of trees with amenity or ecological value. However, being review-based, the action itself will not interact with any environmental receptor to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	14.	Continue to support the Geological Survey Ireland to identify and protect the Geological Sites of Importance in the county.	The action proposes the continuation of support to the Geological Survey Ireland for the identification and protection of Geological Sites of Importance in the county. Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring that geological heritage is protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000, and the implementation of this action will ensure that these sites of national scientific and heritage importance are duly identified and protected. The action will contribute to the general heritage conservation within the Plan Area and aid in the delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	15.	Support the Landscape Character Assessment and its integration into the County Development Plan.	<p>The action supports Landscape Character Assessment and its integration into the County Development Plan. The Landscape Character Assessment database includes over 500 LCAs at various scales (local to regional) across the UK and Ireland. The landscape within the Plan Area is a unique heritage resource and this action will generally contribute to its conservation and aid in the delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	16.	Support the preparation of a County Kildare Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy to inform the County Development Plan.	<p>The action supports the preparation of a County Kildare Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for informing the Kildare County Development Plan, which is the land-use planning framework within the Plan Area.</p> <p>Such a strategy will be subject to its own SEA and AA (as necessary) under the land-use planning framework.</p> <p>The preparation of a focussed Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy can potentially benefit natural and cultural heritage through targeted and focussed measures, as well as provide an opportunity for the wider community and interested stakeholders to participate in the preparation process.</p> <p>The integration of such heritage considerations and improvements into the planning process has the potential to contribute to the realisation of positive effects on cultural heritage, biodiversity, flora and fauna, landscape and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	17.	Support heritage-related actions in the Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 including: a. N1- Develop Green Infrastructure Plan b. N12- Support the Heritage in Schools programme c. N17-Engage with Bord na Móna to explore the appropriate and sensitive diversification of former cutaway peatlands	The action will support relevant, heritage-related actions within the Kildare County Climate Action Plan (which was subject to its own SEA and AA), including the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan, supporting the Heritage in Schools Programme, and engaging with Bord Na Mona to explore sensible diversification of former cutaway peatlands. The action is support- and advocacy-based and will not introduce an additional source of impact beyond what has already been considered in the Kildare County Climate Action Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	18.	Organise an annual/biennial heritage seminar for all interested parties to increase awareness of heritage in the county.	The action proposes organising a heritage seminar for interested stakeholders with the purpose of increasing heritage awareness within the county. The action has the potential to foster further interest in heritage conservation throughout the local community and any specialist stakeholders. Being engagement-based, the action will not interact with any environmental receptors tD18:D22o result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	19.	Develop communication and promotional strategy for Kildare's heritage which maximises the existing structures, such as local and online media, community and business networks.	The action proposes the development of a communication and promotional strategy for county heritage, which will maximise existing networks and resources, such as online and local media, community and business networks. The action will potentially foster increased interest in heritage protection and enhancement throughout the wider community. The action, being engagement-based, will not interact with any environmental receptors to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 2: Promote best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare's heritage resource.</b>	20.	Assist community groups and property owners/operators to avail of funding and advice from all relevant sources for the conservation and management of heritage sites.	The action proposes assisting community groups and other stakeholders in availing funding and specialist advice from available resources for the conservation and management of heritage sites. As this will contribute to general improvements to heritage assets, the action has the potential to generate positive effects on cultural heritage as a receptor, as well as co-benefits on interacting receptors such as biodiversity, flora and fauna and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	21.	<p>Develop Feighcullen Woodland Creation on Public Land project subject to project level environmental assessment and to progress additional locations for similar projects across other municipal districts, where possible and feasible.</p>	<p>In 2023, Kildare County Council acquired a 50-acre site in Feighcullen with the view to creating a protected biodiversity habitat, incorporating native tree planting under the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme. This project has been proposed under the land-use planning framework (the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Policy Objectives LR T1 and LR T2), which was subject to its own environmental assessments (SEA and AA). 475 semi-mature trees and 1,800 saplings and hedgerows were planted subsequently in 2023. The action is pledging support towards the Feighcullen Woodland Creation on Public Land project, and depending on feasibility, may consider progressing additional locations for similar projects across other municipal districts. Such subsequent projects will be subject to their own environmental assessments.</p> <p>The action will potentially result in positive effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna, landscape, air and noise, and population and human health. The action, in and of itself, will not result in a negative source of impact outside what has been considered within Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	22.	Seek to leverage funding for a County Archaeologist subject to resources.	The action will, depending on resources, leverage funding for an in-house, Local Authority Archaeologist. The implementation of this action will have direct positive effects on culture heritage and interacting receptors biodiversity, flora and fauna and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	23.	Collaborate with KCC Architectural Conservation Officer to prepare a Buildings at Risk Register for heritage buildings in the county.	The action proposes collaboration with the Local Authority Conservation Officer for the preparation of a Buildings at Risk Register for heritage buildings in the Plan Area. This register highlights vacant, derelict or endangered historic buildings. This register will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and potentially lead to focussed and targeted heritage improvements. In and of itself, the action will not interact with any environmental receptors to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	24.	Update the county Kildare Thatched Cottage Survey.	<p>The Kildare Thatched Cottage survey was commissioned by Kildare County Council and the Heritage Council. The previous survey in 2005 identified 91 thatched buildings in Kildare, of which 53 survived with varying degrees of intactness. The survey is now dated over twenty years, therefore requiring an update on the conditions of the surviving structures. This surveying will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and potentially lead to more focussed and targeted heritage improvements. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	25.	Continue to update & maintain the Record of Protected Structures, ensuring that structures of significant historic, architectural, cultural, scientific and technical interest in the county are included.	<p>The action will see the continued updating and maintenance of the Record of Protected Structures within the Plan Area. The action will underpin and support the effective delivery of this Plan, in addition to enabling informed decision-making across other sections of the Local Authority (particularly for Forward Planning). The action has positive implications for cultural heritage. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	26.	Support and collaborate the implementation of the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031.	