

Kildare County Council

Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

Natura Impact Report

Reference:

| 10 March 2022






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1. Introduction and planning hierarchy context

This Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC). It provides information on and assesses the potential for the Draft Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’) to adversely affect the integrity of European sites within the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European Site (s)).¹

The new Plan will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare to 2029.

The purpose of the NIR is to inform KCC, the competent authority, of the potential for any adverse impacts on the integrity of European Sites arising from the Plan.

In preparing this NIR, a multi-stage approach has been taken. The purpose of this staged approach has been to align the AA process with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive [2001/42/EC] process which is also required to support the development of the Plan. Article 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to assessments pursuant to Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC. The preparation of the SEA and AA reporting comprises an integrated approach, such as sharing of baseline data and mapping of European Sites, sharing of potential ecological effects of the Plan on European Sites.

It should be noted that recommendations included within the mitigation section of this report have not yet been incorporated into the Plan. As outlined in Section 8, if the mitigation recommendations are not incorporated during the next stage of the plan making process, further assessment will be undertaken in relation to same, as necessary.

In the case of land use plans such as the Draft CDP, further assessment is likely to be required to assess material amendments arising during the remainder of the plan making process and prior to adoption and finalisation. Such assessments will form addenda to this report.

1.1 Legislative context of the Natura Impact Report (NIR)

The preparation of the NIR has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed in Ireland primarily by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for AA, i.e. an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect European Sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (i.e. Stage 2 AA):

Article 6(3) states that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

¹ Appropriate assessment comes from the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), which seeks to safeguard the long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The geographical areas of particular importance to these species and habitats have been selected as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) which are collectively referred to (in Ireland) as European sites. Together, these sites comprise the pan-European Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions as Article 6(4) states that:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected.

It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

A Screening for AA Report to inform the AA screening determination in accordance with the requirements of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 has been prepared and is included as Appendix A of this report. The screening report was prepared to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, whether the Plan, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Listed in the AA Screening Report and of relevance to the NIR are guidance documents, guiding principles and relevant case law. The methodology and the various stages involved in AA are set out in the AA Screening Report in Appendix A.

The AA Screening concluded that significant effects are likely or that sufficient uncertainty remains, to indicate that an AA should be carried out for the Plan. The relevant European sites are listed in Section 3.1, and shown in Figure 1. No viable or realistic pathway (ecological, hydrological or otherwise) for impact on other European sites exists and potential for likely significant effects on same has been conclusively ruled out.

1.2 Layout of the NIR

The main objective of this stage (Stage 2) in the AA is to determine whether the Draft Plan would result in significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site with respect to the site’s structure, function, and/or conservation objectives.

The Stage 1 Screening has created a list of sites with potential to be affected by the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, Stage 2 AA is required. The potential adverse effects considered at this stage will either be effects occurring as a result of the application of the Plan alone or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects.

2. Scope, Parameters and Description of the plan (Kildare County Development Plan 2022-2028)

2.1 Introduction

The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 is the key strategy document which structures the proper planning and sustainable development of land-use across County Kildare over the six-year statutory time period of the plan. The Plan seeks to address the physical, economic, social and environmental needs of the community, in terms of supporting structured new development, protecting the environment, enhancing valued assets and amenities. The preparation of the Plan has regard to key recent development trends and national, regional and local policy documents, in particular, the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern Midland Region (RSES).

The Plan relates to the whole functional area of KCC which includes the five Municipal Districts as follows:

- Naas Municipal District;
- Clane-Maynooth Municipal District;
- Athy Municipal District;
- Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District; and
- Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District.

2.2 Background

The existing Plan for Kildare is the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The new Plan prepared by KCC will be implemented from 2023-2029 and will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare to 2029 and beyond. The review has come at a time of significant and unprecedented challenges arising from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and Climate Change. It is essential that the County Development Plan responds to these challenges and identifies opportunities to support economic recovery and improve quality of life for the people of County Kildare.

The formal notice of the new Plan was issued in January 2021. The new Plan will take two years to complete and began on 11 January 2021.

Kildare is an inland county covering an area of 169,550 hectares. It occupies a strategic position within the Eastern Region of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and also forms part of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). Kildare is both a significant population base and a significant residential base within the State with the eighth largest household stock nationally. The county has grown more than 71% in the last 20 years, the updated development plan must therefore, facilitate the large growth rates predicted for the coming six-year period.

KCC drafted the Kildare CDP 2023-2029 which takes into account all submissions made on the draft Plan, including all recommendations from the Office of the Planning Regulator, National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The Draft Kildare CDP 2023-2029 has been prepared in full compliance with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midlands Region. A Social Infrastructure Assessment, a Sustainable Planning and Infrastructural Assessment and a Transport Strategy have also been undertaken to inform the Draft Kildare CDP 2023-2029.

2.3 Strategic Vision of the County Development Plan

The Plan is underpinned by a strategic vision which is intended to guide the future of the county in a sustainable manner in a way that reflects the existing character and amenities of the county, the surrounding landscape, heritage and environment and improves the quality of life for the existing and future community.

2.4 Overarching Guiding Principles of the Draft CDP

The Plan addresses a wide range of interrelated economic, social and environmental issues set within an overall framework of achieving the overall vision. The following will be the guiding principles underpinning the various policies, objectives, actions and targets associated with the Plan:

- (i) To develop a county that is resilient to climate change, plans for and adapts to climate change and flood risk, facilitates a low carbon future, supports energy efficiency and conservation and enables the decarbonisation of our lifestyles and economy
- (ii) To ensure the compact growth and regeneration of lands within all settlements across the Settlement Hierarchy
- (iii) To promote the sustainable development of communities by locating residential, employment, social and community facilities in close proximity to each other.
- (iv) To support national investment in public transport services to achieve the better integration of land uses and high-quality public transport provision and to reduce car dependency throughout the county;
- (v) To achieve a quantum of services and infrastructure in all settlements to match existing and future population demands.
- (vi) To promote economic development and employment opportunities within defined Strategic Employment Development Areas in the North-West corridor of the Metropolitan Area, in line with the overall Growth Strategy.
- (vii) To recognise the role of the rural countryside in supporting the rural economy and its role as a key resource for agriculture, equine, bloodstock, forestry, energy production, tourism, recreation, mineral extraction and rural based enterprises.
- (viii) To support, facilitate and promote the sustainable development of renewable energy sources in the county.
- (ix) To protect local assets by preserving the quality of the landscape, open space, recreational resources, natural, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage and the material assets of the county.
- (x) To promote social inclusion and facilitating the delivery of objectives contained in the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 and any succeeding Plan.

3. Overview of the Receiving Environment

3.1 Identification of European Sites

There are a range of statutory provisions in force in Ireland to protect, conserve and manage the natural heritage, and to control and regulate human activities that may impact upon it negatively. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible, through the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), for the designation of conservation sites in Ireland.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), collectively referred to (in Ireland) as European sites, comprise the pan-European Natura 2000 network of protected areas. All European sites in County Kildare or within 15km of the Kildare county boundary i.e. the study area, have been listed below. Although 15km is an arbitrary distance it has been recommended in the case of plans, deriving from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006), and is considered appropriate to apply in the context of this assessment.

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) by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. There are seven SACs in County Kildare.

SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union. There is one SPA in County Kildare.

All eight SACs/SPAs and their Qualifying Interests (QIs) or Special Conservation Interest (SCIs) within County Kildare are listed in Table 1. There are nine SACs and two SPAs identified as being within 15km of the County border which are listed in Table 2 below. A brief summary of each of the designated sites is also provided, some of which has been taken from the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Site Synopses.

Table 1: European Sites within County Kildare and their Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests (QIs) or Special Conservation Interests (SCIs)
000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	Active raised bogs Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) Alkaline fens Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)
000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation Active raised bogs
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Alkaline fens Transition mires and quaking bogs Desmoulin's whorl snail Marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)

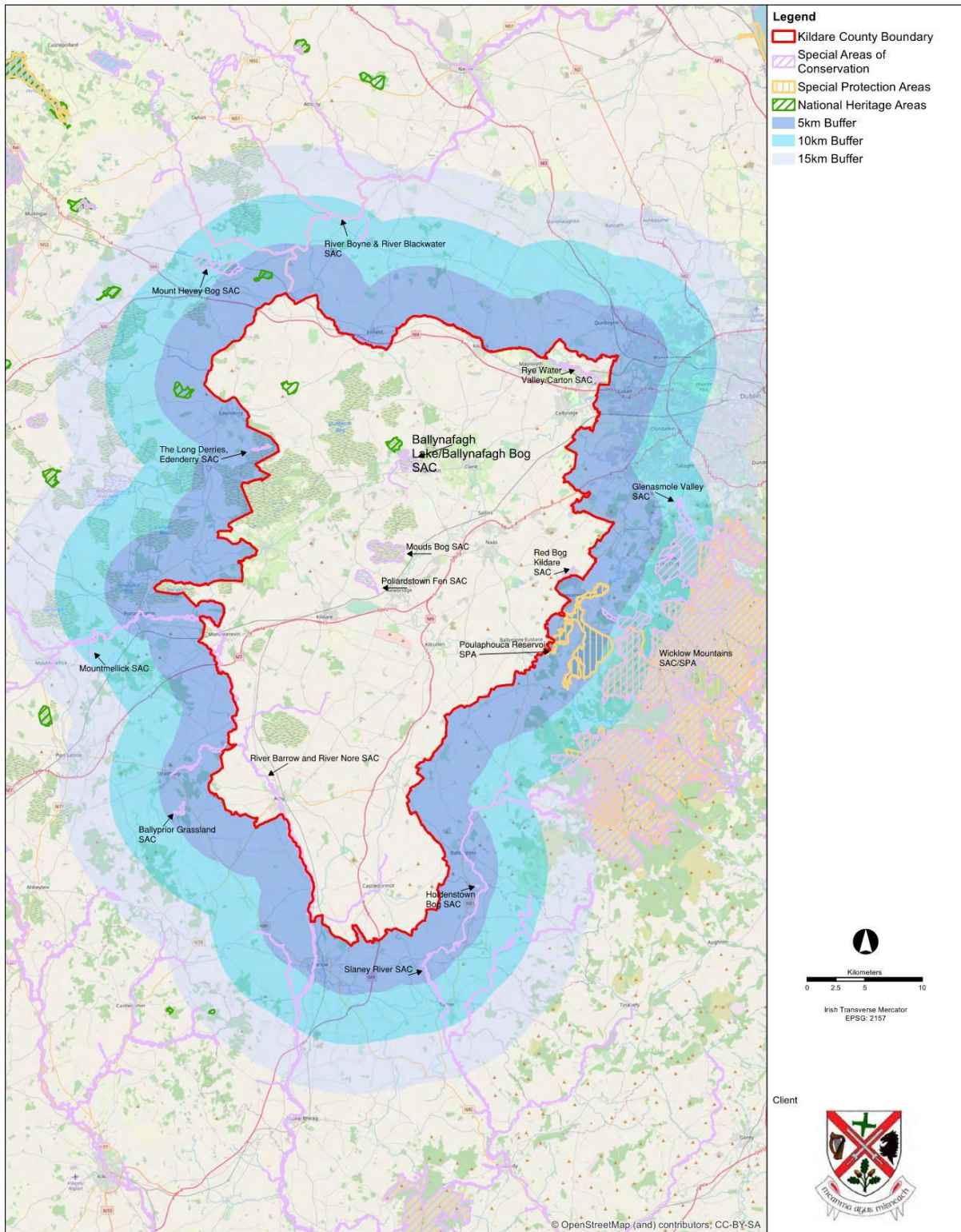
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests (QIs) or Special Conservation Interests (SCIs)
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p> <p>Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritima</i>)</p> <p>Allis shad (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)</p> <p>Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</p> <p>Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)</p> <p>Desmoulin's whorl snail</p> <p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)</p> <p>Killamey Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)</p> <p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>)</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p> <p>European river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</p> <p>Twait shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)</p> <p>White clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)</p>
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	<p>Active raised bogs</p> <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p>
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)</p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)</p>
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	<p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)</p> <p>Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail</p> <p>Desmoulin's Whorl Snail</p>

Table 2: European Sites within 15km of the County boundary

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Boundary (km)	Qualifying Features (QIs)
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	0.37	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Boundary (km)	Qualifying Features (Qis)
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	0.39	Alkaline fens Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) Atlantic Salmon Otter
000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	0.61	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites)
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	1.64	Estuaries Floating river vegetation Old oak woodlands Residual alluvial forests* Tidal mudflats Atlantic Salmon Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) Common Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) Freshwater Pearl Mussel Otter River Lamprey Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) Twaite Shad
002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	2.79	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)(*important orchid sites)
001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	3.04	Transition mires and quaking bogs
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	3.32	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> European dry heaths Alpine and Boreal heaths Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) Blanket bogs (* if active bog) Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsetalia ladani</i>) Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Boundary (km)	Qualifying Features (Qis)
			Otter
002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	4.13	Active raised bogs Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	5.72	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	6.48	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)
002141	Mountmellick SAC	8.73	Desmoulin's whorl snail



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Figure 1 European sites within County Kildare and within 15km of the County Kildare Border

3.2 Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives (COs) for each European site focused primarily on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species of interest (i.e. the qualifying features). Many of the European sites have site-specific conservation objectives, which focus on a particular habitat or species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes. The maintenance of habitats and species within European Sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Detailed site synopses for each European site are available from the NPWS website. In Ireland ‘generic’ COs have been prepared for all European sites, while ‘site specific’ COs have been prepared for a number of individual sites to take account of the specific Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of that site. QIs and SCIs are annexed habitats and annexed species of community interest for which an SAC or SPA has been designated. Both the generic and the site-specific COs aim to define the requirements for favourable conservation condition for habitats and species at the site level. Generic COs which have been developed by NPWS encompass the spirit of site-specific COs in the context of maintaining and restoring favourable conservation condition as follows:

For SACs: *“To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected”.*

For SPAs: *“To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA”.*

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.

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.

Site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at a European site. Maintaining habitats and species in a favourable conservation condition then contributes to the wider objective to maintain those most vulnerable habitats and species at favourable status.

At an individual site level, SSCO specify whether the objective is to maintain or to restore favourable conservation condition of the habitat or species, and they set out attributes and targets that define the objectives. It is the aim of the DCHG to produce SSCO for all European sites in due course. The SSCO for European Sites are set out to ensure that the QIs/ SCIs of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition/ conservation status. The list of QIs for SACs, SCIs for SPAs and their SSCO considered in this NIR are presented in Section 3.1.

3.3 Threats and pressures to EU protected Habitats and Species

Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, member states are obliged to identify threats and pressures to qualifying interests using a standard set of criteria. A threat is defined as an “Activity expected to have an impact on a species/habitat type in the future”, and a pressure is defined as an “Activity impacting a species/habitat type during the reporting cycle”.

More general pressures and threats, identified as being relevant to the sites within the zone of influence of the Plan, are listed below. Site-specific pressures and threats are detailed in the relevant Natura 2000 data forms for each site, available on the NPWS website, also provided in **Appendix A** to this NIR.

Both general and site-specific pressures and threats have been considered in assessing the potential for likely significant effects on, and in assessing the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of, any European Site.

General pressures and threats thought to be most relevant to the Plan are considered to be:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Biological resource other than agriculture & forestry;
- Mining, quarrying and energy production;
- Transportation and service infrastructure;
- Urbanisation, residential and commercial development;
- Disturbance due to human activities;
- Tourism and recreation;
- Pollution;
- Invasive and introduced species;
- Modification of natural conditions; and
- Climate change.

4. Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the Draft CDP

4.1 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment: Purposes and Process

The outcome of the AA Screening for the Plan determined that due to the types and locations of development that could arise as a result of implementing the Draft Revised LAP, significant effects could not be ruled out and that the Plan would need further assessment during its preparation.

- The documented output of the AA Screening stage is included in Appendix C.
- The AA process then moved to Stage 2 AA as required under Section 177V, Part XAB, 2000 Planning and Development Act, as amended.
- The AA involved analysing the relationship between the proposed elements of the Draft Revised LAP and the CO of the European sites. Where there was the potential for an adverse impact to occur, then the assessment team has recommended changes to elements of the Draft LAP to avoid or mitigate the potential impact. These recommendations have been integrated into the various elements of the Plan so that the implementation would not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- The Plan will be published for a period of public consultation. Any submissions will be scrutinised by the team and the KCC will be alerted as to any submissions that may have implications for European sites.