<p>The action pledges support and collaboration in the implementation of the Local Authority Biodiversity Action Plan, which has been subject to its own Screening for SEA and AA. The action has positive implications for the county's natural heritage, i.e., biodiversity, flora and fauna, and any other interacting environmental receptors such as landscape, air, soils and water, and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	27.	<p>Work with all stakeholders to implement the Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan which seeks to protect and promote archaeological, cultural, natural and built heritage of this significant heritage resource. It is envisaged that the delivery of projects contained in the CPMP will require separate Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA).</p>	<p>The Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan (CPMP) was adopted in November 2024 by Kildare County Council and the Department of Defence. It provides a framework for protecting and promoting heritage at the Curragh Plains. It is supported by Action AH A5 of the Kildare County Development Plan which has been subject to SEA and AA. It is inherently protective and positive in nature. This action, in and of itself, will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	28.	Facilitate traditional skills workshops in association with relevant bodies.	The action will, collaboratively, support and facilitate traditional skills workshops which will offer the community the opportunity to experience and learn these endangered skills that are at the risk of being lost to time and technological advancement. The action will have positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health through training and engagement and the preservation of such niche skills. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	29.	Develop links with other Local Authorities and other public bodies to assess opportunities for potential shared heritage projects.	The action proposes collaboration with other Local Authorities and other public bodies within Ireland to explore potential shared heritage projects. The action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing heritage initiatives and heritage conservation and restoration efforts. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	30.	Support preparation of a feasibility study to determine viability of developing of a County Museum.	The action will support the preparation of a feasibility study for a potential County Museum within the Plan Area. The potential provision of a County Museum will promote heritage awareness within the wider community and contribute to heritage protection and stewardship. However, as the action itself is review-based, it will not directly interact with an environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	31.	Support communities in the recording of oral histories. Where possible, compile oral histories with other relevant media such as photographs and written materials.	Oral histories capture the unique stories and experiences of individuals and communities that are not recorded on paper. Oral histories, collected through interviews and recordings, can provide unique insights into the past and is a more accessible medium of accessing history. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	32.	Promote best practice in the management, conservation, and recording of historic graveyards and develop a conservation management programme for historic graveyards in the care of KCC with the County Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee and graveyard maintenance groups across the county.	The action will promote best practice in the management, conservation and recording of historic graveyards, and potentially develop a conservation management programme in collaboration with the County Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee for historic graveyards within the ownership of the Local Authority. The action is aimed at the protection and enhancement of heritage features within the Plan Area, and will potentially give rise to co-benefits for interacting environmental receptors such as landscape, population and human health, and biodiversity, flora and fauna. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	33.	Support delivery of objective in County Development Plan to develop a National Peatlands Park, including identification of potential sites and development of strategy with landowners and other stakeholders.	<p>The action is supportive of the ongoing efforts of the National Peatlands Park Group and the NPWS in the provision of a National Peatlands Park. This has been proposed to centre on the Irish Peatland Conservation Council's Bog of Allen Nature Centre, and the Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park. This has been proposed as part of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (Reference: Policy Objectives EC A8, RD O36, BI O42, and BI A31), which underwent full SEA and AA previously.</p> <p>The action proposed by the Draft Plan, in and of itself, will not result in a negative source of impact outside what has been considered within the governing land-use planning framework.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	34.	Prioritise the protection of heritage in the sustainable development of greenways, blueways and peatways in the county.	The action has proposed the prioritising heritage protection in the sustainable development of any biodiversity or green infrastructure within the Plan Area. The action is a protective in nature and supports the integration of heritage conservation within the land-use framework and development planning process. It has the potential to contribute to the realisation of positive effects on cultural heritage and other co-benefits for interacting environmental receptors such as biodiversity, flora and fauna, and landscape. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
<b>Strategic Heritage Objective 3: Collate and publish heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys &amp; research to inform policy.</b>	35.	Compile a list in collaboration with Architectural Conservation Officer of all council-owned built heritage sites and develop conservation/management strategies for these structures as resources permit.	The action proposes collaborating with the Architectural Conservation Officer in preparing an inventory of council-owned built heritage sites and develop conservation/management strategies for these structures (depending on resources). Such surveying will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and potentially lead to more focussed and targeted biodiversity improvements. In and of itself, the action will not directly interact with an environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	36.	Continue to promote citizen science recording projects such as the Meitheal Logainm Minor Placenames Project, National Biodiversity Data Centre and the National Benchmark Survey to expand datasets of local heritage knowledge.	The action will continue to promote and support citizen science recording projects by enabling members of the public to contribute to research and add to existing datasets of local heritage knowledge. Such research can help expand existing datasets pertaining to local heritage and inform decision-making. The action has the potential to improve awareness and knowledge of intangible heritage in the Plan Area, which will underpin and support heritage conservation. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	37.	Publish surveys and reports prepared as actions of the Heritage Plan.	The action proposes the publication of surveys and reports of the findings and outcomes of the implementation of the Plan actions. These publications will increase transparency between the Local Authority and interested stakeholders, and allow the Kildare County Council to monitor the performance of the actions and take remedial or enhancement measures where required. Being review-based, the action, in and of itself, will not directly interact with an environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	38.	Establish and maintain an archive of reports on archaeological sites and finds.	<p>The action will develop and maintain an archive of reports on archaeological sites and finds within the Plan Area. The implementation of this action will underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and potentially lead to more focussed and targeted heritage improvements by augmenting the repository of baseline information for archaeological heritage assets within the County. Being review-based, the action will not interact with an environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	39.	Encourage appropriate access to National Monuments and publicly owned archaeological monuments in the county and facilitate partnerships to provide appropriately managed access to these sites.	<p>The action focuses on the facilitation of access to National Monuments and other publicly-owned heritage features within the Plan Area and collaborate with stakeholders to provide appropriately-managed access to these sites. The action will promote awareness of such sites and foster further public interest. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	40.	Advise as required on the naming of new estates in Kildare to accurately reflect the cultural heritage of the county.	The action focuses on the nomenclature of planned new estates within County Kildare which are reflective and representative of its cultural heritage. The action will consult with and advise with stakeholders in naming these estates, which has positive implications for cultural heritage and population and human health through the preservation of County Kildare's unique etymology. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	41.	Support audit of natural heritage sites in the ownership of KCC and implementation of conservation/management strategies for these sites.	The action supports the audit of natural heritage sites within Local Authority ownership and the implementation of conservation and management strategies of these sites. The implementation of such conservation and management strategies are subject to their own environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment, where required, and can provide an opportunity for managing environmentally-sensitive sites in a coordinated manner as opposed to an ad-hoc approach. The action is positive for natural heritage, i.e., cultural heritage and biodiversity, flora and fauna. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	42.	Commission a recording project of local traditional music.	<p>The action will fund a recording project of local traditional music. This preservation of musical heritage of County Kildare will contribute to its sustenance and preserve its legacy. This action has the potential to foster community engagement and educate and pass it on to future generations, as well as potentially support craftspeople involved who build and maintain special musical instruments unique to the style of music. The action has positive implications for cultural heritage and population and human health through the conservation of Kildare's ethnomusicological heritage. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	43.	Expand Heritage GIS Databases by gathering and displaying further audits on heritage in the county in conjunction with KCC GIS team.	<p>The action proposes augmenting existing Heritage GIS Databases by carrying out further audits and surveys on heritage within the Plan Area, in collaboration with the in-house GIS team at Kildare County Council. The action will ultimately underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan and potentially lead to focussed and targeted heritage improvements. However, as the action is review-based, it will not directly interact with any environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	44.	Ensure that the objectives of the Heritage Plan are incorporated into all statutory plans where appropriate.	The action supports the integration of heritage considerations and improvements within the land-use planning framework and development planning processes. It has the potential to contribute to the realisation of positive effects on heritage, and other interacting receptors such as landscape and population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
<p><b>Strategic Heritage Objective 4: Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life, cultural and economic development in County Kildare.</b></p>	45.	Liaise with heritage and tourism organisations and other relevant partners to promote the development of promotional material for publicly accessible heritage sites and routes in the county.	The action proposes coordination and collaboration with other heritage and tourism organisations and other relevant stakeholders for developing promotional material of heritage sites and routes in the county. The action will potentially foster further interest in heritage protection throughout the local authority and wider community. The action, being awareness- and engagement-based, will not directly interact with any environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
<p style="background-color: #fce4ec; padding: 10px;">Strategic Heritage Objective</p>	46.	Continue to support the network of Kildare Museums and Heritage Centres.	<p>The action pledges support towards the network of Kildare Museums and Heritage Centres in their heritage promotion and conservation work. The action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing heritage work and improving awareness and conservation efforts within the Plan Area. The action, being engagement-based, will not directly interact with any environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
	47.	<p>Support and provide guidance for the sensitive development of themed heritage access trails on existing established routes in the county e.g. geology, natural heritage, pilgrimages and ancient roadways, canal trails and military heritage. Possible route concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Túrás Columbanus</li> <li>• Industrial heritage trails (including canals and peatlands)</li> <li>• St. Brigid’s Way</li> </ul>	<p>The action proposes improving accessibility through signage (wayfinding and contextual) on existing heritage trails within the Plan Area. The action will increase awareness and engagement for visitors. The action will potentially foster further interest in heritage protection throughout the local authority and wider community. The action, being awareness- and engagement-based, will not directly interact with any environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce likely, significant effects on the environment. The works involves in developing signage on existing heritage trails will be minor in nature and will be unlikely to result in significant effects.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	48.	Consider provision of on-site information for Kildare's heritage sites through the use of technology such as QR codes or similar.	The action proposes exploring the feasibility of providing on-site information at heritage sites within the Plan Area through various mediums (including the use of QR codes). The action will increase information accessibility and foster further public interest and promote awareness of the value of such heritage sites. The action has the potential to underpin and support the implementation of the Plan. Being engagement-based, it will not interact with any environmental receptor to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	49.	Prepare an audit of existing heritage-related directional signage and seek to improve the provision and quality of directional signage. Develop design standardisation for heritage signage in the county where possible.	The action will see the development of an audit for existing heritage-related directional signage and seek to improve the provision and quality of the signage. This is to be followed by the subsequent standardisation of design for heritage signage within the Plan Area for cohesiveness. The action is positive for cultural heritage, landscape/townscape and population and human health through potential improvements in the public realm. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	50.	Collate materials and publish findings relating to Kildare’s sporting heritage, including the equine heritage of Kildare as “Thoroughbred Country”.	The action proposes the collation of materials and information relating to Kildare’s equine heritage. This will potentially draw public attention to Kildare’s unique history, which can foster further interest in this part of cultural heritage. The action can underpin and support the effective implementation of the Plan. Being review-based, the implementation of the action will not interact with any environmental receptors. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	51.	Support the work of Kildare’s Local Studies and Archives team.	<p>The Kildare County Archives hold the records of local government, private papers and manuscript material relating to County Kildare, and provides its services to the public and the Local Authority. Kildare Local Studies holds an extensive collection of books, periodicals, maps and photographs and newspapers relating to the history and heritage of County Kildare, including a range of material on Irish archaeology, heritage and history. Such archival material may require special care and conditions for storage and handling.</p> <p>The action will support these efforts of the County Archives and County Kildare, and contribute to the preservation of Kildare's written heritage. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	52.	Support development of a schools project based on 1930's Folklore Commission Schools Collection.	<p>The 1930's Folklore Commission Schools Collection comprises approximately 740,000 pages of folklore and local tradition, that were compiled by pupils from 5,000 primary schools in the Irish Free State between 1937 and 1939. This included oral history, topographical information, folktales and legends, riddles and proverbs, games, pastimes, trades and crafts. This unique archival collection captures Irish history in granularity.</p> <p>The action will support the development of a comparable project, which will aim to capture the current zeitgeist for posterity. The action has positive implications for heritage and population and human health.</p> <p>The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Heritage Objective 5: Foster stewardship and involvement in heritage with the wider community of Kildare.</b></p>	53.	Work with Creative Ireland and local arts groups to promote Kildare's cultural heritage.	<p>The action proposes collaboration with Creative Ireland and local creative groups to promote Kildare's cultural heritage. The action has the potential to promote heritage awareness and economically support local creative groups to produce creative works that can contribute to the local heritage and community wellbeing. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.</p>