4.2 Summary of the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening

Following a review of the objectives and actions of the Plan alongside the sensitivities of each European Site, the potential for likely significant effects has been assessed. European sites were screened out based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Where the European site is located at such a distance that impacts are considered highly unlikely and there are no clear impact pathways such as hydrological links; and
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities of a European site, as listed in their site documents, cannot be linked to any potential impacts that may occur through the implantation of the Plan.

The outcome of this screening assessment on each European site is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Screening Assessment of European Designated Sites

Site Name	Distance from County Border (km)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
Pollardstown Fen SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes

Site Name	Distance from County Border (km)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
River Barrow And River Nore SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
Mouds Bog SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SPA. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
Slaney River Valley SAC	1.64	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	0.61	Based on the distance from the Plan area, distance from a larger settlement, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	Yes
Glenasmole Valley SAC	6.48	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
Holdenstown Bog SAC	3.04	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
Wicklow Mountains SAC	3.32	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
Mountmellick SAC	8.73	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
Ballyprior Grassland SAC	2.79	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways	No

Site Name	Distance from County Border (km)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
		(hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	0.39	Based on the proximity of the SAC to the Plan area and the presence of an impact pathway (hydrological link), there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
Mount Hevey Bog SAC	4.13	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
Wicklow Mountains SPA	5.72	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SPA and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	0.37	Based on the proximity of the SPA to the Plan area and the presence of an impact pathway (hydrological link), there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
Boyne Estuary SPA	>15.0	Based on the qualifying interests of the SPA, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SPA, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	>15.0	Based on the qualifying interests of the SAC, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SAC, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
North Dublin Bay SAC	>15.0	Based on the qualifying interests of the SAC, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SAC, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
South Dublin Bay SAC	>15.0	Based on the qualifying interests of the SAC, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SAC, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
North Bull Island SPA	>15.0	Based on the qualifying interests of the SPA, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SPA, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	>15.0	Based on the qualifying interests of the SPA, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SPA, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes

4.3 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment Methodology

In line with the relevant guidance and case law, this stage of the AA consists of the three main steps, the first of which ‘Impact Prediction’ is contained in this section of the report:

- **Impact Prediction** – identify the aspects of the Plan likely to affect the conservation objectives of European sites, the more general classification of impacts can include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to assess potential for impact.
- **Assessment of Effects** – where the effects of the Plan are assessed as to whether they have any adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites as defined by conservation objectives; and
- **Mitigation Measures** – where mitigation measures are identified to ameliorate any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site.

4.4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment Impact Prediction

A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to assess potential for impact.

The source relates to any element of the Plan, including policies, objectives, actions and zonings detailed in the Plan which have the potential to adversely impact the integrity of any European Site.

The pathways by which the Plan can impact European Sites could include direct mortality of species, changes in land use, habitat loss/fragmentation, emissions to air and via hydrological connections.

The receptor will be each European site and their Qis and SCIs, for which there is a pathway of connectivity as a result of the implementation of the Plan.

Impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the Plan can be categorised under the below categories which are derived from the EC 2021 methodological guidance document²:

- **Direct loss:** reduction of habitat coverage as a result of its physical destruction (e.g. due to its removal or to the deposition of construction materials or sediments); loss of breeding, foraging, resting areas for species.
- **Degradation:** deterioration of habitat quality, leading to a reduced abundance of characteristic species or an altered community structure (species composition). This can be caused by changes in abiotic conditions (e.g. water levels or an increase in suspended sediments, pollutants or dust deposition); deterioration of breeding, foraging, resting areas for species.
- **Disturbance:** a change in existing environmental conditions (e.g. increased noise or light pollution, a greater frequentation of people and vehicles). Disturbance may cause, inter alia, the displacement of species individuals, changes in species behaviour, or the risk of morbidity or mortality.
- **Fragmentation:** leading to an alteration of distribution patches of relevant habitats and species, e.g. through the creation physical or ecological barriers in areas that are physically or functionally connected, or, splitting them into smaller more isolated units.
- **Other indirect effects:** indirect change to the quality of the environment (resulting for example from a change in availability of nutrients and light, or an increase in the vulnerability of the site to other new threats such as invasive alien species, human and animal penetration).

In identifying the aspects of the plan likely to affect the conservation objectives of European sites, regard was had to the embedded protection measures included in the Plan as outlined in Section 17 and Table 4.

² EC (2001) 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. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Brussels.

4.5 Formal Guidance

The AA process has taken account of guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW1/10 and PSSP 2/10;
- 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 Directorate - General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive;
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, updated November 2018);
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007); and
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans Under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011).

4.6 Source of Information Used

Information relied upon for this NIR included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land - use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Vol. 2 and Vol. 3);
- Information on the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026 (Colhoun and Cummins, 2014);
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023;
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 Natura Impact Report;
- Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and associated NIR;
- South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016-2022 and associated NIR;
- Various Local Area Plans within Kildare, Fingal and South Dublin County Council County and associated AA Screening Reports and NIRs; and
- Ecological reports and EIS reports for proposed developments within LAP lands.

4.7 Embedded protection measures included in the Draft CDP

This assessment has considered the potential to impact on the achievement of the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites, as required by Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The assessment has been developed in the context of the full policy base contained within the Plan which includes environmental protection policies, introduced with a view of avoiding adverse effects in line with recognised mitigation hierarchy.

Of specific relevance to the potential for impact on European sites, the following environmental commitments and objectives as set out in Table 4, are contained within the Plan and underpin the assessment which follows. Note that there may be recommendations for further strengthening of the wording of these embedded mitigation measures by way of the SEA and NIR recommendations.

There is a lack of clarity around whether embedded mitigation measures included within a plan could be construed as being mitigation as explored further for projects in the People Over Wind case³. Therefore, the decision has been made in this NIR to include the suite of embedded mitigation within the Plan and listed in Table 4 as part of mitigation to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site.

Table 4: Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴	
Chapter 2 – Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy	<p>HO P25</p> <p>Require that proposals retain and maintain existing hedgerows in all instances, with the exception only of the section required to be removed to provide visibility at the proposed site entrance. On such cases, proposals for replacement hedgerows, including details of composition and planting must be submitted with any application which requires such removal.</p>
Chapter 4 Resilient Economy & Job Creation	<p>RE P10</p> <p>Have regard to the following in the preparation of spatial plans and in assessing planning applications for new development, or the expansion of existing development involving hazardous substances:.... <i>“The need to maintain appropriate safe distances between residential areas, areas of public use and areas of natural sensitivity ”</i></p> <p>RE O109</p> <p>Require the preparation of ‘Attraction Management Plans’ for new developments/projects which may impact on areas of ecological or heritage sensitivity in County Kildare. These plans should consider (but not limited to) potential for loss of habitat and disturbance by increased visitor numbers.</p> <p>REO110</p> <p>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>RE P19</p> <p>Promote the tourist development potential of ‘after use’ peatlands, subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development.</p> <p>RE O119</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Support and facilitate the development of Umeras Bog into a Peatlands Park; (b) Develop the tourism potential of peatlands and in particular support the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park and existing Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park as tourist and ecological amenities subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development. (c) Explore what linkages could be created between raised boglands and fens and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring that the environment and nearby properties would not be negatively affected.

³ Details available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62017CJ0323>

⁴ Policy/Objective referencing may have slightly changed in the immediate days before publication therefore some objective numbering may not refer to the specific mitigation intending. However the relevant policies and objectives are still included within the relevant chapter”.

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

	<p>RE O121</p> <p>Support in conjunction with Offaly County Council, and Laois County Council and all other relevant stakeholders such as Bord na Mona, Coillte and the NPWS, any proposal for a new National Peatlands Heritage Park centred in Kildare on Bord Na Mona cutaway bogs in Kildare, Laois and Offaly</p> <p>RE O122</p> <p>Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway and facilitate related commercial opportunities throughout the county, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>RE O125</p> <p>Promote the development of existing and new walking and cycling routes throughout the county as an activity for both international visitors and local tourists, in a manner that is compatible with road safety, nature conservation and other environmental policies.</p> <p>RE P26</p> <p>Support the development of tourism activities on and adjacent to waterways, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and in accordance with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant European Directives.</p> <p>New objective</p> <p>Provide new or upgraded lighting for all footpath and cycle track schemes subject to the consideration of ecology and impacts on wildlife. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required and may result in unlit sections which may include some parts of the county's Greenways'.</p>
<p>Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility & Transport</p>	<p>TM O52</p> <p>Mitigating the negative impacts of infrastructure by incorporating wildlife crossings/underpasses into the designs for new road infrastructure and where possible, by incorporating such measures into the existing road network, where appropriate.</p> <p>TM O80</p> <p>Minimise the extent of hedgerow removal in order to achieve adequate sightlines. However, where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no other suitable development site (for planning reasons) any removed hedgerow shall be replaced with native hedgerow species.</p> <p>TM O96</p> <p>Ensure car parking particularly parking associated with retail areas is designed in such a manner as to reduce visual impact and promote carbon sequestration, green infrastructure, and nature-based surface water drainage solutions by requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landscape design to include planting of trees and pollinator species to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified Landscape Architect; • The construction details for the root zones of proposed trees in accordance with best practice and to specify which locations utilise systems such as 'root barriers' to avoid future conflict between roots, roads, footpath surfaces and underground utility services; • The provision of not more than two parallel or five perpendicular spaces between trees/planting bays; and • The use of permeable paving, where appropriate. <p>TM A21</p> <p>Require that any lighting design strategies to be developed to minimise impacts on biodiversity. The chosen luminaires should have an optimum light control and a tightly controlled distribution to minimise light spillage or pollution outside of the immediate site area and potential impact on biodiversity in particular navigation routes and natural habitats. Cows/shields should be utilised to provide directional lighting. In general lighting luminaires should be positioned to avoid up-lighting where possible.</p>
<p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure and Environmental Services</p>	<p>IN P2</p> <p>Ensure the protection and enhancement of water quality throughout Kildare in accordance with the EU WFD and facilitate the implementation of the associated programme of measures in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (and subsequent updates).</p>

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

	<p>IN O3</p> <p>Promote water conservation and best practice water conservation in all developments, including rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.</p> <p>IN O6</p> <p>Require an undisturbed edge or buffer zone to be maintained, where appropriate, between new developments and riparian zones of water bodies to maintain the natural function of existing ecosystems associated with water courses and their riparian zones, and to enable sustainable public access.</p> <p>IN O7</p> <p>Protect recognised salmonid water courses in conjunction with Inland Fisheries Ireland such as the Liffey catchment, which are recognised to be exceptional in supporting salmonid fish species.</p> <p>IN P4</p> <p>Ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan in order to promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.</p> <p>IN O21</p> <p>Facilitate the development of nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, including the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas. Culverting entire drains and streams will generally be prohibited; interference with natural drainage systems is to be minimised and the Council will explore opportunities to remove culverted drainage systems in favour of open, natural drainage systems.</p> <p>IN O22</p> <p>Require the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage as an integral part of all new development proposals.</p> <p>IN O25</p> <p>Promote the use of green infrastructure (e.g., green roofs, green walls, planting, and green spaces) as natural water retention measures.</p> <p>IN O32</p> <p>Recognise the important role of natural boglands and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</p> <p>IN P7</p> <p>Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan, and the Local Authority Waters Programme in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the county.</p> <p>IN O53</p> <p>Assess applications for developments, having regard to the impact on the quality of surface waters and any targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>IN O64</p> <p>Require the design of external lighting schemes to minimise the incidence of light spillage or pollution into the surrounding environment having regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on biodiversity, particularly on river corridors.</p> <p>IN O65</p> <p>Investigate measures to improve the approach to street lighting and ensure new developments are lit appropriately protecting environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
<p>Chapter 7 Energy and Communications</p>	<p>EC O2</p> <p>Adopt a positive approach to renewable energy proposals, having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, including community, environmental and landscape impacts and impacts on protected or designated heritage areas / structures.</p> <p>EC O11</p>

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy.

EC O12

Support small to medium scale wind energy developments within agricultural, industrial or business areas and support small community-based proposals in urban and rural areas where they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality and visual or residential amenities of the area.

EC O16

Require comprehensive winter and summer bird and wildlife surveys for all proposed wind farms sites, so that impacts on wildlife can be fully assessed and evaluated and so that appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures can be considered, to include for example removal or repositioning of turbines, introducing one black painted rotor blade (to reduce motion smear and reduce incident of collision) or the provision of technologies that help minimize harm to birds and other wildlife.

EC O17

Support the building of integrated and commercial-scale solar projects at appropriate locations subject to a viability assessment and environmental safeguards including the protection of natural or built heritage features, biodiversity and views and prospects.

EC P6

Facilitate the development of new river-based hydro energy plants subject to all necessary environmental considerations.

EC O26

Support proposals for hydro energy installations, including small-scale hydroelectric projects on the rivers, watercourses, freshwater dams and weirs across the County, where projects do not negatively impact on freshwater species, biodiversity and natural or built heritage features. Many of the rivers and tributaries in the county are protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives or other heritage designations, which will require consideration during the investigation of any possible suitable site.

EC O28

Require, appropriate buffer zones around dams, reservoirs and embankments constructed for the purpose of electricity generation.

EC P7

Facilitate large and smaller scale geothermal energy generating developments both standalone and in conjunction with other renewable energy projects, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and consideration of environmental and ecological sensitivities.

EC P10

Facilitate micro-renewable energy installations and auto-generator installations where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that they will not result in a significant adverse impact on residential, visual or environmental amenity.

EC O35

Promote and encourage the use of district heating systems in new residential and commercial developments where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment, landscape, biodiversity or local amenities.

EC O53

Support the implementation of the recommendations contained in the National Peatlands Strategy 2015 and any subsequent revisions.

EC O54

Require an Ecological Impact Assessment to be carried out and submitted with any planning application for energy infrastructure projects (e.g., wind and solar developments) on bog / peatlands (including former cut-away bogs).

EC A7

Support in conjunction with Offaly County Council and Laois County Council any proposal for a new National Peatlands Park on Bord Na Mona cutaway bogs in Kildare, Laois and Offaly.

EC P18

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

	<p>Support the accommodation of Data Centres at appropriate locations in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland subject to appropriate Transport and Environmental Impact Assessments.</p> <p>EC O62</p> <p>Require planning applications involving the siting of overhead cables to minimise visual impact by avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, sites and areas of nature conservation and/or archaeological, cultural or heritage interest.</p> <p>EC O67</p> <p>Consider the removal of trees (singular or in stands) and hedgerows (in part or in whole) only in circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the removal of hedgerow material and or tree(s) is essential for the provision of energy and cannot be designed out. Where proven, the vegetation is to be replaced with equivalent number, species, variety and size as was in situ. Where non-native species are removed, they will be required to be replaced with native species. In all cases, plants of local provenance are to be planted within 1 year of removal and maintained to establishment to negate the habitat and biodiversity loss within 3 years. Existing vegetative or ‘stepping-stone’ linkages are to be maintained and improved upon to increase wildlife corridors.</p> <p>EC P21</p> <p>Support the infrastructural renewal and development of the gas networks in the county, subject to proper planning, heritage, environmental and amenity requirements.</p> <p>EC O85</p> <p>Support and facilitate the production of low carbon renewable biogases such as hydrogen and biomethane, produced largely from agricultural organic matter, that can be exported to the National Grid, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</p>
<p>Chapter 9 Our Rural Environment</p>	<p>RD O6</p> <p>Encourage the conservation and promotion of biodiversity in all rural development activities whilst supporting the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry.</p> <p>RD O9</p> <p>Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that the quality of the natural environment (watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance) is maintained and protected from the threat of pollution to support the achievement of climate targets.</p> <p>RD O11</p> <p>Support the implementation of the objectives identified in the County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014 and any relevant local action plan.</p> <p>RD O19</p> <p>Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p> <p>RD P6</p> <p>Increase forest cover in the county at appropriate locations while protecting sensitive landscapes, water bodies, special areas of conservation and amenity areas.</p> <p>RD O24</p> <p>Support new forestry plantation and works related to forestry, subject to protection of visually sensitive areas, ecology, water resources and abstractions, and compliance with national regulations with respect to protection of the environment.</p> <p>RD O25</p> <p>Support the development of forestry resources with several functions including, flood retention, biodiversity, water quality/catchment management, tourism and recreation in conjunction with Coillte and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>RD O26</p> <p>Discourage monocultural forestry and encourage a greater range of tree species in forestry plantations and promote, in particular, more native, deciduous hardwood woodlands.</p>

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

RD P7

Support the appropriate and sensitive diversification of peatlands, whilst ensuring the protection of their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational significance in line with the National Peatlands Strategy (DAHG 2015) and the Peatlands & Climate Change Action Plan 2030.