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	54.	Promote supports for community heritage groups, including the Adopt a Monument Scheme, as well as promoting national and local grant schemes.	The action will promote available supports for community groups working in the heritage sphere. This has the potential to create a collaborative approach to implementing heritage improvements within the Plan Area. The action will contribute to the effective delivery of the Plan. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	55.	Support existing national education programmes such as the Heritage in Schools Programme and develop a scheme to bring schools and community groups to heritage sites in the county.	The action will support heritage-related national education programmes and contribute to the development of a scheme which will aim schools and community groups to heritage sites within the Plan Area. The action promotes heritage-related education, and has the potential to improve heritage-related expertise and underpin and support heritage conservation in the County. In and of itself, being engagement-based, the implementation of the action will not interact with any environmental receptors to result in any positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



Strategic Heritage Objective	Action reference	Action	Potential Environmental Effects
	56.	Promote accessible and inclusive heritage events and services.	The action focuses on promoting accessible and inclusive heritage events and services. In addition to increasing general heritage awareness and creating a collaborative environment for promoting heritage awareness, focusing on enhancing the inclusivity aspect of these events and services will have a positive effect on population and human health. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.
	57.	Develop strategic links with third level institutions to encourage research and mapping of Kildare’s heritage and other relevant projects.	The action promotes heritage-related education. It has the potential to improve heritage-related expertise and underpin and support heritage improvements within the Plan Area. Being engagement-based, the action will not directly interact with any environmental receptors to result in positive or negative interactions. The action will not introduce a negative source of impact that can lead to adverse effects on the receiving environment.



**Table 4-4: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects - Characteristics of the Plan**

<b>Potential Significant Effects</b>	
<b>Characteristics of the Plan or Programme having regard, in particular to:</b>	
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan provides a general framework for heritage protection and promotion on lands in the plan area, including local authority controlled lands. The Draft Plan defines a vision for heritage management in the plan area, and strategic objectives and actions for achieving this vision.</p> <p>The Draft Plan does not propose or support any intensive land use or development projects outside the land use planning framework and will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan is defined as a Tier 1: County Heritage Plan under The Heritage Council's Local Authority Heritage Plan Guidelines (2024). This strategic document sets out the overall vision and goals for the management and protection of heritage in the County, and is informed by the Heritage Act 2995, the Heritage Council Strategy, other local and national policy. This Draft Plan has been prepared by the County Heritage Forum of the local authority, which is consultative body and provides a forum for discussion and debate on heritage issues and advises the local authority on the creation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan.</p> <p>The Draft Plan is situated within a hierarchy of statutory documents (See Section 3.2) that were subject environmental assessments or screenings for environmental assessment. This includes the Kildare County Development Plan. The Draft Plan will inform the preparation of future Development Plans through identified gaps in policy or data.</p> <p>As outlined within the Local Authority Heritage Plan Guidelines 2024, a Tier One County Heritage Plan may be followed by a Tier Two Local Action Plan, which may set out specific objectives and actions for managing and protecting heritage in a particular area (including sub-disciplines such as biodiversity, archives, archaeology, heritage engagement, education, etc.), within the context of the Tier One City or County Heritage Strategic Plan.</p>