RD O27

Encourage the re-wetting, restoring and/or re-wilding of former cutaway bogs and peatlands with an emphasis on promoting biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

RD O29

Support the development of renewable energy (wind and solar) on a percentage/no more than 50% of former industrial peatlands/cutaway bogs, in appropriate locations, subject to relevant environmental assessments.

RD O31

Investigate the feasibility of the development of a Peatland National Park in co-operation with Bord Na Mona, NPWS and other relevant stakeholders as per recommendation 9 of the BOGLAND Report from the EPA in 2011 and action A28 of the National Peatland Strategy 2014.

RD A1

Promote and support the development and operation of a number of long distance peatways that traverse the Bog of Allen utilising former industrial peat railway tracks and lines at the following locations:

- From Ticknevin Bridge (Grand Canal) to Rathangan;
- Enfield (Royal Canal)/Kilshancoo (Raven’s Cross)/Killyon/Doogary through Timahoe Bog to Allenwood Community Development Association Ltd. And onto the Grand Canal and from there through Lullymore East and onto the Rathangan.

RD O32

Ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs);
- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna

RD O34

Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to):

- An Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive where any quarry / sand and gravel extraction are likely to have an impact on a Natura 2000 site (see Chapter 12);
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
- An Ecological Impact Assessment may also be required for sub-threshold developments to evaluate the existence of any protected species/habitats on site
- A detailed landscaping plan to be submitted indicating proposed screening for the operational life of the site. The predominant use of native plant species in the proposed landscaping plan will be expected;
- Detailed landscaping and quarry restoration plans. Habitats and species surveying shall be carried out and shall influence the restoration plan for the site.
- Comprehensive Site Restoration Plan and/or After-Use Strategy having regard to the principles of ‘Rehabilitation Ecology’

RD O38

Have regard to the following guidance documents (as may be amended, replaced, or supplemented) in the assessment of planning applications for quarries, ancillary services, restoration and after-use:

- Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2004).
- Environmental Management Guidelines – Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (Non-Scheduled Minerals), EPA (2006).

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological Code of Practice between the DEHLG an ICF (2009). • Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry (2008). • Wildlife, Habitats, and the Extractive Industry – Guidelines for the protection of biodiversity within the extractive industry, NPWS (2009). <p>RD O39</p> <p>Ensure the satisfactory and sensitive re-instatement and / or re-use of disused quarries and extraction facilities, where active extraction use has ceased. Future uses should include amenity, recreation and biodiversity areas and shall be informed by an assessment of the specific site/lands.</p> <p>RD O40</p> <p>Require that quarry remediation plans provide for a minimum of 80% of the area to be provided for environmental benefit, biodiversity and re-wilding. Where other after-use strategies are proposed (i.e., concrete batching, etc.) that might require more than the 20% in use for ongoing economic purposes, then other lands (including other disused quarries) may be used to compensate any shortfall, either by condition of use, sterilisation/legal agreement, or rehabilitation and transfer to either the Council or an established wildlife group. The 80% requirement for environmental/biodiversity may be waived at sites closer to urban areas where a significant portion of the site is being provided for sports, recreation and amenity.</p>
<p>Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>AH O47</p> <p>Preserve, protect and where necessary encourage the use of heritage/traditional varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/ regional biodiversity resource and that contribute to local identity.</p> <p>AH O49</p> <p>Require that planning applications take into consideration the impacts of the development on their landscapes and demonstrate that the development proposal has been designed to take account of the heritage resource of the landscape.</p>
<p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity</p>	<p>AH P1</p> <p>Integrate in the development management process the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate.</p> <p>AH O1</p> <p>Require, as part of the Development Management Process, the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments that adequately assess the biodiversity resource within proposed development sites, to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation and to integrate this biodiversity resource into the design and layout of new development and to increase biodiversity within the proposed development.</p> <p>AH P2</p> <p>Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all-natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.</p> <p>AH O5</p> <p>Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site located within and immediately adjacent to the county and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.</p> <p>AH O6</p> <p>Ensure an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out 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 Natura 2000 sites will not be</p>

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.

AH O7

Support the establishment of conservation measures and the preparation and implementation of management plans for the conservation of Natura 2000 sites by NPWS, as required by Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.

AH P3

Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.

AH P4

Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species which are protected by law.

AH O10

Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species.

AH O11

Ensure appropriate species and habitat avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into all new development proposals.

AH O12

Possibly require a derogation licence, issued by the DHLGH, in the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations or the Wildlife Acts 1976 -2012.

AH O13

Require all applications for new developments to identify, protect and sensitively enhance the most important ecological features and habitats, and incorporate these into the overall open space network, keeping free from development and to provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process and by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes or towers, bat roost sites, hedgehog highways , green roofs, etc.).

AH A5

Undertake surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law, subject to available resources.

AH P7

Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and, wherever possible, maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora while discouraging culverting or realignment.

AH O23

Ensure the protection of rivers, streams and other watercourses and, wherever possible, maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora while discouraging culverting or realignment. Endeavour to re-open previously culverted streams and watercourses through any future development/redevelopment proposals.

AH O24

Require the preparation and submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) including bat and otter surveys for developments along river or canal corridors.

AH O25

Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) in relation to any development (greenfield development or redevelopment of brownfield sites) that could potentially impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats while taking account of ‘Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites’ (IFI, 2004) and ‘Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment’ (IFI, 2020) and as identified in Table 12.4.

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the Draft CDP⁴

AH O26

Have regard to the riparian buffer zones and potential uses as identified in Table 12.4 when considering potential development and proposed development layouts within or adjacent to waterways.

AH O28

Require that expert advice is sought from a suitably qualified bat expert, in developing lighting proposals along river and stream corridors, to mitigate impacts of lighting on bats and other species. The use of artificial lighting shall be avoided in streamside zones (see Fig 12.2) and artificial lighting should be restricted unless absolutely necessary in the middle zone (See Table 12.4). LEDs should, where permitted, be warm white to minimise disturbance to wildlife.

AH O29

Ensure that any runoff from developed areas does not result in any deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats and require that pollution generated by a development is treated within the development area prior to discharge to local watercourses.

AH O33

Ensure that Kildare's wetlands and watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and maintain good ecological status of wetlands and watercourses in support of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and Ramsar Convention.

AH O29

Protect wetland sites that have been rated A (International), B (National) C+ (County) and C (Local) importance as identified in the County Kildare Wetlands Survey 2012-2014, (See Tables 12.5 & 12.6).

AH O37

Require all development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such species exist, in order to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.

AH O51

Strengthen ecological links between urban areas, Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, parks and open spaces and the wider regional Green Infrastructure network.

5. Assessment of Effects and Mitigation Measures

5.1 Introduction

Where it cannot be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effects from implementation of the Plan, mitigation measures have been proposed. The measures that have been incorporated are compatible with those proposed by the SEA Environmental Report and with other relevant plans and programmes e.g. Programme of Measures proposed by the River Basin Management Plan and SEA.

5.2 Measures to protect Habitats and Species

As outlined in Section 4 of this assessment a number of significant effects that could impact on European QI and SCI habitats and species have been identified.

Embedded mitigation measures have been included in the objectives of the Plan that will help to ensure these impacts are avoided. As a result of the AA and SEA of the Plan, it has been proposed that existing objectives are amended to strengthen to protection afforded to European sites

These objectives will ensure that project level AAs are carried out where development projects have the potential for likely significant effects on European sites. This will help to ensure that project level effects, which cannot be predicted at the Development Plan level, will be mitigated and encroachment on protected sites through inappropriate development will be avoided.

5.3 Potential Significant Effects

There is potential that any designated site within the functional area of the Plan may be adversely affected through the implementation of the Plan. Development in either alone or in combination with other plans or projects can potentially lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment with long term consequences. As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document “*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*” impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the Plan can be categorised under the following broad headings and are explained in further detail in Sections 5.3.1 to 5.3.5:

- Loss/reduction of habitat area (e.g. due to the development of new projects);
- Disturbance to Key Species (e.g. increased public access to protected sites, or during the construction phase of infrastructure projects);
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Reduction in species density; and
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as decrease in water quality/quantity (e.g. through inadequate wastewater treatment, run-off of pollutants during construction and operation of developments, agricultural runoff).

The Plan is a high-level plan that provides a framework for sustainable development within County Kildare over the period 2023 to 2029. Overall, the Plan underpins the development of housing, communities and urban centres with supporting transport, waste, water, energy and communications infrastructure within the County. The villages, rural settlements and towns that have plans which form part of the Plan are prescribed with specific locations for development. Where specific development is known, the potential impacts on European sites have been assessed accordingly.

Plan components which would be likely to result in potential impacts include proposed amenity walkways and cycleways, improvements to potable water infrastructure, waste water treatment requirements arising from the proposed increase in population, upgrading the capacity of the Maynooth and Kildare rail lines, road improvements/upgrades, and renewable energy such as hydroelectric/wind energy/geothermal energy related activities.

5.3.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is removal of an Annex I habitat type for which a site is designated. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and the loss of important habitat functions. This can be resultant through the introduction of invasive species, toxic contamination or physical alteration.

There is potential that any designated site within the functional area of the Plan may be adversely affected in this manner through the implementation of the Plan. Development in either alone or in combination with other plans or projects can potentially lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment with long term consequence. Construction of housing and commercial/industrial properties could lead to loss of habitats if inappropriately located within the boundaries of a designated site. Indirectly, habitat loss may also occur through draining of development lands adjacent to or hydro-geologically linked to designated sites that support surface or ground water dependent habitats such as bogs and rivers.

The Plan supports the development adjacent to and/or within European Sites. The development of housing, infrastructure, commercial/industrial or touristic routes such as walkways and cycleways could potentially lead to habitat loss through inappropriately sited developments. The Plan includes a commitment to develop and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Kildare as well as commitments to actively support measures relating to the delivery of the Barrow Blueway by Waterways Ireland and the delivery of greenway projects such as the Dublin to Galway initiative.

The development of new and existing walking, cycling and driving routes/trails (e.g. Arthur’s Way, Dublin-Galway Greenway, Barrow Blueway, Shackleton Trail, the Gordon Bennett Route, the Grand Canal Greenway, Brigid 1500 and other opportunities) including the development of linkages between trails in Kildare and adjoining counties have the potential to contribute towards a better management of tourism in sensitive areas and thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure also presents potential effects with respect to the protection of European Sites.

Those European sites that could potentially be affected by habitat loss include those sites listed in Table 1 above that are designated for terrestrial habitats and species. As developments within the Plan have not been specifically located reduction of habitat on any European sites within the Plan Area cannot be ruled out at this stage. Therefore, all European sites listed in Table 1 above may potentially be affected by habitat loss. European sites which may be potentially affected by habitat loss due to the development of specific settlements of the County which are within or nearby these sites include those presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Sites which have the potential to be affected by habitat loss

Site Code	European Sites Including	Settlement
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athy • Ballyroe • Castledermot • Maganey/Levitstown • Monasterevin
001387	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coill Dubh/Cooleragh • Prosperous
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clongorey/Blacktrench • Milltown • Newbridge
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maynooth

5.3.2 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance to European Site QI or SCI species is likely to increase where there is an increase in activity levels from recreation, tourism or amenity or from developments located within the zone of influence of European sites. Sources of disturbance include noise, vibration, light, construction works, and increased amenity uses along waterways arising from proposed developments arising from implementation of the Plan. Operational phases of development can also contribute to disturbance where species are disturbed by increased, intensified or altered public usage and access.

Table 6 European sites and their QIs/SCIs vulnerable to disturbance from the implementation of the Plan

Site Code	Site Name	QIs and SCIs potentially affected by the Plan
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Marsh fritillary
000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Geyer's whorl snail Narrow-mouthed whorl snail Desmoulin's whorl snail
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Greylag goose Lesser black-backed Gull
002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	Allis shad Atlantic salmon Brook lamprey Desmoulin's whorl snail European river lamprey Freshwater pearl mussel Killarney Fern Otter Twaite shad White clawed crayfish
001398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail Desmoulin's whorl snail
002141	Mountmellick SAC	Desmoulin's whorl snail
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	River lamprey Atlantic salmon Otter
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	Kingfisher
000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	Atlantic salmon Brook lamprey Common seal Freshwater pearl mussel Otter River lamprey Sea lamprey Twaite shad
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Otter

Site Code	Site Name	QIs and SCIs potentially affected by the Plan
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin Peregrine
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> Golden Plover Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i> Black-tailed Godwit Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> Grey Plover Knot Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> Oystercatcher Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Redshank Sanderling Shelduck Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> Teal <i>Anas cracca</i> Turnstone Wetlands & Waterbirds
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> Bar-tailed Godwit Black-headed Gull Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Dunlin Grey Plover Knot Light-bellied Brent Goose Oystercatcher Redshank Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>

Site Code	Site Name	QIs and SCIs potentially affected by the Plan
		Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> Sanderling Wetlands & Waterbirds

5.3.3 Habitat or Species Fragmentation

Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up of or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological units. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movements of species. This is relevant where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted such as along river corridors when construction introduces a barrier to the free movement of species from one area of habitat to another.

Installation of linear infrastructure e.g. roads and other transportation links, water and wastewater pipelines, electricity supply lines and renewable energy installations can have a negative impact over a wide distance where such infrastructure crosses, and/or is adjacent to, designated sites. Effects can include habitat or species fragmentation where, for example, electricity supply lines or wind turbines may interrupt the flight paths of birds or newly installed bridges disturb the migration of salmon. Disturbance impact to birds may also lead to fragmentation including those sites that are designated for terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species.

5.3.4 Reduction in Species Density

Reduction in species density may result from loss/reduction of habitat area, disturbance or habitat fragmentation, either individually or in combination. Changes in habitat quality can also lead to the reduction in populations of sensitive and/or qualifying interest species. Developments can result in an increase in species mortality and has the potential to displace them from their habitat. Displacement from territorial habitats can impact population density as a result.

5.3.5 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Indirect Effects)

Changes in key indicators of conservation value can include a decrease in water quality/quantity, its nutrient load and the hydrology of waterbodies (e.g. through inadequate wastewater treatment, run-off of pollutants during construction and operation of developments, agricultural runoff). Where changes in quality to surface and ground water dependent ecosystems may occur through implementation of projects/developments, this can lead to direct and indirect impacts on a range of habitats and species of conservation importance. Changes in water quantity, such as water table height, flow regime and flow rates may occur, impacting habitats and associated species. Aerial emissions from certain developments, such as dust and Nitrogen oxides can potentially alter the soil and water nutrient status within the vicinity.

All SACs & SPAs and their qualifying interest species listed within Table 1 and Table 2 have the potential to be impacted by indirect effects following the implementation of the Plan, in particular those sites which have hydrological connections.

5.4 Mitigation

Mitigation to prevent likely significant effects and avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of any European sites is presented in two forms in this NIR. Firstly, in Table 5, the broader elements of the Plan are considered at a more general level, with the potential types of impact identified and potentially relevant European sites listed. A suite of embedded mitigation measures within the Plan which will contribute to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of any European sites is also provided.

A more detailed consideration of the elements of the Plan is provided in Table 7 with each policy, objective, action or other specific element of the Plan such as zoning maps.