<b>Potential Significant Effects</b>	
<b>Characteristics of the Plan or Programme having regard, in particular to:</b>	
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for identifying, conserving and promoting the conservation of heritage in Kildare. The Plan promotes best practice for the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resources and supports sustainable development in the Plan Area in accordance with the land-use planning framework.</p> <p>The Draft Plan does not, however, stipulate specific development planning requirements and will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Heritage resources in the plan area faces a number of known threats and pressures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development (residential, commercial, infrastructural and agricultural),</li> <li>• Agricultural activity and expansion,</li> <li>• Urbanisation,</li> <li>• Pollution (e.g., air and water pollution),</li> <li>• Climate change,</li> <li>• Recreational activity,</li> <li>• Land abandonment,</li> </ul> <p>These threats and pressures may cause a range of negative impacts on natural and cultural heritage, and other interacting environmental receptors such as biodiversity, flora and fauna, landscape, and population and human health. Further impacts on intangible heritage include the loss of cultural and social practices, oral traditions, arts, craftsmanship, and knowledge and practices concerning the natural environment.</p> <p>The Draft Plan has defined a range of actions to address and minimise the impacts of these threats and pressures.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g., plans linked to waste-management or water protection).</p>	<p>The Draft Plan is a non-statutory plan. It does, however, support the achievement of aims of EU nature-related legislation at a local level, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030,</li> <li>• Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869 (the 'Nature Restoration Law'),</li> </ul>



## Potential Significant Effects

### Characteristics of the Plan or Programme having regard, in particular to:

- Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds ('the Birds Directive'),
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('the Habitats Directive'),
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011), as amended,
- Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy ('the Water Framework Directive'),
- European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722/2003), as amended ,
- Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy ('the Marine Strategy Framework Directive'),
- Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks ('the Floods Directive'),
- European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 122/2010), as amended,
- Directive 2006/113/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the quality required of shellfish waters ('the Shellfish Waters Directive'),
- European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268/2006), as amended.



**Table 4-5: Criteria for Determining Potential for Significant Effects - Characteristics of the Effects**

Potential for Significant Effects	
Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:	
<p>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan provides a a general framework for heritage protection and promotion on lands in the plan area, including local authority controlled lands. It defines the actions that support and promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice heritage management and improvement,</li> <li>• Local authority heritage protection and enhancement initiatives,</li> <li>• The improvement of heritage assets on local authority controlled lands,</li> <li>• Training and awareness events,</li> <li>• Education and training,</li> <li>• Surveying and mapping to identify areas of risk from threats and pressure and areas for targeted heritage protection/enhancement action,</li> <li>• Collaborating with key stakeholders and the public to achieve heritage aims and objectives.</li> </ul> <p>The range of actions defined in the Draft Plan have the potential to have a range of positive environmental effects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive effects on heritage assets, including tangible and intangible heritage</li> <li>• Indirect positive effects on water quality, hydrology and hydrogeology, soils and geology - e.g., through supporting the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> <li>• Positive effects on population and human health - e.g., - through the preservation of cultural heritage and legacy.</li> <li>• Positive effects on the soils environment - e.g., biodiversity improvements have the potential to improve soil quality, structure and function.</li> <li>• Positive effects on Climate - e.g., through the inclusion of actions that will address the impacts on climate change on built and natural heritage and ensuring that heritage is a consideration in planning, policy and service delivery for sustainable development.</li> <li>• Positive effects on landscape and visual amenity - e.g., through supporting the Landscape Character Assessment and its integration into the land-use planning framework.</li> </ul>



<b>Potential for Significant Effects</b>	
<b>Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:</b>	
	<p>All actions in the Draft Plan are aimed at protecting and enhancing heritage assets. They have been carefully reviewed, and it has been concluded that these actions do not have the potential to have unintended negative effects on the receiving environment.</p> <p>The actions in the Draft Plan do not support intensive land use or development projects sitting outside the land use planning framework that can cause significant negative environmental effects. The Draft Plan will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent. There is no real likelihood of significant negative environmental effects occurring as result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.</p>
The cumulative nature of the effects.	<p>The Draft Plan is in harmony and consistent with inter-related plans, including land use plans relevant to the plan area, higher order heritage related plans, including Heritage Ireland 2030, the Local Authority Climate Action Plan, the national Climate Action Plan and the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (See Section 3.2).</p> <p>The range of positive effects that may be realised by the implementation of the Draft Plan have the potential to interact and combine with positive effects associated with heritage-related measures defined in these inter-related plans to create larger, more significant positive effects.</p> <p>All actions in the Draft Plan are aimed at protecting and enhancing heritage assets. The implementation of the Draft Plan will not give rise to likely significant negative effects on the environment that have the potential to interact and combine with negative effects associated with measures defined in these inter-related plans or projects to create larger, more significant negative effects..</p>
The transboundary nature of the effects.	<p>The Draft Plan has the potential to generate positive effects on the receiving environment present in or connected to the plan area.</p> <p>These effects have the potential to be transmitted to areas surrounding and outside the local authority functional area via environmental pathways. It is unlikely these effects will be transmitted to Northern Ireland or any other country outside of Ireland however given the distance from the local authority functional area to these other countries and the lack of direct environmental pathways from the functional area to said countries.</p>



<b>Potential for Significant Effects</b>	
<b>Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, having regard in particular to:</b>	
	The implementation of the Draft Plan will not give rise to likely significant negative effects on the environment that have the ability to be transmitted beyond the national boundary of the Republic of Ireland.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents).	The implementation of the Draft Plan will not give rise to likely significant negative effects on the environment that have the potential to create risks to human health or the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The Draft Plan has the potential to generate positive effects on the receiving environment present in the plan area or connected to the plan area via environmental pathways, including elements that may make up the heritage environment such as built, natural and heritage assets and the receiving townscape/landscape.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>• Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</li> <li>• Intensive land-use.</li> </ul>	<p>The Draft Plan has the potential to generate positive effects that contribute to an enhanced heritage environment.</p> <p>The implementation of the Draft Plan will not give rise to likely significant negative effects on the environment that may affect special natural characteristics or cultural heritage (including built or archaeological heritage), or contribute to the exceedance of environmental quality standards, in the plan area.</p> <p>The Draft Plan does not support or promote intensive land use or development projects that may create negative environmental effects.</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognized national, community or international protection status.	<p>There are a variety of sites designated for their ecological value (e.g., Special protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, proposed Natural Heritage Areas) present in and connected to the plan area. The actions in the Draft Plan have been carefully designed to support the protection of these designated sites through the protection of natural heritage.</p> <p>There are sites in the plan area that are designated for their landscape and visual amenity value. The implementation of the Draft Plan has the potential to have positive effects on landscape and visual amenity generally and such designated sites - e.g., through the promotion of natural heritage settings that contributes to landscape character, scenic value and visual amenity.</p>



**Table 4-6: Summary of SEA Screening Analysis**

**Summary of SEA Screening Analysis**

Having regard to the evaluation undertaken in Table 4-3 and the Stage 2 Screening Analysis undertaken in Table 4-4 and Table 4-5, it is concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant negative environmental effects occurring as result of the implementation of the Draft Plan.



## 5. CONCLUSIONS

An SEA Screening Assessment was undertaken to determine the need for an SEA for the County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026-2031. It has been concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant negative environmental effects occurring as result of the implementation of the Draft Plan . The principal reasons for this are as follows:

- The Draft Plan does not introduce any source of negative environmental impact.
- All actions in the Draft Plan are aimed at protecting and enhancing heritage assets. There is no requirement to integrate further environmental considerations into the Draft Plan given its intrinsic nature, its stated aims and objectives, and the potential positive effects associated with its actions.
- The Draft Plan is in alignment with nature legislation and higher order policy such as the Heritage Ireland 2030, the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2030) and inter-related plans and programmes.
- The actions in the Draft Plan do not support intensive land use or development projects sitting outside the land use planning framework that can cause significant negative environmental effects.
- The Draft Plan is not a statutory land use plan. The Draft Plan will not in and of itself set the context for future development consent. It aligns with and supports the Kildare County Development Pan 2023 – 2029.

Therefore, a full SEA of the County Kildare Draft Heritage Plan 2026-2031 is not required.

The local authority is now required to consult with the Environmental Authorities on the above conclusion.



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