Table 7: Mitigation against the potential effects associated with provisions of the Plan

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	Mitigation including:
<p>Chapter 3 Housing</p> <p>New housing development throughout the county</p> <p>Transformation of brownfield sites & regeneration of urban centres</p> <p>New student accommodation</p> <p>Implementation of Local Area Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 3 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 3 Housing Chapter 3 Objectives: HO P12, HO P13, HO P22, HO P25</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37.</p>
<p>Chapter 4 Resilient Economy & Job Creation</p> <p>Provisions relating to mixed use settlements and sustainable centres (RE)</p> <p>Working with statutory bodies (TII & Irish Water) to provide support for services to accommodate future economic growth. (REO08 & O10)</p> <p>Enhancement of broadband and installation of fibre network. (REO11)</p> <p>Acquisition of land for entrepreneurial initiatives & clustered incubator units (REO12)</p> <p>Provision of new postal facilities including postal infrastructure (REO13)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 4 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 4 Resilient Economy & Job Creation Chapter 4 Objectives: RE O122</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	Mitigation including:
<p>Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility Transport</p> <p>Provisions relating to existing and new road infrastructure, walking, cycling, rail and aviation.</p> <p>Provisions to public transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 5 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility Transport Chapter 5 Actions: TM A21 Chapter 5 Objectives: TM O52</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Policies: IN P4, IN P8 Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O5, IN O21, IN O22, IN O32, INO64, INO65</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>
<p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services</p> <p>Provisions relating to the infrastructure of water, utilities, flood risk management and pollution.</p>	<p>Habitat Loss</p> <p>Disturbance to key species</p> <p>Habitat/species fragmentation</p> <p>Changes to key indicators of environmental quality</p>	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 6 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Policies: IN P4, IN P7, IN P8, Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22, IN O32, INO64, INO65</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>
<p>Chapter 7 Energy & Communications</p> <p>Provisions relating to energy supply, renewable energy development, electricity supply and telecommunications.</p> <p>Provisions relating to electrification of transportation methods</p> <p>Provisions relating to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Provisions relating to ‘after use’ of industrial peatlands, sites, amenities and power stations</p> <p>Provisions relating to data centre development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 7 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Policies: IN P4, IN P7, IN P8, Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22, IN O32, INO64, INO65</p> <p>Chapter 7 Energy & Communications Chapter 7 Policies: EC P4, Chapter 7 Objectives EC O16, EC O17, EC O26, EC O54, ECO56, EC O62</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	Mitigation including:
<p>Chapter 8 Urban Centres & Retail</p> <p>Provisions relating to the development and enhancement of urban centres and retail areas</p> <p>Provisions relating to the promotion and encouragement of tourism retail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 8 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>
<p>Chapter 9 Our Rural Economy</p> <p>Provisions relating to rural infrastructure development</p> <p>Provisions relating to former extractive industries and related sites (peatlands, quarries)</p> <p>Provisions relating to forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 9 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 9: Our Rural Economy Chapter 9 Policies: RD P6 Chapter 9 Objectives: RD O6, RD O25, RD O32, RD O33</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>
<p>Chapter 10 Community Infrastructure & Creative Places</p> <p>Provisions relating to residential care for the elderly inclusive of amenities</p> <p>Provisions relating to the enhancement and promotion of arts and cultural facilities</p> <p>Provisions relating to educational, childcare, library, health, burial and fire services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 10 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>
<p>Chapter 11 Built & Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Provisions relating to Kildare’s heritage resource including archaeology, heritage sites and the preservation of built and cultural heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance to key species • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 11 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15</p>

Element of the Plan	Potential Impact	Mitigation including:
		Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37
<p>Chapter 13 Landscape & Amenity</p> <p>Includes the development and enhancement of recreational areas and amenities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 13 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p> <p>Chapter 13 Landscape & Amenity Chapter 13 Policies: Chapter 13 Objectives: LR O7, LR O8, LR O10, LR O21, LR O25, LR O86,</p>
<p>Chapter 14 Urban Design, Placemaking and Regeneration</p> <p>Provisions relating to town and village settlements, design, renewal and regeneration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss • Disturbance to key species • Habitat/species fragmentation • Changes to key indicators of environmental quality 	<p>The following policies/objectives/aims from the Plan will mitigate against those provisions within Chapter 14 that may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites:</p> <p>Chapter 6 Infrastructure & Environmental Services Chapter 6 Objectives: IN O22</p> <p>Chapter 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure Chapter 12 Policies: AH P1, AH P2, AH P3, AH P4, AH P7, AH P8, AH P15 Chapter 12 Objectives: AH O5, AH O6, AH O8, AH O10, AH O11, AH O12, AH O13, AH O23, AH O24, AH O25, AH O28, AH O29, AH O30, AH O37</p>

6. Assessment of in combination effects with other plans or projects

The assessment of in-combination effects with other plans or projects is a crucial and often difficult aspect of Article 6(3) assessment, particularly at the plan level. This step aims to consider the policy and framework within which the Plan is being developed and to identify at this early stage any possible in-combination effects of the Plan with other plans and projects.

In theory, there are many other plans/ projects that interact with or have the potential to combine pressures and threats to European sites; however, the in-combination assessment is a matter of applying a practical and realistic approach. Table 8 contains the assessment in relation to the key plans and projects in the area. Further supporting information is contained within the AA Screening Report contained in **Table 8** of this NIR.

Table 8: Plans & Projects likely to cause In-Combination Effects with the Draft Kildare CDP.

Directive/Plan/Programme/ Policy	Purpose	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
International		
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality
EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Groundwater Directive (2006/11/EC)	This directive establishes a regime, which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in coastal and river basin areas.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure such as flood walls or flood defences. Avoidance on, or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible, favouring infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan.
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further pollution.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.

Directive/Plan/Programme/ Policy	Purpose	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
	disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.	
Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Objective is to encourage the appropriate use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man. To this end, it prohibits the use of untreated sludge on agricultural land unless it is injected or incorporated into the soil.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC)	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources.	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
Renewable Energy Directive (2018/2001/EC)	The objective of the directive is to promote the development, expansion and use of renewable energies need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the Union's commitment under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.	Potential in-combination impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure such as wind turbines, hydro-turbines, solar farms etc. Avoidance on, or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible, favouring infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan.
National		
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	This Act provides the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy by 2050.	It is noted that the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was subject to SEA and AA Screening. The AA Screening report concluded that specific projects and plans arising may be subject to AA, as appropriate, and this represents a sensible approach in the context of the spirit of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
Climate Action Plan 2019	This Plan sets out the objectives and policy actions to achieve net zero carbon energy systems for Irish society to create a resilient, vibrant and sustainable country.	
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012	The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework aims to ensure that adaptation actions are undertaken across key sectors and at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change.	
National Climate and Energy Plan 2021-2030	The National Climate and Energy Plan 2021-2030 sets out objectives and policies relating to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions between 2021-2030.	
National Development Plan 2018-2027	The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	Potential for in-combination effects as it sets the policy framework on which Plan is based. However, it is a policy of the National Planning Framework to ensure the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets. Linkage to wider policies such as for European Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive is recognised and the need to set high level

Directive/Plan/Programme/ Policy	Purpose	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
		planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of our natural environment. These plans have been subject to AA. Where these have influenced Plan policy, potential for impact has been assessed. No likely significant in combination effects are considered likely.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP)	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The WSSP has undergone SEA and AA, which highlighted the need for additional plan/project environmental assessments to be carried out at the tier 2 and tier 3 levels.</p>	Where these have influenced CDP policy, potential for impact has been assessed. No likely significant in combination effects are considered likely.
National Water Resources Plan (NWRP)	The NWRP seeks to develop sustainable water supplies taking into consideration drought periods when assimilation capacity for diffuse runoff may be reduced. This plan has been subject to AA.	
Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, under the Floods Directive	Ireland's Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is central to the medium and long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk throughout Ireland. It delivers core components of the National Flood Policy whilst also meeting the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies and their product Flood Risk Management Plans have undergone AA and take into account European Site Designations. Where these have influenced Plan policy, potential for impact has been assessed. No likely significant in combination effects are considered likely
Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027	The Draft River Basin Management Plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).	The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 public consultation is currently underway (3rd cycle RMBD). An AA NIR has been prepared in support of the draft plan. No likely significant in combination effects are considered likely.
National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (2015)	The NWSMP sets out a nationwide standardised approach to ensure that treated wastewater sludge across the country is effectively managed, stored, transported and re-used or disposed of in a sustainable way, to the benefit of the public and the environment we all live in.	The plan was subject to both AA and SEA and includes a number of mitigation measures which were identified in relation to transport of materials and land spreading of sludge. No in-combination effects are expected with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures. No likely significant in combination effects are considered likely.
Food Wise 2025	The Plan sets out the ten year plan for the agri-food sector and underlines the	The strategy was informed by a NIR prepared for the same. No likely

Directive/Plan/Programme/ Policy	Purpose	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
	sector's position within the Irish economy and ability for growth.	significant in combination effects are considered likely.
Irish Water's Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan	The Government has a National Strategy to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water and Irish Water has developed a Mitigation Plan which includes checking for lead in drinking water at the tap as part of a nationwide monitoring programme.	The plan proposes orthophosphate dosing of the water supply at various treatment sites. This plan was subject to AA, which highlighted the vulnerability of certain habitats and species including oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes and the slender Naiad. No likely significant in combination effects are considered likely
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region	The RSES sets out the strategic regional development framework for the Region, with a primary aim to implement Project Ireland 2040 - the National Planning Framework, at the regional tier of Government and to support the achievement of balanced regional development.	The plan was subject to both AA and SEA and includes a number of mitigation measures which were identified.
<p>People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025. Irish Government Tourism Policy Statement (2015)</p> <p>Tourism Development & innovation – A strategy for investment 2016-2022 (Failte Ireland)</p> <p>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 (DoTTS)</p> <p>Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-2020 (Fáilte Ireland South West)</p>	<p>These Tourism plans recognise the value of Ireland's natural environment and its importance in supporting Irish Tourism. The importance of delivering Tourism growth and development in an environmentally sustainable manner is highlighted in the Government Tourism Policy Statement.</p> <p>In addition, it is noted that it is a strategic objective of the Wild Atlantic Way program to ensure that it is delivered in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism, ensuring that economic, social and environmental benefits are delivered in a balanced way.</p>	No significant in-combination impacts are envisaged.
EirGrid Transmission Development Plan 2020-2029	The objective of this Plan is to enhance the Irish transmission network over the length of the Plan.	The Plan was subject to an Environmental Appraisal Report in line with the committed Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prepared for the Grid Implementation Plan (IP) 2022-2027.
Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030	This sets out a framework to guide policy and the actions that Government intends to take in the energy sector up to 2030.	The Plan takes into account European and International climate change objectives and agreements.
Forests, products and people Ireland's forest policy – a renewed vision (2014)	This document incorporates nature conservation considerations. As part of this it is a stated policy statement to ensure that afforestation, management of existing forests and development of the forest sector are undertaken in a manner that ensures compliance with environmental requirements and objectives and enhances their contribution to the environment and their	The Plan was subject to both an AA and SEA and includes a number of mitigation measures which were identified in European Sites and qualifying interest species. No significant in-combination impacts are envisaged.

Directive/Plan/Programme/Policy	Purpose	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
	capacity for the provision of public goods and services	
National Peatlands Strategy 2015	The objective of the Strategy is to deal with land management and development, restoration, conservation, tourism potential, carbon accounting and community participation in managing all peatlands.	The Strategy aims to restore peatlands within the country which is a shared objective of the CDP. Any potential in-combination effects are considered to be positive.
Regional		
Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035	The Strategy outlines transport development objectives for the Greater Dublin Area over a twenty year period.	All plans have been or will be subject to AA screening and if necessary Stage 2 AA with no likely significant effects or avoidance of impacts on the integrity meaning in-combination effects are not likely.
Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework (2009)	Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed	
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically	
Local		
Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027	Overall strategies for the proper planning and sustainable development of the administrative area of the relevant Local Authorities.	Kildare is bordered by a number of counties with several protected European sites located across county borders. Similar development plans are in existence, or in draft format, throughout the region. All plans have been or will be subject to AA screening and if necessary Stage 2 AA with no likely significant effects or avoidance of impacts on the integrity meaning in-combination effects are not likely.
Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027		
Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028		
Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027		
Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028		
Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023		
Draft South County Dublin Development Plan 2022-2028		
Draft Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029		
Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028		
Athy Local Area Plan 2021-2027		
Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027		

Directive/Plan/Programme/ Policy	Purpose	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>Local land use plans including: Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022, Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2016-2022, Kilcock Local Area Plan 2015-2021, Kilcullen LAP 2014-2020, Kildare LAP 2012, Newbridge LAP 2013-2019, Maynooth LAP 2013-2019, Collinstown LAP, Kilcock LAP 2015-2021, Clane Local Area Plan 2017-2023, Celbridge LAP 2017-2023, Leixlip LAP 2020-2023, Sallins LAP 2009, Naas LAP 2019-2023 Edenderry LAP 2011</p>	<p>Strategies for development in towns and villages.</p>	<p>All plans have been or will be subject to AA screening and if necessary Stage 2 AA with no likely significant effects or avoidance of impacts on the integrity meaning in-combination effects are not likely.</p>

7. Preliminary Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

7.1 Conclusion Statement

This NIR has considered the potential of the Plan to give rise to likely significant effects which could adversely affect any European site, with regard to their qualifying interests, associated conservation status and the overall site integrity. In considering the potential for adverse effects, it has been noted that the Plan is largely a strategic and high-level plan, which will inform the preparation of project level design and assessment. In light of this, and where necessary, a precautionary approach has been adopted by the NIR to ensure that the policies and objectives proposed and supported by the Plan are underpinned by the principles of sustainability of which the protection of European Sites forms part of. Where necessary, the requirement for project level environmental assessment is emphasised in mitigation.

As such, the Plan itself, subject to it securing the mitigation detailed in this report, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

7.2 Reasons for conclusion

Policies and objectives contained within the plan will either not lead to development, are intended to protect conserve or enhance the natural environment, will positively steer development and pressure away from European Sites and associated sensitive areas, positively make provision to ensure that implementation will not have a significant effect or an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site. It shall have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment. Therefore, if project level Environmental Assessment/Habitats Directive Assessments are required, rigorously applied and the mitigation hierarchy follows, there should be no viable or realistic pathway for adverse impact on a European Site.

8. Next Step

The next step in the process is wider public consultation on the draft Plan, the accompanying SEA Environmental Report, Habitats Directive AA NIR and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

It should be noted that recommendations contained within this NIR have not yet been incorporated into the published Plan, as it currently stands in draft form. If the recommendations in this NIR are not incorporated into the Plan during the next stage of the plan making process, further assessment will be undertaken in relation to same, as necessary.

Where changes are made to the draft Plan following public consultation and consideration by the Chief Executive and the elected members, these will be assessed and this NIR will be updated by way of addendum documents to reflect any such changes.

Prior to adoption, Kildare County Council, as the Competent Authority for the AA must consider the NIR and any other relevant information and, for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and its application through the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, as amended, must determine whether the plan either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects would adversely affect the integrity of any European Site. Only having ascertained this can the Plan be adopted and come into effect.

Appendix A Site Pressures and Threats

A.1 Site Pressures and Threats

Site Pressures and Threats

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	<p>C01: Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>B01: Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest. This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevents the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation for the restoration of some heathlands and peats, which were in the past afforested and are currently being managed and replanted as forests).</p> <p>G05: Professional freshwater fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased direct mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>E01: Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>J01: Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g. river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>D05: Development and operation of energy production plants (e.g. bioenergy plants, fossil and nuclear energy plants).</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Pollardstown Fen SAC	<p>E01: Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>E03: Maintenance and construction of marine and inland water shipping lanes, transport corridors or coastal infrastructure for anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial) including hydrological and morphological modifications for transport (e.g. canalisation, water deviation, barriers and locks, dredging and desilting of waterways for navigational purposes).</p> <p>F02: Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>B:</p> <p>F03: Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to commercial or industrial areas (e.g. building the industrial parks or warehouse zones) or construction of solitary buildings not dedicated to housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use).</p> <p>This pressure relates not only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>D02: Hydropower generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building dams or weirs, changes of hydrological functioning rivers or chemical and thermal properties of water due to operation of dams and weirs).</p> <p>C01: Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>B01: Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest.</p> <p>J01: Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g. river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Red Bog, Kildare SAC	<p>F03 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to commercial or industrial areas (e.g. building the industrial parks or warehouse zones) or construction of solitary buildings not dedicated to housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use). This pressure relates not only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>A08 Inappropriate techniques or timing of mowing, for example mowing at inappropriate times, mowing with too high a frequency, using machinery or inadequate machinery for mowing of grasslands or leaving dead material after mowing on the ground (mulching).</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>C01: Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>E01: Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels)</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	<p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>A04: Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
River Barrow and River Nore SAC	<p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>B05 Decline in forest area due to non-replanting or absence of natural regrowth after forest exploitation.</p> <p>J03 Mixed source air pollution, air-borne pollutants. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. source of pollutants for acid rain is usually a mix of emissions from vehicles, power plants etc.). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>H01 Military, paramilitary or police infrastructure, exercises and operations on land (excluding military bases in urbanised areas). Includes, for example, munitions testing, restricted access to military training areas, military manoeuvres).</p> <p>E02 Operation and use of marine and inland water transport corridors, as well as pressures linked to transport activities on these freshwater and ocean waterways (e.g. disturbance from shipping at feeding/nesting areas, death or injury by collision, wakes from cargo ship traffic, oil spills from tankers, increased risk of colonisation of islands by invasive species). Includes the anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial).</p> <p>M01 Volcanic activity</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntingia calabura</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>B07 Removal of dead and dying trees (e.g. to prevent forestry pests) and removal of fallen wood (e.g. for firewood collection, fire prevention or enabling access by machinery).</p> <p>D03 Renewable energy (solar power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building solar farms).</p> <p>A10 Insufficient grazing or undergrazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
	<p>B02 Conversion of forest habitats into another type of forest habitat, often conversion from extensive forests into production forests (e.g. conversion to monocultures) but also other types of conversion (e.g. conversion from coppice to high forest or changes of tree species composition). Includes deliberate changes. Passive abandonment of traditional forest management should be reported as B04.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation).</p> <p>F01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to housing, settlement or recreational areas. Includes development of dispersed housing.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period, It also refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>A02 Conversion of agricultural habitats into other types of agricultural habitats. This pressure often refers to conversion of semi-natural agricultural habitats (e.g. meadows) into intensive production areas (e.g. sown grasslands or arable fields) but it also includes more subtle changes, mostly of habitat conditions (e.g. change of crops or a move from spring-sown to autumn/winter-sown cereals causing denser/taller crop structure earlier in the nesting season or earlier harvesting) or other types of conversion (e.g. rice paddies into other types of culture).</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current agricultural use of a habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Mouds Bog SAC	<p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>A01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural non-agricultural habitats (e.g. semi-natural forests) and non-agricultural habitats of species targeted by the nature directives into agricultural land (e.g. pastures, meadows, arable fields). This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the agricultural use of originally non-agricultural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p> <p>B Forestry</p> <p>E02 Operation and use of marine and inland water transport corridors, as well as pressures linked to transport activities on these freshwater and ocean waterways (e.g. disturbance from shipping at feeding/nesting areas, death or injury by collision, wakes from cargo ship traffic, oil spills from tankers, increased risk of colonisation of islands by invasive species). Includes the anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial).</p> <p>J01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g. river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>B01 Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest. This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevents the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation for the restoration of some heathlands and peats, which were in the past afforested and are currently being managed and replanted as forests).</p> <p>G01 Professional and recreational marine fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>F03 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to commercial or industrial areas (e.g. building the industrial parks or warehouse zones) or construction of solitary buildings not dedicated to housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use).</p> <p>This pressure relates not only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	<p>A10 Insufficient grazing or undergrazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>B Forestry</p> <p>A08 Inappropriate techniques or timing of mowing, for example mowing at inappropriate times, mowing with too high a frequency, using machinery or inadequate machinery for mowing of grasslands or leaving dead material after mowing on the ground (mulching).</p> <p>E01 Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Slaney River Valley SAC	<p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>H01 Military, paramilitary or police infrastructure, exercises and operations on land (excluding military bases in urbanised areas). Includes, for example, munitions testing, restricted access to military training areas, military manoeuvres).</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>A01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural non-agricultural habitats (e.g. semi-natural forests) and non-agricultural habitats of species targeted by the nature directives into agricultural land (e.g. pastures, meadows, arable fields). This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the agricultural use of originally non-agricultural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p> <p>A10 Insufficient grazing or undergrazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p> <p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>A08 Inappropriate techniques or timing of mowing, for example mowing at inappropriate times, mowing with too high a frequency, using machinery or inadequate machinery for mowing of grasslands or leaving dead material after mowing on the ground (mulching).</p> <p>D03 Renewable energy (solar power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building solar farms).</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>E03 Maintenance and construction of marine and inland water shipping lanes, transport corridors or coastal infrastructure for anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial) including hydrological and morphological modifications for transport (e.g. canalisation, water deviation, barriers and locks, dredging and desilting of waterways for navigational purposes).</p> <p>E05 This pressure should be used to address the pollution to surface or ground waters resulting from activities which cannot be</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
	<p>directly attributed to specific activities covered by other level 2 pressures (e.g. leaks and spills from commercial freshwater vessels should be reported under E02 Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations).</p> <p>F01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to housing, settlement or recreational areas. Includes development of dispersed housing.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period, It also refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>F03 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to commercial or industrial areas (e.g. building the industrial parks or warehouse zones) or construction of solitary buildings not dedicated to housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use).</p> <p>This pressure relates not only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>A09 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock in agricultural and agroforestry habitats (e.g. pastures, meadows, pastured forests) where grazing causes damage to vegetation or soil (e.g. trampling, nitrogen input) or where livestock presents a disturbance or a competitor for species targeted by the nature directives. Includes intensive grazing in other habitats in agricultural landscapes (riparian areas, bogs, scrubs and forests) where grazing causes damage to vegetation or habitats.</p> <p>B02 Conversion of forest habitats into another type of forest habitat, often conversion from extensive forests into production forests (e.g. conversion to monocultures) but also other types of conversion (e.g. conversion from coppice to high forest or changes of tree species composition). Includes deliberate changes. Passive abandonment of traditional forest management should be reported as B04.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation).</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	<p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>E05 This pressure should be used to address the pollution to surface or ground waters resulting from activities which cannot be directly attributed to specific activities covered by other level 2 pressures (e.g. leaks and spills from commercial freshwater vessels should be reported under E02 Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations).</p> <p>K02 Drainage including landfill, land reclamation and drying out should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>G01 Professional and recreational marine fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Glenasmole Valley SAC	<p>B02 Conversion of forest habitats into another type of forest habitat, often conversion from extensive forests into production forests (e.g. conversion to monocultures) but also other types of conversion (e.g. conversion from coppice to high forest or changes of tree species composition). Includes deliberate changes. Passive abandonment of traditional forest management should be reported as B04.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation).</p> <p>A03 Large scale changes (affecting the habitat at landscape level or landscape functions like connectivity or nutrient cycling) of agricultural systems from traditional mixed or diversified farming and agroforestry into intensive specialised farming (e.g. single crop).</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>H02 Military, paramilitary or police infrastructure, exercises and operations in the freshwater and marine environment (e.g. collisions with vessels, disturbance by sonar from military vessels).</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>H01 Military, paramilitary or police infrastructure, exercises and operations on land (excluding military bases in urbanised areas). Includes, for example, munitions testing, restricted access to military training areas, military manoeuvres).</p> <p>B01 Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevents the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation for the restoration of some heathlands and peats, which were in the past afforested and are currently being managed and replanted as forests).</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>F02 Construction in existing urban or recreational areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and structures, and the demolition of buildings and human structures. This pressure can include e.g. demolition of structures important for nesting or sheltering of</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
	<p>birds and bats, negative impact of isolation or other reconstruction works to nesting birds or bats. Includes deliberate closure of roofs (to prevent bats or birds).</p> <p>A08 Inappropriate techniques or timing of mowing, for example mowing at inappropriate times, mowing with too high a frequency, using machinery or inadequate machinery for mowing of grasslands or leaving dead material after mowing on the ground (mulching).</p> <p>E01 Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Wicklow Mountains SAC	<p>E01 Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>G05 Professional freshwater fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased direct mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>B06 Logging (of individual trees) causing damage to e.g. standing trees, forest undergrowth or soil and springs.</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>G04 Commercial and non-professional harvesting of wild marine macro- and micro-algae .</p> <p>G02 Activities related to marine fish and shellfish processing like handling the catch, storing, pre-processing and processing, and waste treatment.</p> <p>K01 Abstractions from groundwater, surface water or mixed water should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver(s) can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>L05 Reduced fecundity and/or genetic depression resulting from e.g. inbreeding or endogamy. This pressure should be used for genetic depression in naturally small and/or isolated populations but also in populations which declined and/or became isolated in the past (excluding recent past) due to anthropogenic pressures.</p> <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>F03 Conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats to commercial or industrial areas (e.g. building the industrial parks or warehouse zones) or construction of solitary buildings not dedicated to housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use).</p> <p>This pressure relates not only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but refers to instances where continuing the current land use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored.</p> <p>J01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters. Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes. (e.g. river eutrophication can be related to several direct and indirect sources like sewage, agricultural and industrial discharges, diffuse pollution from agriculture, decreased retention of alluvial vegetation due to inadequate management). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>E03 Maintenance and construction of marine and inland water shipping lanes, transport corridors or coastal infrastructure for anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial) including hydrological and morphological modifications for transport (e.g. canalisation, water deviation, barriers and locks, dredging and desilting of waterways for navigational purposes).</p> <p>F04 Construction in existing commercial or industrial areas, reconstruction of existing buildings and other industrial infrastructure</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
	<p>and demolition of buildings and industrial structures. Includes reconstructions and demolishment of solitary buildings not dedicated for housing and recreation (like solitary buildings for agricultural or forestry use).</p> <p>G01 Professional and recreational marine fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>G05 Professional freshwater fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased direct mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>K04 Modification of hydrological flow should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>Includes, for example, modification of flooding regimes or cutting of aquatic and bank vegetation to improve water flow.</p> <p>A05 Removal of single landscape features or small scale parcel consolidation (e.g. removal of hedges between two existing arable fields, to facilitate use of farm machinery).</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Holdenstown Bog SAC	<p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>D02 Hydropower generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building dams or weirs, changes of hydrological functioning rivers or chemical and thermal properties of water due to operation of dams and weirs).</p> <p>B01 Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest. This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevents the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation for the restoration of some heathlands and peats, which were in the past afforested and are currently being managed and replanted as forests).</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>A01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural non-agricultural habitats (e.g. semi-natural forests) and non-agricultural habitats of species targeted by the nature directives into agricultural land (e.g. pastures, meadows, arable fields). This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the agricultural use of originally non-agricultural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p>
Mountmellick SAC	H05 Tree surgery, felling or removal of roadside trees and vegetation on the grounds of public safety (including interventions classified as public safety issue).

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Ballyprior Grassland SAC	<p>A08 Inappropriate techniques or timing of mowing, for example mowing at inappropriate times, mowing with too high a frequency, using machinery or inadequate machinery for mowing of grasslands or leaving dead material after mowing on the ground (mulching).</p> <p>A10 Insufficient grazing or undergrazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>A10 Insufficient grazing or undergrazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p> <p>A03 Large scale changes (affecting the habitat at landscape level or landscape functions like connectivity or nutrient cycling) of agricultural systems from traditional mixed or diversified farming and agroforestry into intensive specialised farming (e.g. single crop).</p> <p>B02 Conversion of forest habitats into another type of forest habitat, often conversion from extensive forests into production forests (e.g. conversion to monocultures) but also other types of conversion (e.g. conversion from coppice to high forest or changes of tree species composition). Includes deliberate changes. Passive abandonment of traditional forest management should be reported as B04.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation).</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	<p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>G05 Professional freshwater fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased direct mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>A07 Abandonment of traditional management systems or use of other agricultural systems (excluding grasslands), such as the abandonment of traditional farming, abandonment of mowing, grazing and other traditional uses of fens, mires, heathland or agroforestry habitats.</p> <p>E03 Maintenance and construction of marine and inland water shipping lanes, transport corridors or coastal infrastructure for anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial) including hydrological and morphological modifications for transport (e.g. canalisation, water deviation, barriers and locks, dredging and desilting of waterways for navigational purposes).</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>E02 Operation and use of marine and inland water transport corridors, as well as pressures linked to transport activities on these freshwater and ocean waterways (e.g. disturbance from shipping at feeding/nesting areas, death or injury by collision, wakes from cargo ship traffic, oil spills from tankers, increased risk of colonisation of islands by invasive species). Includes the anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial).</p> <p>A01 Conversion of natural and semi-natural non-agricultural habitats (e.g. semi-natural forests) and non-agricultural habitats of species targeted by the nature directives into agricultural land (e.g. pastures, meadows, arable fields). This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the agricultural use of originally non-agricultural habitat prevent the latter from being restored (e.g. in case of land use conflicts between agriculture and nature conservation).</p> <p>G02 Activities related to marine fish and shellfish processing like handling the catch, storing, pre-processing and processing, and waste treatment.</p> <p>E01 Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>A10 Insufficient grazing or undergrazing that causes, for example, changes in species composition, or extensive grazing in inappropriate habitats like meadows or bogs.</p> <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>E05 This pressure should be used to address the pollution to surface or ground waters resulting from activities which cannot be</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
	<p>directly attributed to specific activities covered by other level 2 pressures (e.g. leaks and spills from commercial freshwater vessels should be reported under E02 Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations).</p> <p>H01 Military, paramilitary or police infrastructure, exercises and operations on land (excluding military bases in urbanised areas). Includes, for example, munitions testing, restricted access to military training areas, military manoeuvres).</p> <p>A05 Removal of single landscape features or small scale parcel consolidation (e.g. removal of hedges between two existing arable fields, to facilitate use of farm machinery).</p> <p>G01 Professional and recreational marine fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p> <p>A08 Inappropriate techniques or timing of mowing, for example mowing at inappropriate times, mowing with too high a frequency, using machinery or inadequate machinery for mowing of grasslands or leaving dead material after mowing on the ground (mulching).</p> <p>B01 Increase in forest area, including planting of forests on grassland or heathland, or converting shrubs into forest.</p> <p>This pressure does not relate only to land use changes that occurred during the reporting period but it refers to instances where continuing the current forestry use of a natural/semi-natural habitat prevents the latter from being restored (e.g. in cases of land use conflicts between forestry and nature conservation for the restoration of some heathlands and peats, which were in the past afforested and are currently being managed and replanted as forests).</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Mount Hevey Bog SAC	<p>E03 Maintenance and construction of marine and inland water shipping lanes, transport corridors or coastal infrastructure for anchorage of ships and vessels (industrial, commercial) including hydrological and morphological modifications for transport (e.g. canalisation, water deviation, barriers and locks, dredging and desilting of waterways for navigational purposes).</p> <p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>I03 This code should not be used for new entries. It has been restored for technical reason.</p> <p>I01 Problems related to invasive alien species of Union concern (under Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014) (e.g. clogging of aquatic habitats by <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>, predation of adults and chicks/eggs by <i>Myocastor coypus</i>, <i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> and <i>Procyon lotor</i>, browsing of understorey habitats by <i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>, competition for food with <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>, hybridisation with <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).</p> <p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>K04 Modification of hydrological flow should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the change is unclear or where these changes are related to several causes. Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, the pressure/threat should be reported under the corresponding sectoral category.</p> <p>Includes, for example, modification of flooding regimes or cutting of aquatic and bank vegetation to improve water flow.</p>

Site	Threats and Pressures
	Description
Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>C01 Extraction of rocks, gravel, sand, metal ores, loam, clay and shells from quarries, inland water bodies (lakes, river beds) and sea.</p> <p>B Forestry</p> <p>A04 Changes in terrain and surface of agricultural areas due to, for example, restructuring of slopes, terracing, levelling, rock crushing or other changes of terrain to, for example, facilitate the use of machinery or manage runoff of rain water or to prepare new terrains for agricultural production.</p> <p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>G01 Professional and recreational marine fishing and shellfish harvesting causing increased mortality, reduction of species and/or prey populations and disturbance to species.</p>
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	<p>D01 Renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal power) generation including development and use of associated infrastructure (e.g. building wind turbines or tidal barrages, collision of birds with wind turbines, damage to coastal habitats or disturbance of marine mammals due to operation of tidal or wave barrages).</p> <p>E01 Construction and operation (e.g. collisions, traffic, noise, light, fencing associated with roads, use of salt for snow cleaning etc.) of road and related infrastructure and related pressures such as animal mortality, habitat fragmentation, improved access to sites via roads and paths.</p> <p>J02 Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal). Pollution should only be reported under this category when the key driver of the pollution is unclear or where pollution is related to several causes (e.g. marine pollution by hydrocarbons can be related to several sources, like industrial discharges, water and land based transport operation, pollution, transport and exploitation accidents). Where a key sectoral driver can be identified, pollution should be reported under the corresponding sectoral pollution category.</p>

Appendix B Proposed Amendments to the Plan

B.1 Proposed Amendments to the Plan

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
Embedded Mitigation Objectives & Policies		
RE O109	Require the preparation of ‘Attraction Management Plans’ for new developments/projects which may impact on areas of ecological or heritage sensitivity in County Kildare. These plans should consider (but not limited to) potential for loss of habitat and disturbance by increased visitor numbers.	<i>“The Attraction Management Plans should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EcIA “</i>
RE O110	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.	<i>“The objective should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EcIA”</i>
RE P19	Promote the tourist development potential of ‘after use’ peatlands, subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development.	<i>“The objective should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EcIA”</i>
RE O119	<p>(d) Support and facilitate the development of Umeras Bog into a Peatlands Park;</p> <p>(e) Develop the tourism potential of peatlands and in particular support the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park and existing Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park as tourist and ecological amenities subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development.</p> <p>(f) Explore what linkages could be created between raised boglands and fens and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring that the environment and nearby properties would not be negatively affected.</p>	<i>“The objective should have regard to any mitigation as detailed within a Stage 2 AA or EcIA”</i>
RE O122	Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway and facilitate related commercial opportunities throughout the county, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	<i>“Considering the River Barrow is a designated European Site, all developments within and adjacent to the Barrow Blueway should be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA”</i>
RE O125	Promote the development of existing and new walking and cycling routes throughout the county as an activity for both international visitors and local tourists, in a manner that is compatible with road safety, nature conservation and other environmental policies.	<i>“Where developments of new and existing walking and cycling routes exist within 15km of a European Site, the project should be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.”</i>
No number assigned	Provide new or upgraded lighting for all footpath and cycle track schemes subject to the consideration of ecology and impacts on wildlife. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required and may result in unlit sections which may include some parts of the county’s Greenways’	<i>“Where applicable, all species specific mitigation will be included within the relevant sections of the Appropriate Assessment”</i>
TM O52	Mitigating the negative impacts of infrastructure by incorporating wildlife crossings/underpasses into the designs for new road infrastructure and where possible, by incorporating such measures into the existing road network, where appropriate.	<i>“Mitigating the negative impacts of infrastructure by incorporating wildlife crossings/underpasses and fish culverts in the instance of freshwater European Sites into the designs for new road infrastructure and where possible, by incorporating such measures into the existing road network (as appropriate). “</i>

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
TM O80	Minimise the extent of hedgerow removal in order to achieve adequate sightlines. However, where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no other suitable development site (for planning reasons) any removed hedgerow shall be replaced with native hedgerow species.	“Minimise the extent of hedgerow removal in order to achieve adequate sightlines. However, where it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no other suitable development site (for planning reasons) any removed hedgerow shall be replaced with native hedgerow species. <i>Opportunities should be sought to translocate existing species rich hedgerows, where possible, and subject to proper biosecurity protocols”</i>
TM O96	Ensure car parking particularly parking associated with retail areas is designed in such a manner as to reduce visual impact and promote carbon sequestration, green infrastructure, and nature-based surface water drainage solutions by requiring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landscape design to include planting of trees and pollinator species to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified Landscape Architect; • The construction details for the root zones of proposed trees in accordance with best practice and to specify which locations utilise systems such as ‘root barriers’ to avoid future conflict between roots, roads, footpath surfaces and underground utility services; • The provision of not more than two parallel or five perpendicular spaces between trees/planting bays; and • The use of permeable paving, where appropriate. The landscape design to include planting of trees and pollinator species to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified Landscape Architect <i>and in collaboration with an appropriately qualified ecologist to ensure the biodiversity in the general area will support European Sites”</i>
TM A21	Require that any lighting design strategies to be developed to minimise impacts on biodiversity. The chosen luminaires should have an optimum light control and a tightly controlled distribution to minimise light spillage or pollution outside of the immediate site area and potential impact on biodiversity in particular navigation routes and natural habitats. Cowls/shields should be utilised to provide directional lighting. In general lighting luminaires should be positioned to avoid up-lighting where possible	“..... <i>Consideration should be taken regarding lux level, wavelength and TTC so as to avoid any potential harmful impacts on protected species such as bats”</i>
IN O6	Require an undisturbed edge or buffer zone to be maintained, where appropriate, between new developments and riparian zones of water bodies to maintain the natural function of existing ecosystems associated with water courses and their riparian zones, and to enable sustainable public access.	“... <i>The width of the edge or buffer zone shall be determined during the appropriate environmental assessment such as EcIA or AA”</i>
IN P7	Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan, and the Local Authority Waters Programme in achieving and maintaining at least good environmental status for all water bodies in the county.	Support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan, and the Local Authority Waters Programme in achieving and maintaining at least Good <i>Ecological</i> Status for all water bodies in the county.
IN O53	Assess applications for developments, having regard to the impact on the quality of surface waters and any targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan and any subsequent local or regional plans.	“..... <i>Where developments have the potential to impact the water quality of surface waters and/or any of the targets and measures set out in the RBMP, such a project should be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.”</i>

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
EC O11	Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy.	<i>“.....subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA and EIA”.</i>
EC O12	Support small to medium scale wind energy developments within agricultural, industrial or business areas and support small community-based proposals in urban and rural areas where they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality and visual or residential amenities of the area.	Footnote to be inserted to define environmental quality i.e. the habitats, species, hydrological connections and air quality of the area.
EC P6	Facilitate the development of new river-based hydro energy plants subject to all necessary environmental considerations.	<i>“River based hydro energy developments shall not be permitted within Natura 2000 sites or within designated and proposed Natural Heritage Areas or, ex situ of these ecologically sensitive areas where proposals will adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites; impact on the ecological integrity of NHA/pNHAs, or the habitats of protected species (without appropriate licence) as designated under National and European legislation”</i>
EC P7	Facilitate large and smaller scale geothermal energy generating developments both standalone and in conjunction with other renewable energy projects, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and consideration of environmental and ecological sensitivities	<i>“....in particular the sensitivities of protected surface water or groundwater bodies and groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems”</i>
EC O54	Require an Ecological Impact Assessment to be carried out and submitted with any planning application for energy infrastructure projects (e.g., wind and solar developments) on bog / peatlands (including former cut-away bogs).	Suggestion for text is to remove reference to bog/peatlands as it should be carried out for all energy projects
EC O62	Require planning applications involving the siting of overhead cables to minimise visual impact by avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, sites and areas of nature conservation and/or archaeological, cultural or heritage interest.	Require planning applications involving the siting of overhead cables to minimise visual impact by avoiding areas of high landscape sensitivity, sites and areas <i>important for biodiversity</i> and/or archaeological, cultural or heritage interest.
EC O67	Consider the removal of trees (singular or in stands) and hedgerows (in part or in whole) only in circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the removal of hedgerow material and or tree(s) is essential for the provision of energy and cannot be designed out. Where proven, the vegetation is to be replaced with equivalent number, species, variety and size as was in situ. Where non-native species are removed, they will be required to be replaced with native species. In all cases, plants of local provenance are to be planted within 1 year of removal and maintained to establishment to negate the habitat and biodiversity loss within 3 years. Existing vegetative or ‘stepping-stone’ linkages are to be maintained and improved upon to increase wildlife corridors	<i>“...Opportunities should be sought to translocate existing species rich hedgerows, where possible, and subject to proper biosecurity protocols”</i>
RD O11	Support the implementation of the objectives identified in the County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014 and any relevant local action plan.	Recommendation: Prepare a new county biodiversity plan

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
RD P6	Increase forest cover in the county at appropriate locations while protecting sensitive landscapes, water bodies, special areas of conservation and amenity areas	“Increase forest cover in the county at appropriate locations while protecting sensitive landscapes, water bodies, <i>all sites, habitats and species of ecological importance including European sites</i> and amenity areas”
RD O26	Discourage monocultural forestry and encourage a greater range of tree species in forestry plantations and promote, in particular, more native, deciduous hardwood woodlands.	“ <i>Such forestry plantations shall be subject to best practice and appropriate biosecurity measures and protocols</i> ”
RD O34	Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive where any quarry / sand and gravel extraction are likely to have an impact on a Natura 2000 site (see Chapter 12); 	“Require applications for mineral or other extraction to include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Appropriate Assessment <i>Screening where there is any potential for effects on a Natura 2000 site</i>”
RD O39	Ensure the satisfactory and sensitive re-instatement and / or re-use of disused quarries and extraction facilities, where active extraction use has ceased. Future uses should include amenity, recreation and biodiversity areas and shall be informed by an assessment of the specific site/lands.	“...and subject to an ecological impact assessment or other environmental assessment as appropriate”
AH P1	Integrate in the development management process the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate.	“ <i>Integrate in the development management process the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features, by applying the mitigation hierarchy to potential adverse impacts on important ecological features (whether designated or not), i.e. avoiding impacts where possible, minimising adverse impacts, and if significant effects are unavoidable by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate. Opportunities for biodiversity net gain are encouraged.</i> ”
AH O1	Require, as part of the Development Management Process, the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments that adequately assess the biodiversity resource within proposed development sites, to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation and to integrate this biodiversity resource into the design and layout of new development and to increase biodiversity within the proposed development.	“Require, as part of the Development Management Process, the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments that adequately assess the biodiversity resource within proposed development sites, to avoid habitat loss and fragmentation and to integrate this biodiversity resource into the design and layout of new development and to increase biodiversity within the proposed development. <i>Such assessments shall be carried out in line with the CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine</i> ”
AH P2	Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all-natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.	“ <i>Seek to contribute to maintaining or restoring the conservation status of all sites designated for nature conservation or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites and Statutory Nature Reserves</i> ”
AH O5	Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site located within and	Avoid development that would adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site within and

Action/Policy/Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
	immediately adjacent to the county and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.	immediately adjacent to the county and promote favourable conservation status of habitats and protected species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive, to support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites including any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the period of this Plan and protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site.
AH O6	Ensure an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out 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 Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.	Ensure an Appropriate Assessment <i>Screening</i> , in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and with DEHLG guidance (2009), is carried out 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 Natura 2000 sites will not be permitted (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) unless for reasons of overriding public interest.
AH O10	Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species.	Ensure that any new development proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on rare and threatened species, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2012, the Birds Directive 1979 the Habitats Directive 1992 and the Flora Protection Order species <i>and any species listed under the national red lists or that could be listed on a national red list</i>
AH O12	Possibly require a derogation licence, issued by the DHLGH, in the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations or the Wildlife Acts 1976 -2012.	Require a derogation licence, <i>where necessary</i> , issued by the DHLGH, in the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations or the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012
AH O24	Require the preparation and submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) including bat and otter surveys for developments along river or canal corridors.	Require the preparation and submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) including , <i>but not limited to</i> , bat and otter surveys for developments along river or canal corridors.
AH O26	Have regard to the riparian buffer zones and potential uses as identified in Table 12.4 when considering potential development and proposed development layouts within or adjacent to waterways	<i>“Maintain</i> riparian buffer zones and potential uses as identified in Table 12.4 when considering potential development and proposed development layouts within or adjacent to waterways”
AH O28	Require that expert advice is sought from a suitably qualified bat expert, in developing lighting proposals along river and stream corridors, to mitigate impacts of lighting on bats and other species. The use of artificial lighting shall be avoided in streamside zones (see Fig 12.2) and artificial lighting should be restricted unless absolutely necessary in the middle zone (See Table 12.4). LEDs should, where permitted, be warm white to minimise disturbance to wildlife.	Require that expert advice is sought from a suitably qualified bat expert, in developing lighting proposals along river and stream corridors <i>or other important locations or corridors for wildlife</i> , to mitigate impacts of lighting on bats and other species. The use of artificial lighting shall be avoided in streamside zones (see Fig 12.2) and artificial lighting should be restricted unless absolutely necessary in the middle zone (See Table 12.4). LEDs should,

Action/Policy/Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
		where permitted, be warm white to minimise disturbance to wildlife.
AH O29	Protect wetland sites that have been rated A (International), B (National) C+ (County) and C (Local) importance as identified in the County Kildare Wetlands Survey 2012-2014, (See Tables 12.5 & 12.6).	“Protect wetland sites that have been rated A (International), B (National) C+ (County) and C (Local) importance as identified in the County Kildare Wetlands Survey 2012-2014, (See Tables 12.5 & 12.6). <i>Any development within the zone of influence of these listed wetland sites should be subject to EcIA and where appropriate, hydrological impact assessment</i> ”
Objectives/Policies/Actions with proposed amendments outside the embedded mitigation		
RE P11	Support the accommodation of Data Centres at appropriate locations in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland subject to appropriate Transport and Environmental Impact Assessments.	<i>“The location of data centres shall be situated where they will not have a potential likely significant effect on a European Site or on a site that shares a hydrological connection to a European Site”</i>
RE P13	Support and facilitate sustainable agriculture, horticulture, forestry and other rural enterprises at suitable locations in the County	<i>“...where there will be no potential for likely significant effects on a European Site or on a site that shares a hydrological connection to a European Site”</i>
REO90	Support the expansion and development of tourism in Kildare, investigating the feasibility of key opportunities such as those centred on the racing industry, retail, heritage, geology, golf and eco-tourism to include: Arthur’s Way, the Dublin – Galway Greenway, the Barrow Blueway, the Shackleton Trail, the Gordon Bennett Route, the Grand Canal Greenway, Brigid 1500 and other opportunities	<i>“...Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA.”</i>
REO 100	Support the development of forest-based tourism accommodation at appropriate locations within the Coillte estate.	<i>“...Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
RE O119	Support and facilitate the development of Umeras Bog into a Peatlands Park. (b) Develop the tourism potential of peatlands and in particular support the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park and existing Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park as tourist and ecological amenities subject to proper planning, environmental protection and sustainable development. (c) Explore what linkages could be created between raised boglands and fens and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring that the environment and nearby properties would not be negatively affected. (d) Look at the feasibility of creating linkages between the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park and Monasterevin train station. (e) Look at the feasibility of creating linkages between Mouds Bog and the nearby town of Newbridge.	<i>“...Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i> (c) Explore what linkages could be created between raised boglands and fens and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring that the environment and nearby properties would not be negatively affected or where there will be no potential for likely significant effects on a European Site or on a site that shares a hydrological connection with a European Site • ”
RE O120	Facilitate the development of a tourism resource using cutaway peatlands in conjunction with Bord na Móna and Fáilte Ireland, subject to environmental considerations and nature designations, for example, recreational forestry, outdoor pursuits, peatways on the network of bogs and industrial railways and a designation of a National Peatlands Heritage Park	<i>“...Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>

Action/Policy/Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
TM O9	Facilitate and secure the delivery/implementation of the public transport regional corridor proposals that relate to County Kildare and the County Kildare local route proposals as identified within the NTA's 'The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan' (November 2021), specifically prioritising the proposed new local route from Naas to Newbridge	<i>"....Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA"</i>
TM O11	Promote and facilitate the implementation of public transport projects (bus and rail) and encourage transport providers and other agencies (e.g. NTA, developers etc.) to improve public transport (bus and rail) and to have regard to the Bus Connects (NTA's) recently implemented and/or planned routes, 1. Maynooth and Leixlip into Dublin; 2. Celbridge into Dublin; 3. Maynooth to Naas; In addition to a range of rural transport routes	<i>"....Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA"</i>
TM O65	Improve connectivity between the local road network and the national/regional road network. The Council will ensure that any future development in this regard complies with the guidance to safeguard the overall operational function of the national road network as set out in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, DECLG (2012).	<i>"....Such developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections"</i>
TM A17	Upgrade the section of the N81 National Secondary Road (Tallaght/Baltinglass) that is located within County Kildare.	<i>"....Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections"</i>
TM O74	Improve and realign where necessary and as funds allow, the regional roads.	<i>"....Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections"</i>
TM O75	Improve connectivity across the railways and canals in County Kildare.	<i>"....Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections"</i>
TM O99	Expand the existing public lighting network and ensure that all new developments are provided with adequate public lighting for the safety of all pedestrians, cyclists and minority groups.	<i>"Such lighting networks shall have regard for protected species such as bats which can potentially be affected by lighting systems. The Lux, wavelength and TTC will be considered in the selection of appropriate lighting"</i>
EC O4	Support infrastructural renewal and development of electricity and gas networks in the county, subject to safety and amenity requirements.	<i>"Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable"</i>
EC O5	Support and encourage the sustainable development of renewable energy auto production units (the production of energy primarily for on-site usage) for existing and proposed developments in line with relevant design criteria, amenity and heritage considerations and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	<i>"Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable"</i>
EC O11	Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner	<i>"Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their</i>

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
	whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy	<i>hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable</i>
EC O12	Support small to medium scale wind energy developments within agricultural, industrial or business areas and support small community-based proposals in urban and rural areas where they do not negatively impact upon the environmental quality and visual or residential amenities of the area.	<i>“Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable”</i>
EC O13	Support the repowering (by replacing existing wind turbines) of existing windfarm development and the extension of existing and permitted wind farms on a case-by-case basis subject to proper planning considerations.	<i>“...and environmental considerations such as the movement of qualifying interest species of European Sites. Projects shall provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable”</i>
EC T1	Encourage wind energy developments in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner whilst having regard to Government policy and the County Wind Energy Strategy.	<i>“Further regard for European Sites, their hydrological connections and qualifying species will be taken into account with mitigation and monitoring provided for within an AA Screening Report, and where applicable Stage 2 AA”</i>
EC O21	Support the provision of solar farms in appropriate locations and to consider in the first instance developing solar farms on previously developed land	<i>“...and environmental considerations such as the movement of qualifying interest species of European Sites. Projects shall provide mitigation and monitoring where applicable”</i>
EC O29	Support the development of small-scale hydro-electricity projects in the county, in particular for on-site consumption to meet the electricity requirements of proposed new buildings, or refurbishment of existing buildings appropriate to their riverside location and setting.	<i>“ Such developments shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>
EC P8	Facilitate and support the development of projects that convert biomass to gas or electricity subject to national and regional policy.	<i>...Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
EC P10	Facilitate micro-renewable energy installations and auto-generator installations where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that they will not result in a significant adverse impact on residential, visual or environmental amenity.	<i>“...Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
EC P18	Support the accommodation of Data Centres at appropriate locations in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland subject to appropriate Transport and Environmental Impact Assessments	<i>“ Such developments shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>
EC O56	Consider applications for data centres having regard to the following criteria; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility/ease of connection to power • Availability of renewable energy to power any proposed data centre • Availability of high-powered fibre optic infrastructure • Transport/road accessibility • Compatibility of surrounding land uses/zoning • Avoidance of designated sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of designated sites, including specifically avoidance of development of data centres where they would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site <i>“Such developments shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>

Action/Policy/Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of significant landbanks • Noise • Visual impact • Flood risk 	
EC P19	Support the development, reinforcement, renewal and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution grid to provide for the future physical and economic development of Kildare.	<i>“...Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
EC O65	Facilitate the development of grid reinforcements including grid connections and a trans-boundary network into and through the county and between all adjacent counties	<i>“...Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
EC O71	Promote and facilitate the provision of appropriate telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and other technologies within the county	<i>“...Such projects shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
RD O27	Encourage the re-wetting, restoring and/or re-wilding of former cutaway bogs and peatlands with an emphasis on promoting biodiversity and carbon sequestration.	<i>“Such projects shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>
RD O28	Work with all relevant stakeholders including Bórd na Móna to support the sustainable re-use of circa 30/50% of cutaway boglands for economical purposes.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O2	Make provision, through appropriate land use zoning in the CDP settlement plans and Local Area Plans to deliver community infrastructure, supports and services in a planned and co-ordinated manner within the county.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O21	Increase the quantity and improve the quality of children’s play facilities across the county particularly in areas where a lack of provision has been identified (e.g. play areas should be within a 10-minute walk of new and existing residential areas).	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O24	Support the provision of multi-purpose sports (to include minority sports) halls, outdoor playing pitches, all-weather playing pitches and associated facilities in appropriate locations.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC A5	Continue to develop open spaces throughout the county which encourage a range of recreational and amenity activities that will cater for both active and passive recreation.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O31	Provide for nursing homes in urban and appropriately located rural settings in the county and to site residential care facilities for the elderly close to community and social facilities (e.g., shops, health services etc.) ensuring older people can remain part of and contribute to existing communities.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O41	Facilitate the development of new facilities in built up areas close to walking/cycling infrastructure and public transport links	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
SC O42	Facilitate the expansion of existing facilities to cater for the needs of community groups and the growing population in Kildare.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC P10	Develop and improve the physical infrastructure of arts and cultural facilities throughout the county particularly in areas where there is a deficiency in such provision.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC A11	Support the provision of multi-purpose sports (to include minority sports) halls, outdoor playing pitches, all-weather playing pitches and associated facilities in appropriate locations.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O58	Support the Department of Education’s School Building Programme by actively identifying sites for primary and post primary schools at suitable locations, based on forecast need.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O65	Continue to facilitate the re-development and expansion of existing schools including ancillary amenity areas based on identified needs as part of the Government’s School Building Programme.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC P13	Support and facilitate the provision of good quality and accessible childcare facilities at suitable locations within the County in consultation with the Kildare County Childcare Committee.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O72	Support the provision of outdoor based childcare services in the county as an alternative to providing purpose-built services in appropriate locations with toilet and shelter facilities for mealtimes, rest, etc.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O80	Facilitate the further development of Naas General Hospital as an important and major centre for healthcare in the county.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
SC O89	Provide or assist in the provision of new burial grounds, and extensions to existing burial grounds at appropriate locations throughout the county.	<i>“subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA”</i>
AH O43	Co-operate with Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance and enhancement of the Royal Canal and Grand Canal and associated structures/features.	<i>“Such projects shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>
LR O12	Recognise that boglands are critical natural resources for ecological and environmental reasons, particularly for climate mitigation and adaptation. Development proposals for boglands that reduce biodiversity and increase methane emissions will be strictly limited.	<i>“appropriate environmental assessment should be carried out for any development proposals which impact on boglands”</i>
LR T1	Endeavour to increase the territory of County Kildare designated to nature from 3% to 27% by the end of this Plan period, in response to the Government’s commitment to designate 30% of the territory of Ireland for nature by 2030 and in accordance with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. This may be achieved by the development of the proposed Midlands Peatlands National Park (see objectives in Section 14.6).	<i>“Such endeavours, such as the development of the Midlands Peatlands National Park, shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any</i>

Action/Policy/ Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
		<i>potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>
LR O41	Support the proposed Umeras Peatlands Park development of Umeras Community Development and explore links between the bog and nearby blueways and greenways, whilst ensuring nearby properties would not be negatively affected, in consultation with Offaly County Council, Waterways Ireland and all other relevant stakeholders	<i>The proposed development shall be subject to an AA Screening Report, and where applicable, Stage 2 AA. They shall have a regard for any hydrological connection shared with a European Site and their qualifying interest species. The project shall account for any potential likely significant effects and provide mitigation and monitoring where appropriate”</i>
LR O42	Support the extension and interconnection of Greenways, Blueways, Peatways and trails within and outside County Kildare in consultation with Coillte, Bord na Móna and all other relevant stakeholders.	<i>“Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable”</i>
LR O47	Facilitate the development of a walking route between Ballymore Eustace, Golden Falls, Poulaphouca/Blessington Greenway, Russborough and Barretstown, in cooperation with landowners and government agencies.	<i>“Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable”</i>
LR O49	Support the development of ancillary infrastructure for Greenways and cycle routes (i.e. trailheads, signage, rest areas, parking, lighting, toilets, etc.) in line with the Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines (2018) of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in co-operation with landowners, Waterways Ireland, Government Departments and other Local Authorities	<i>For the provision of larger infrastructure, regard will be given to European sites, their hydrological connections and qualifying interest species where potential likely significant effects exist may occur.</i>
LR O59	Preserve, protect, promote and improve for the common good, existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity, particularly those which provide access to archaeological sites and National Monuments and amenities, including upland areas and water corridors, and to create new ones or extend existing ones where appropriate either by agreement with landowners or through the use of compulsory powers, without adversely affecting landscape conservation interests	<i>“Subject to AA screening and where applicable, Stage 2 AA so as to ensure and protect the favourable status of European sites and their hydrological connections. Such developments will have regard for protected species and provide mitigation where applicable”</i>
Specific Towns & Villages Policies/Objectives and Land Use Zoning		
Prosperous		
Land Use Zoning	Land adjacent to the River Slate have been zoned for new residential development. The Roads objectives show a crossing of the River Slate. A proposed walking route runs parallel to the River Slate	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species which are hydrologically connected to the River Slate”</i>
Rathangan		
Land Use Zoning	Objectives surrounding Footpath & Cycle Tracks and Objectives surrounding Roads show new crossings of the Grand Canal	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species which are hydrologically connected to the Grand Canal”</i>

Action/Policy/Objective No.	Detail	Proposed Amended Wording in Italics and Proposed Deletions as Strikethrough
ST R30	Complete the link road between the R419 Regional Road (a) and the R401 regional road at Bog Cross Roads (b). (See Map V2 – 1.6b)	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species which are hydrologically connected to the Grand Canal”</i>
ST R31	Construct and/or complete the following transport routes and to preserve these routes free from development: (See Map V2 – 1.6b) (i) From the R419 to the R401 link road to Yellow Lough Cross Roads. (ii) From the R401 Regional Road at Yellow Lough Cross Roads to the R414 regional road. 52 (iii) From the R414 Regional Road at the end of New Street to the R401 Regional Road including new crossings of the Slate River and the Grand Canal.	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species which are hydrologically connected to the River Slate and the Grand Canal”</i>
Allenwood		
Land Use Zoning	Objectives surrounding new residential development is located adjacent to the Grand Canal	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species which are hydrologically connected to the Grand Canal”</i>
Blessington		
Land Use Zoning	Objectives surrounding new residential development has the potential to cause likely significant effects on qualifying interest species of Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species such as those which form part of Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA”</i>
Robertstown		
Land Use Zoning	Objectives surrounding Roads/Cycleways/Footpaths/Junctions are located parallel to the Grand Canal which is hydrologically connected to the Ballynafagh Lake SAC	<i>“Proposed developments shall be subject to AA screening and where applicable Stage 2 AA to minimise the risk of likely significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interest species which are hydrologically connected to the Grand Canal”</i>

Appendix C AA Screening Report

C.1 AA Screening Report

Kildare County Council
**Draft Kildare County
Development Plan 2023-2029**
Stage 1 AA Screening Report

Report Ref

Issue | 10 March 2022

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

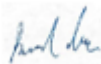

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Arup on behalf of Kildare County Council (KCC). It provides information on and assesses the potential for the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’) to impact on European sites within the Natura 2000 network.

The new Plan will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare to 2029 and beyond.

The purpose of the NIR is to inform KCC, the competent authority, of the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites arising from the Plan.

It should be noted that this screening assessment has had no regard to the embedded environmentally protective policies and objectives of the plan and of other plans which would mitigate potential impacts on European Sites.

1.2 Legislative Background

The preparation of the NIR has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed in Ireland primarily by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for AA, i.e. an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (i.e. Stage 2 AA):

Article 6(3) states that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions as Article 6(4) states that:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected.

It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

This NIR provides information to KCC, the competent authority, to make a determination as to whether likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites arising as a result of the Plan can be screened out, or if a further assessment of the likely significant effects is required through an Appropriate Assessment.

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Process

Screening is used to identify whether the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. This screening assessment follows European Commission (2001) guidance (referenced below) which recommends that screening follow a four-step process as outlined below:

- Step one: Determine whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. If it is, then no further assessment is necessary.
- Step two: Describe the plan and other plans and projects that, ‘in combination’, have the potential to have significant effects on a European site.
- Step three: Identify the potential effects on the European site.
- Step four: Assess the significance of any effects on the European site.

The NIR follows the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that in order for an effect to be established, then all three elements must be present and functioning. If one aspect of this chain is absent, then the potential effect is likely to be of little significance on the designated site.

This NIR has taken into account guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10;
- 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 Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance

Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive;

- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000;
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007); and
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011).

1.4 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon for the NIR included the following information sources, which includes maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land - use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Ireland River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2013a and 2013b);
- Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins, 2014);
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 from <https://kildare.ie>
- Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 Natura Impact Report and Determination from <https://kildare.ie>;
- Various Local Area Plans within Kildare County from <https://kildare.ie>

1.5 Overlap with Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Plan has been carried out concurrently with the NIR. There were several areas of overlap considered in accordance with good practice in regard to the following stages:

- Baseline data gathering, data on European sites and potential sensitivities and threats;
- Settlement zoning maps were scrutinised by the team for potential adverse effects on integrity of the European Sites in terms of their Conservation Objectives but also any other ecological impacts outside of the European sites were highlighted to ensure that they would be addressed in the SEA; and
- The SEA highlighted potential interactions between other environmental issues such as water quality and infrastructure and the sensitivities of European sites which fed into the NIR.

1.6 Consultation Strategy

An SEA Scoping Report was prepared which provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the SEA. Responses were received from Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications – Geological Survey Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Further consultation will be carried out during the public consultation period of the Plan.

2 Scope and Description of the Plan

Kildare County Council is preparing a new CDP 2023-2029. The new Plan will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare to 2029 and beyond. The review has come at a time of significant and unprecedented challenges arising from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and Climate Change. It is essential that the CDP responds to these challenges and identifies opportunities to support economic recovery and improve quality of life for the people of County Kildare.

The formal notice of the new draft CDP will be issued in January 2021. The new Plan will take two years to complete and will begin on 11 January 2021.

2.1 Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF)

The Plan is being prepared under Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The policies and objectives of the new Plan must align with national and regional planning policy.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) was published on 16 February 2018 and sets out a course for planning and development in Ireland. The NPF was adopted on 29 May 2018 and was further supported by the publication of the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework (‘Roadmap’) which was published on 3 July 2018. This document confirmed that the NPF was adopted as a strategy to replace the National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020, NSS) and advised that the NPF is of direct relevance to the preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and County Development Plans.

The NPF is implemented at a regional level through the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and at county level through the development plan.

2.2 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Regional Area

The aim of the RSES is to strengthen the settlement structure of the Region and to capitalise on the individual and collective strengths of the region’s cities, towns and rural areas. It provides policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives to ensure that people’s needs, such as access to housing, jobs, ease of travel and overall well-being are met.

The RSES is underpinned by three key principles:

- Healthy Placemaking;
- Climate Action; and
- Economic Opportunity.

It is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) that every Planning Authority prepares a County Development Plan. The policies and objectives of the new Plan must align with the national and regional planning policy.

The RSES also provides for a Settlement hierarchy of the Key Towns, Self-Sustaining Growth Towns, Towns, Villages and Rural Areas, refer to Table 1 for the settlement hierarchy in respect of Kildare County, from the RSES.

Table 1: Settlement hierarchy in Kildare

Key towns	Naas, Maynooth
Self-sustaining growth towns	Newbridge, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Athy
Self-sustaining towns	Celbridge, Kilcock, Monasterevin Clane
Towns	Sallins, Kilcullen, Kill, , Prosperous, Rathangan, , Castledermot, Derrinturn

Villages	Athgarvan, Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, CoillDubh/Cooleragh, Kilmeague, Caragh, Kildangan, Suncroft,
Rural	Other areas

2.3 Draft Plan

The draft Plan will follow the key principles:

- Healthy Placemaking: *People and Places*
- Economic Opportunity: *Innovation, Enterprise and Employment*
- Climate Action: *Environment, Climate Change and Adaptation*
- Sustainable Mobility: *Movement & Transport*
- Creative Places: *Social, Community & Cultural Development*
- Enhanced Amenity & Heritage: *Landscape & Green Infrastructure*
- Making it happen: *Infrastructure, Energy & Communications*

The new Kildare CDP will also need to deliver the Regional Strategic Outcomes.

2.3.1 In-combination Plans and Projects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon Natura 2000 sites.

A wide range of legislation, plans and programmes are of relevance to the draft Plan and are outlined in Table 2. The plans or projects are listed according to a spatial hierarchy of International, National, Regional/Local Projects and Plans.

Table 2: Relevant Legislation, Plans and Programmes

Aspect	Legislation, Plans and Programmes
Climate Action	<p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change • Paris Agreement • Kyoto Protocol <p>European Directives and Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Green Deal • 2020 Climate and Energy Package • 2030 Climate and Energy Framework • Emissions Trading Directive • Effort Sharing Regulation • • Floods Directive • EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change • LULUCF Regulation (EU 2018/841) • EU Climate Law <p>National Policies/Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020 • Climate Action Plan (2019) • National Adaptation Framework (2018) • National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2013) • Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (2015) • Sectoral adaptation and mitigation plans (various) • National Energy and Climate Plan (2021-2030) <p>Local/regional plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority Adaptation Plans (2019) and • Low Carbon Roadmaps • Flood Risk Management Plans
Air quality	<p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Air Convention (also known as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution) <p>European Directives and Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Green Deal • Clean Air Package • CAFE Directive • National Emission Ceilings Directive • Emissions directives e.g. Industrial Emissions Directive, Vehicle (Euro) Emission standards, Ecodesign Directive for stoves <p>National Policies/Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Air Pollution Control Programme (2019) <p>Draft/in preparation:</p>

Aspect	Legislation, Plans and Programmes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Clean Air Strategy <p>Local/regional plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Smoke Zones
Nature	<p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on Biological Diversity and associated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 • Bonn Convention • Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora <p>European Directives and Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Green Deal • Habitats Directive • Birds Directive • EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 • Marine Strategy Framework Directive <p>National Policies/Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021) • All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2015-2020) • National Peatlands Strategy 2015 • National Raised-Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Management Plan 2017 <p>Local/regional plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority Biodiversity Plans and Green Infrastructure Strategies
Water quality	<p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSPAR Convention • MARPOL Convention <p>European Directives and Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive • Marine Strategy Framework Directive • Bathing Water Directive • Groundwater Directive • Nitrates Directive • Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive <p>National Policies/Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (2018-2021) • Nitrates Action Programme • Marine Strategy Framework Directive Programme of Measure <p>Local/regional plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas for action (under the RBMP)
Waste and circular economy	<p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal <p>European Directives and Policies</p>

Aspect	Legislation, Plans and Programmes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Green Deal • Circular Economy Action Plan • Waste Framework Directive • Individual producer responsibility directives on Packaging, WEEE, End-of-life Vehicles, Batteries and Accumulators, etc. • Landfill Directive • Waste Shipment Regulation • Single-use Plastics Directive • National Policies/Plans • National Waste Policy 2020-2025, A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy • Climate Action Plan (2019) • National Waste Prevention Programme (last reviewed 2018) • National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (2014- 2020) <p>Local/regional plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 • Litter management plans
<p>Cross-cutting and Integrated Environmental Assessment</p>	<p>Global</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 • Landscape Convention European Directives and Policies • EU Green Deal • Industrial Emissions Directive • Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive • Environmental Impact Assessment Directive • Environmental Liabilities Directive • Common Agricultural Policy <p>National Policies/Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2018-2020) • Our Sustainable Future (2012) • Project Ireland 2040 • National Landscape Strategy • EPA Enforcement and Compliance Policy <p>Local/regional plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authority Landscape Character Assessment

3 Screening Assessment

3.1 European Sites under Consideration

In accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010)¹, an initial distance of 15km from the boundary of County Kildare was selected for consideration of European Sites, with extension of this area where there are hydrological linkages or other pathways that extend beyond 15km. This distance was deemed to be sufficient to cover all likely significant effects which may arise from the implementation of the Plan on European Sites. Spatial boundary data on the European network were extracted from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) website in December 2021.

Based on this approach, 19 European sites, comprising 16 SACs and three Special Protection Areas (SPA) require consideration in the AA process. In order to identify those sites that could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European Sites in the context of why it has been designated i.e. its “Qualifying Interests”. All Natura 2000 sites which fall either within County Kildare or within 15km of the County boundary are detailed in Table 3 and Table 4.

Table 3: European Sites in County Kildare and their qualifying features

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features
391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bogs Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> Petrifying springs with tufa formation <i>Cratoneurion</i> Alkaline fens <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>
397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition mires and quaking bogs Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation Active raised bogs
1387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alkaline fens Transition mires and quaking bogs Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>
1398	Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrifying springs* (Priority Habitat) Desmoulin's whorl snail Narrow-mouthed whorl snail

¹ Environment, Heritage and Local Government (11 February 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Accessed <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities> 11/01/2022.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Features
2162	River Barrow And River Nore SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia Illipine11e</i> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with <i>the Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation • European dry heaths • Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) • <i>Spartina</i> swards <i>Spartinion maritima</i> • Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> • Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> • Desmoulin's whorl snail • Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> • Killarney Fern <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> • Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> • European river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> • Twait shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> • White clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
2331	Mouds Bog SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
4063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greylag Goose <i>11lpine 11lpine</i> • Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>

Table 4: European Sites (including Qualifying Features) within 15km (and extended for hydrologically connected sites) of the Boundary of County Kildare

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Qualifying Features
781	Slaney River Valley SAC	1640	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Floating river vegetation • Old oak woodlands • Residual alluvial forests (Priority habitat) • Tidal mudflats • Atlantic Salmon • Brook Lamprey; • Common Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> • Freshwater Pearl Mussel • Otter

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Qualifying Features
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> • Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> • Twaite Shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	610	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> (*important orchid sites)
1209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	6480	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> (*important orchid sites) • Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-siltladen soils <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> • Petrifying springs with tufa formation Cratoneurion
1757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	3040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition mires and quaking bogs
2122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	3320	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea • Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • European dry heaths • Alpine and Boreal heaths • Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) • Blanket bogs (Priority Habitat if active bog) • Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsetalia ladani</i>) • Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation • Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation • Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles • Otter
2141	Mountmellick SAC	8730	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desmoulin's whorl snail
2256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	2790	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> (*important orchid sites)
2299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	390	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkaline fens • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Qualifying Features
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic salmon • Otter
2342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	4130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
4040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	5720	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> • Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>
4232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	370	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>
4080	Boyne Estuary SPA	>15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> • Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> • Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> • Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> • Redshank <i>Tringa 13lpine13</i> • Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> • Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>
1975	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	>15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco Puccinellietalia maritima</i> • Mediterranean salt meadows <i>Juncetalia 13lpine13e</i> • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	>15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows • Drift lines • Dune slack • Embryonic shifting dunes • Fixed dunes (grey dunes)* (Priority Habitat) • Marram dunes (white dunes) • Mediterranean salt meadows • Salicornia mud • Tidal mudflats • Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	>15000	Tidal mudflats
004006	North Bull Island SPA	>15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Qualifying Features
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Plover • Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris 14lpine</i> • Grey Plover • Knot • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> • Oystercatcher • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> • Redshank • Sanderling • Shelduck • Shoveler(<i>Anas clypeata</i>) • Teal <i>Anas cracca</i> • Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> • Wetlands & Waterbirds
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	>15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> • Bar-tailed Godwit • Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> • Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> • Black-headed Gull • Dunlin <i>Calidris 14lpine</i> • Grey Plover • Knot • Light-bellied Brent Goose • Oystercatcher • Redshank • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Sanderling • Wetlands & Waterbirds

3.1.1 Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives for each European site focused primarily on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation status of the habitats and species of interest (i.e. the qualifying features). Many of the European sites have site-specific conservation objectives, which focus on a particular habitat or species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes. The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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.

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.

3.2 Checking for the Likelihood of a Significant Effect

The initial assessment considers whether the Plan is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of the European sites listed in Table 3 and Table 4 for nature conservation. The assessment also checks whether the Plan would be likely to have an effect and whether that effect could be significant.

In line with the Habitats Directive, any plans or projects that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. The Plan, whilst including measures to protect or enhance European Designated Sites and/or their qualifying features, its primary purpose is to set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare and not the management of the European sites located within the County.

Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, member states are obliged to identify threats and pressures to qualifying interests using a standard set of criteria. A threat is defined as an “Activity expected to have an impact on a species/habitat type in the future”, and a pressure is defined as an “Activity impacting a species/habitat type during the reporting cycle”.

Threats and pressures thought to be most relevant to the Plan are considered to be:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Mining, quarrying and energy production;
- Biological resource other than agriculture & forestry;
- Transportation and service infrastructure;
- Urbanisation, residential and commercial development;
- Disturbance due to human activities;
- Pollution;

- Invasive and introduced species;
- Modification of natural conditions; and
- Climate change.

3.2.1 The Plan Objectives

This assessment considers whether the objectives and thus potential changes brought about by the Plan are likely to cause a direct, indirect or secondary impact on one or more of the European sites listed in Table 3 and Table 4. It should be noted that the objectives of the Plan are primarily strategic and high level, only allowing for a generalised impact assessment. Where possible, each chapter was examined for how it may align with the potential threats and pressures as listed in Section 3.2.

The Plan consists of Volume One and Two with associated maps and appendices.

Volume One contains 17 chapters and associated appendices, Volume Two contains three main chapters detailing specific small towns, environs, villages and settlements in Kildare. Each of these volumes were screened for objectives, actions and/or policies that have the potential to cause a likely significant effect either alone or in combination with other objectives within this plan or other plans and projects. This has been summarised as follows:

- Chapter 2 and 3: Kildare Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and Housing
 - Cause increased populations throughout the county. Any construction and operation of additional housing or related infrastructure to facilitate population growth such as (but not limited to) roads, wastewater, gas, electricity etc. has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 4: Resilient Economy and Job Creation
 - Creation of commercial and industrial businesses throughout the county. Any construction and operation of businesses including technology parks and enterprise centres and/or related infrastructure to facilitate economic growth such as (but not limited to) roads, cycling and walking pathways, tourism facilities, waste and water management etc. has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 5: Sustainable Mobility and Transport
 - Creation of additional transport systems and related provisions for roads, rail, aviation, cycling and walking. Any construction or operation of these transportation modes and/or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 6: Infrastructural and Environmental Services

- Creation of additional infrastructure related to water, wastewater, surface water and flooding and pollution (waste, water, air, noise and light). Any construction or operation of these services has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 7: Energy and Communications
 - Creation of infrastructure in relation to energy generation, supply and telecommunications. Any construction or operation of these services or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 8: Urban Centres and Retail
 - Creation and redevelopment of urban centres with proposals to expand and enhance a number of town and settlement centres within the county. Any construction, operation or decommission of developments or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 9: Our Rural Environment
 - Creation of new rural developments such as agricultural, forestry, and tourism enterprises, as well as infrastructure for green energy generation, supply and telecommunications. Any construction, operation or decommission of developments or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 10: Community Infrastructure and Creative Places
 - Creation and enhancement of community, social, educational, recreational, and cultural facilities. Any construction and operation of developments or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 11: Build and Cultural Heritage
 - Protection and conservation of cultural sites which may also include creation or enhancement of public access facilities to these sites. Any construction and operation of developments or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 12: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
 - Creation and enhancement of green corridors including hedgerows and other linking habitats. The development of green infrastructure such as underpasses and/or green bridges. Any construction of these developments or related infrastructure has the potential to impact

directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.

- Chapter 13: Landscape, Recreation and Amenity
 - Creation and enhancement of local landscape features, including additional planting. Development and enhancement of recreational infrastructure such as greenways, blueways, nature trails and cycle routes. Any construction or operation of these features or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Chapter 14: Urban Design, Placemaking and Regeneration
 - Creation of interconnected, inclusive and well-designed urban centres. Any construction or operation of developments or related infrastructure has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.
- Volume 2 Chapter 2: Small Towns and Environs Plan and Volume 2 Chapter 3: Village Plans and Rural Settlements
 - Volume 2 discusses the settlement hierarchy and plans for the those listed in Table 5. The towns of Kilcullen, Sallins and Clane are not included in Volume 2 as a Local Area Plans have been prepared for each of these settlements. The Blessington and Ladytown Environs Plans are also included in Volume 2.
 - Any developments or related infrastructure within these towns, villages and rural settlements has the potential to impact directly and/or indirectly on European sites and their qualifying features.

Table 5: Volume Two Settlement Hierarchy

Settlement Category	Designated Settlement
Key Towns	Naas, Maynooth
Self-Sustaining Growth Towns	Newbridge, Leixlip, Kildare Town, Athy
Self-Sustaining Towns	Celbridge, Kilcock, Monasterevin Clane
Towns	Sallins, Kilcullen, Kill, , Prosperous, Rathangan, , Castledermot, Derrinturn
Villages	Athgarvan Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, Coill Dubh/Coolearagh, Kilmeague, Caragh, Kildangan, Suncroft, Robertstown, Ballitore, Crookstown, Moone, Timolin and Narraghmore.
Rural Settlements	Allen, Ardclough, Ballyshannon, Brannockstown, Broadford, Brownstown, Calverstown, Cutbush, Kilberry, Kilmead, Kilteel, Maganey / Levistown, Milltown, Nurney, Rathcoffey, Staplestown, Twomilehouse, Kilkea, Clogherinka.

Settlement Category	Designated Settlement
Rural Nodes	Cadamstown, Kilshancoe, Newtown, Tirmoghan, Carbury, Timahoe, Lackagh, Ballyshannon, Rathmore/Eadestown, Castlemitchell, Ticknevin, Maddenstown, Clongorey/Blacktrench, Killina

3.3 Impact to European Designate Sites

Following a review of the objectives and actions of the Plan alongside the sensitivities of each European Site, the potential for likely significant effects has been assessed. European sites were screened out based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Where the European site is located at such a distance that impacts are considered highly unlikely and there are no clear impact pathways such as hydrological links; and
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities of a European site, as listed in their site documents, cannot be linked to any potential impacts that may occur through the implementation of the Plan.

The outcome of this screening assessment on each European site as listed previously in Table 3 and Table 4 is shown in Table 6 .

Table 6: Screening Assessment of European Designated Sites

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
			significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	
1387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
1398	Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
2162	River Barrow And River Nore SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
2331	Mouds Bog SAC	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SAC. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
4063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Within county	The construction, operation and/or decommissioning of potential developments identified within the Plan have the potential to impact upon the SPA. As the objectives of the Plan are either high level or cannot be location specific, a likely significant impact cannot be ruled out at this time.	Yes
781	Slaney River Valley SAC	1640	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
925	The Long Derries,	610	Based on the distance from the Plan area, distance from a larger settlement, the qualifying interests of	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
	Edenderry SAC		the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	
1209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	6480	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
1757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	3040	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
2122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	3320	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
2141	Mountmellick SAC	8730	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
2256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	2790	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
2299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	390	Based on the proximity of the SAC to the Plan area and the presence of an impact pathway (hydrological link), there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
2342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	4130	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SAC and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
4040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	5720	Based on the distance from the Plan area, the qualifying interests of the SPA and the lack of impact pathways (hydrological links), there are no likely significant effects predicted.	No
4232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	370	Based on the proximity of the SPA to the Plan area and the presence of an impact pathway (hydrological link), there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
4080	Boyne Estuary SPA	>15000	Based on the qualifying interests of the SPA, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SPA, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance from County Border (m)	Potential Impacts	Screened in for Further Assessment
			potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	
1975	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	>15000	Based on the qualifying interests of the SAC, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SAC, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
0002 06	North Dublin Bay SAC	>15000	Based on the qualifying interests of the SAC, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SAC, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
0002 10	South Dublin Bay SAC	>15000	Based on the qualifying interests of the SAC, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SAC, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
0040 06	North Bull Island SPA	>15000	Based on the qualifying interests of the SPA, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SPA, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes
0040 24	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	>15000	Based on the qualifying interests of the SPA, their mobile nature and likelihood of utilising habitats outside of the SPA, as well as the potential presence of impact pathways (hydrological link) there is the potential for likely significant effects if unmitigated.	Yes

4 Conclusion

This report concludes that significant effects are likely or that sufficient uncertainty remains, to indicate that an appropriate assessment should be carried out for the Kildare CDP. The European sites listed in Table 3, which include all European sites located within or downstream of County Kildare, were screened for Stage two Appropriate Assessment . No viable or realistic pathway

(ecological, hydrological or otherwise) for impact on other European sites exists and potential for significant effect on same has been conclusively ruled out.

There are 19 European sites, comprising 16 SACs and three SPAs that required consideration. Possible effects of the Plan, its objectives and potential actions were considered in relation to their possible impacts on these European sites and their qualifying interests. Given the distance and lack of impact pathway such as a hydrological link, the Slaney River Valley SAC, The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC, Glenasmole Valley SAC, Holdenstown Bog SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC, Mountmellick SAC, Ballyprior Grassland SAC, Mount Hevey Bog SAC and Wicklow Mountains SPA are scoped out of assessment at Stage 2 NIR.

Due to the proximity, hydrological link and/or mobility of qualifying interests, the Ballynafagh Bog SAC, Pollardstown Fen SAC, River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA, Boyne Estuary SPA, Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC, North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, North Bull Island SPA, and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA are scoped in for further assessment in the Stage 2 NIR.